Welcome to the American Bar Association 2019-2020 bar year! Expect an engaging, empowering, and informative year. On the cusp of an election, there is an even greater call to action to protect the rule of law, educate voters of their rights, and demonstrate humanity.

The ABA has been hard at work developing programs that will inform a tense election year. There are many opportunities for you to get involved, donate, and amplify our good works by joining the efforts of the ABA in the areas of civic literacy, voter’s rights, celebrating the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and beyond. Making a gift in support of our charitable programs is the first step toward equal access to the ballot box.

As a member of the ABA, you have an opportunity to be on the right side of history when stories are told about the 2020 election. You are uniquely qualified to prevent disenfranchisement, influence policy, and ensure that, no matter how someone votes, their right to vote is neither jeopardized nor fraudulently nullified. Yes, this is a mighty charge, but it is our tradition, and with your help will be stitched into the fabric of our future.

Your charitable investment in the ABA program will contribute to research, training, and deepening the scope of conversation surrounding civic education. The information included will give you more insight into upcoming initiatives and how you can get involved.
CIVIC LITERACY SURVEY

ABA Media Relations’ Survey of Civic Literacy, launched this year, measured the public’s knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in our democracy. This includes measuring their understanding of: their right to vote, the rule of law, as well as elements of the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights. The ABA Division for Public Education followed up on these results by setting up a free resource website for the public, including a quiz for the public to test their own knowledge and numerous educational resources on civic education. In recognition of the ABA’s 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration, the 2020 Survey of Civil Literacy will include additional questions pertaining to citizens’ awareness of their rights as voters.

To complete the survey visit: www.ambar.org/civicliteracy
The centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment allows us to celebrate 100 years of women’s constitutional right to vote, educate the public about the women’s suffrage movement, and ensure everyone has the full and equal exercise of their right to vote and participate in our democracy.

**LAW DAY 2020**
**YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE, OUR DEMOCRACY: THE 19TH AMENDMENT AT 100**

Law Day is held on May 1st every year to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession.

The Law Day 2020 theme is *Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100*. In 2019-2020, the United States is commemorating the centennial of the transformative constitutional amendment that guaranteed the right to vote would not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex. American women fought for, and won, the vote through their voice and action.

For more information Law Day planning guides, teaching resources, products, and other useful items visit: [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org)
Racial voting discrimination remains an ongoing problem, with over 300 successful Voting Rights Act lawsuits or denials of Section 5 preclearance since 1995. Section 5 mandates that nine states and parts of seven others seek approval from the Justice Department before changing voting laws or maps. (NATIONAL COMMISSION ON VOTING RIGHTS, 2014)

**FAIR ELECTIONS AND VOTING RIGHTS INITIATIVE**

The Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice’s goal is to raise awareness and address often complex and difficult civil rights and civil liberties issues in a changing and diverse society.

Fair Elections and Voting Rights Initiative will provide a wealth of knowledge and resources related to enhancing strategic efforts to protect voting rights and fair elections. This year, the Section will devote two of its four Human Rights magazine issues to the topic, facilitate its annual State of Voting Rights, host a leader’s round table, and provide various Continuing Legal Education trainings.

To stay up to date on these initiatives and more visit: [www.ambar.org/csrj](http://www.ambar.org/csrj)
LEGAL SERVICES ARE HUMAN SERVICES

The immediate and long-term impact of legal services can be life-changing…or even life-saving. Your donation to the ABA harnesses the power of the legal profession to defend, empower, and protect so many from injustice. Thank you for joining forces with an organization dedicated to ensuring the legal needs of all individuals — regardless of race, income, gender, or nationality — are addressed.

Every dollar that you give sustains current legal services in place or expands the scope of work already being accomplished. Together, we will lead the charge in righting wrongs, pursuing equality, and building a stronger justice system.

Please contact Chanta Williams, Manager of Individual Giving, at 312-988-5567 or chanta.williams@americanbar.org for more information on how your gift of justice is transforming the lives of those we serve.