



Hoping for Audacity

The past month has hammered home a series of brutal blows, each a cruel reminder of a leadership deficit masquerading as economics insight. It may take years to extract a nation from a deep hole dug by shallow thinking.

As I write, it's one week before a **presidential election** and one month since the governor's **International State of the State** address. How October has changed everything. The governor was guardedly optimistic about the economy, but I bet she'd sound even more guarded today. And a month ago, we had an election horse race on our hands. Now, the bets are moving from "show" to "win" faster than the Dow can plunge. By the time you read this, it'll all be over except for the gnashing of teeth as a new administration gingerly enters the smoking bunker.

But here at the magazine, we harbor our own cautious **optimism** about the long-term health of law practice. As this is December, I am reminded that my first wholly edited issue here was December 2000. And two items make that magazine—88 issues ago—relevant today.

First, we now know—as sure as a bank failure—that "**irrational exuberance**" is the greatest fear of a discredited world view. But in 2000, we were pretty exuberant ourselves, as our cover story explored some great law office gizmos. (Those socks are so—never.)

Our optimism may be tempered, but it has not flagged. And that is because we're still in the business of communicating what

we see as the future of the profession. This month, we cover the newest frontier—the elimination of frontiers.


Admission on motion may lead to significant changes in the profession. That's why we spoke with **Tim Burr**, the lawyer who signed a rule-change petition that our Supreme Court adopted. Beginning in 2010, lawyers who meet certain criteria may be **admitted in the state without writing the bar exam**.

Pardon our exuberance, but it's exhilarating to see something transformative in a stagnant economy.

Audacious? Perhaps. But we hope you join us in anticipating the future. Here's one way to do that.

In the spring, we aim to publish some stories on "**law practice in an economic downturn**." Contact me if you have story ideas or perhaps your own story. What's still working? What's had to change? Send your thoughts to arizona.attorney@azbar.org.

Here's another way to show your enthusiasm: Enter our fifth annual **Creative Arts Competition**. For years, you've asked for rules, but I resisted—until now. They are posted at www.myazbar.org/AZAttorney.

Submissions? Send them to ArtsContest@azbar.org. More information is on page 31. 



Jumping for Joy in 2000.



Tim Eigo

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Editor

TIM EIGO

Tim.Eigo@staff.azbar.org

Art Director

KAREN HOLUB

Production Manager

MICHAEL PEEL

Contributing Writer

MIRA RADOVICH

Advertising Sales Coordinator

KATE CORTEZ

Advertising Sales Director

DREW WILLIAMSON

(602) 340-7230

Drew.Williamson@staff.azbar.org

Editorial Board

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Addresses

4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6288
(602) 252-4804

320 S. Convent, Tucson, AZ 85701-2215
(520) 623-9944

1-866-48-AZBAR
(Toll-free outside Maricopa County)

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