

alternatives to the traditional billable hours, thanks to a new breed of law firm executives known as pricing directors. Value-based pricing is the new billing model where the focus is on producing outcomes such as client satisfaction and repeat business instead of racking up hours to succeed. “Change your firm’s conversation from hours and revenue, to revenue and profit,” Toby Brown tells ABAJournal.com. “If you succeed in doing that, then everything else follows.”

DOJ Use of Surveillance Devices Increases

According to analyzed data from records released under the Freedom of Information Act, the Justice Department has increased its usage of electronic devices by 64 percent since 2009, reports TriCities.com. The DOJ stated that citizens’ civil liberties are not at stake and court approval is necessary for such surveillance. Critics, however, claim the process to obtain warrants is too easy and devoid of meaningful court review.

Supreme Court Seeks Comments on Rules Amendments

The Tennessee Supreme Court has published a draft of its 2013 Rules Package for comment. The package includes proposed amendments that would provide for appeal as of right for final order denying request for expunction of an illegal sentence; clarifying that the trial court does not lose jurisdiction to rule on certain motions filed within the time permitted for appeal; setting page limits on TRAP 11 applications for permission to appeal; adopting a TBA-recommended comment clarifying that a statutorily authorized “petition” be considered a “complaint” for purposes of the Rules of Civil Procedure; integrating the proce-

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Equal Justice University

More than 150 lawyers and advocates involved in providing civil legal assistance across Tennessee gathered in September at Paris Landing State Park for Equal Justice University, an annual educational program sponsored by the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services (TALS) and the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA). CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:



TALS Executive Director Erik Cole, Supreme Court Justice Cornelia Clark, Nashville lawyer Margaret L. Behm and Memphis Area Legal Services director Harrison D. McIver III. • The event also celebrated two individuals dedicated to providing access to justice in Tennessee: Behm and Adrienne Kittos, above, from Justice for Our Neighbors. Behm received the B. Riney Green Award and Kittos was honored as the New Advocate of the Year Award. • U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit Judge Bernice Donald, above, left, with TALS Policy and Training Director Lisa Primm, was one of the speakers at the event. Other speakers included Buck Lewis, the Tennessee Supreme Court’s Access to Justice Commission chair and former TBA president, Nashville Mayor and lawyer Karl Dean, Justice Clark and McIver. *Photos by Liz Todaro.*

dures of the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act into the rules; addressing requirements for depositions taken in Tennessee for use elsewhere; including interpreter fees in costs; clarifying provisions regarding appeal of cases in which criminally accused reserves a certified question of law.

Various Tennessee Bar Association sections will be asked to review and recommend comments, if any, on behalf of the association. Comments are due Nov. 30.

Court: Don’t Lie About Who Child’s Father Is

The Tennessee Supreme Court in October upheld a trial court’s damage award against a mother who misled her boyfriend by telling him he was the child’s father when he was not. In its ruling, the court stated that an intentional misrepresentation claim, which is already recognized in Tennessee’s courts, is broad enough to apply to circumstances where a mother intentionally misrepresents the parentage of her child. ⚖️