

Allstate Joins In-House Furor Over Associate Raises

Bank of America's top lawyer isn't the only in-house attorney expressing displeasure with associate salary raises announced recently by BigLaw firms and boutiques, reports Sara Randazzo of *The Wall Street Journal*. She says other general counsel are sending letters to their outside law firms, warning them of the potential for relationship problems if they join in the pay hikes.

The report quotes a letter Allstate Corp.'s general counsel, Susan Lees, sent to some law firms, challenging the logic of paying first-year associates \$180,000.

"[O]ne must question the merits of a business model that compensates fresh law school graduates, who are devoid of any meaningful lawyering experience, with a salary greater than that of a seasoned in-house corporate attorney with a decade or more of experience counseling senior leaders in our organization," states Ms. Lees's letter, which was reviewed by Law Blog.

Read the article.