

want and another to take vacation without backup.					from Sizjournals
More than three-quarters of the lawyers disciplined by the State Bar work as solo practitioners, reflective of the high numbers in this type of practice but also suggesting that missed deadlines, poor client communication and "borrowing" from client trust funds happen far more at this level.					
"Primarily, it is a lack of a check system or backup for sole providers," said Scott Drexel, chief trial counsel for the State Bar. "In a larger firm, if a client has a complaint regarding the service they are getting, they'll go to the partner, make the complaint known, and the firm will make sure it is addressed. If it's a solo practice, there is really nowhere to go to complain except the State Bar."					Email Alerts Get the latest local business news delivered to your inbox. <u>Sign up Today!</u>
Those disciplined are not necessarily more incompetent than their peers in large firms, Drexel said.				Featured Jobs	powered by <u>onTargetjobs</u>
"They may have personal problems or issues just like people in firms like going through a divorce, having a sick child or spouse, or a substance abuse problem," he said.				 <u>Executive Director</u> - American Diabetes Association <u>Sales Manager - Silicon Valley</u> - Business Wire, a Berkshire Hathaway Company 	
In a law firm, someone else would step in and provide cover.				<u>OB/GYN</u> - confidential	
It's a scary proposition to hang out a shingle, particularly with school loans to pay.				<u>SIU Investigator</u> - Access Insurance Holdings, Inc. Territory, Solos Manager, Castral California, Access	
"If you're a brand new lawyer, you may take anything that walks in the door," said Kulvinder Singh, a Roseville attorney and member of the executive committee of the solo and small firm section of the State Bar. "But it's your duty, if you are not competent in				 <u>Territory Sales Manager Central California</u> - Access Insurance Holdings, Inc. 	
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that area, to get competent or turn them away."			Post a Job Feature a Job		
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Entrepreneurship wasn't former Marine Mark Llano's first mission, but it's





Kopper graduated from the **University of California Davis** School of Law in 1981. The few opportunities to join firms "were not particularly appealing," he said. He knew people making it in solo practice and figured he'd give it a shot.

Kopper started out doing family law, wills and trusts, but now he is known for filing union-backed lawsuits seeking to halt big development projects by alleging inadequate environmental review or mitigation. The probate work is the most profitable. New business comes by word of mouth.

"I have a few good areas, so if one is down, the other is up," Kopper said. "It's working pretty well."

Matt Temmerman is an intellectual property lawyer, unusual for solo practitioners. He teamed up with Dan Maguire to do patent law in Davis but found himself on his own six months later when Maguire took a job in the governor's office.

"The demand of big firms just didn't fit into my lifestyle. I wanted quality of life," Temmerman said. That perspective, in a large firm, puts a lawyer off partnership track and "stuck doing work you don't want to do," he said.

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Carlson waited until her youngest child graduated from college before she was ready to take the financial risk of leaving Kronick for a small firm of her own.

"I was ready to take a leadership role, but I wanted to work fewer hours rather than more," she said.

Although she brought a solid book of business with her, Carlsen's income varies month to month, guarter to quarter, year to year. "That's fine with me," she said. "I make plenty of money.

Denise Dirk was a single mom with a house payment, car payment, two dogs and a cat when she left a six-year position with a local firm to start an office of her own. Frustrated at a lack of career progress at her old job, she tracked her numbers and figured she could do better.

She made more money in the first six months as a solo than she did her last six months at the firm, but admits the transition "was intense."

Former district attorneys or other types of government lawyers form yet another cadre of solo or small practice lawyers.

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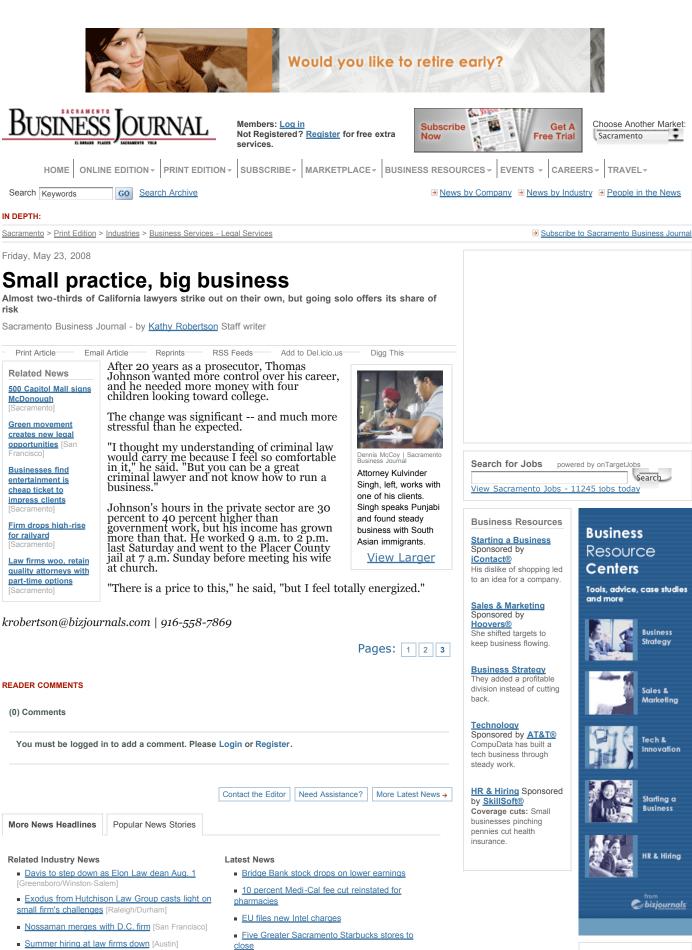
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