

Coasting into 2006? Not Us

A few years ago, rock 'n' roll diva Sheryl Crow proclaimed in one of her hit songs that "a change would do you good." Since then, she has certainly practiced what she preaches, exploring new musical horizons (including a recent concert tour with a full orchestra), becoming more involved politically and getting engaged to indefatigable cyclist and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong.

A Grammy-winning musician, Sheryl still realized that she couldn't be complacent and simply coast on her previous successes. Let's face it: When you "coast," the only direction you can travel is downhill.

As the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA) celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2006 — and this journal its 25th — the staff knows that a little change will do us good, too. We are committed to *not* coasting — continually making important changes to optimize how the Association serves its members.

The *Legal Management* issue you're reading represents a bold step in ALA's publishing oeuvre. This redesign — the journal's first since 1998 — strives to repackage the engaging editorial content you've come to expect and deliver other enhancements to make the publication even more vital to your professional development.

Our "Up Front" and "Off the Shelf" sections deliver quick news about hot topics and products you can use in your daily work. "Best Practices" and "Big Ideas" spotlight innovative ways for you to do your jobs better. "Think Tank" investigates emerging issues through member posts on ALA's online discussion boards. And "ALA Update" is precisely that: a compilation of all you need to know about developments in your professional Association.

In our in-depth feature stories, we're showcasing more substantially not only the articles, but also the many additional resources available to you about the topic being discussed. For instance, in each article you'll find a prominent "Learn More" section, in which we spotlight related topical resources in the *ALA Management EncyclopediaSM*, ALA's Legal Resource Management Center and in books available for purchase through ALA and elsewhere.

Finally, make sure to check out our new "Flashback" section on the back page, where we take a not-so-serious look at the history of *Legal Management* and ALA.

Change is rarely easy. It involves taking risks and daring to embrace new ideas and processes. We hope that you'll find that *Legal Management* is succeeding in its mission to provide more of what ALA members want in a more dynamic and engaging format. ✱



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