POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 2020 MIDYEAR MEETING
OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

NOTE: This list includes issues that may be presented for consideration at the 2020 Midyear Meeting or a future meeting of the House of Delegates. Please remember that, with the exception of state and local bar associations, the filing deadline for submission of Resolutions with Reports by Association entities and affiliated organizations is Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

1. **Specialist Certification Programs**
   Reaccredits several programs for a five-year term as designated specialty certification programs for lawyers. **Standing Committee on Specialization.** Contact: *Erin Ruehrwein, E-mail: erin.ruehrwein@americanbar.org, Phone: (312) 988-5512.*

2. **Health and Well-Being of all Military Dogs**
   Urges the U.S. federal government and other national governments, as well as multinational and international organizations around the world, to amend existing laws or enact new enforceable laws, policies and procedures that protect and provide for the health and well-being of all Military Working Dogs. **Section of International Law.** Contact: Gilda Jill Mariani, E-mail: MARIANIG@dany.nyc.gov, Phone: (212) 335-9143.

3. **Right of Privacy of Personal Information**
   Recommends that government entities that are considering, enacting, adopting or amending their information and data privacy laws or regulations include certain privacy protections of personal information. These laws and policies affect individuals engaged in interstate commerce using the Internet, social media or other means, and encompass the collection, use, disclosure, storage and transfer of personal information to third parties (including government actors) who may aggregate, process and/or use such data and information. **Section of International Law.** Contact: Dan McGlynn, E-mail: dmcglynn22@yahoo.com, Phone: (505) 332-5000.

4. **Ratification of the Singapore Convention**
   Urges all governments, including the United States government, to promptly adhere to and implement the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (also known as the Singapore Mediation Convention). **Section of International Law.** Contact: Irina Strelkova, E-mail: irinastrelkova75@gmail.com, Phone: (502) 779-8666.
5. **Increase Voter Participation and Minimize Voter Suppression**

   Urges federal, state, local, territorial and tribal governments to enact legislation to expand the forms of acceptable address identifiers in the voter registration process beyond the physical address requirement to include non-traditional identifiers, including post office boxes, tribal government buildings, general descriptions of physical residences, shelter, and governmental buildings. **Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice.** Contact: *Selina Thomas, E-mail: Selina.Thomas@americanbar.org, Phone: (312) 988-5736.

6. **Regulatory Innovations to Improve Access to Justice**

   Encourages U.S. jurisdictions to consider regulatory innovations that foster new ways to deliver legal services and have the potential to improve the accessibility and affordability of those services, while recognizing the continued need for protection of the public. To advance the goals of improved accessibility and affordability of legal services, the Resolution encourages the consideration of various kinds of regulatory innovations, such as authorizing new categories of legal services providers, reexamining restrictions found in Rule 5.4 of a jurisdiction’s rules of professional conduct, and reconsidering provisions related to the unauthorized practice of law. The Resolution also encourages data to be collected and analyzed to determine the impact of any changes and to inform future regulatory reforms. **ABA Center for Innovation.** Contact: *Janet Jackson, E-mail: Janet.Jackson@americanbar.org, Phone: (312) 988-5118.

7. **Safe Storage of Firearms**

   Urges state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to enact statutes, rules and regulations that would: a) define the requirements of safe storage of a firearm; b) require firearm owners to meet those requirements; and c) promote safe storage education for firearm owners. Also urges the federal government to incentivize safe storage programs within the states. **Standing Committee on Gun Violence.** Contact: Monte Frank, Pullman & Comley LLC, 850 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06601-7006, E-mail: mfrank@pullcom.com, **Sharon L. Terrill, E-mail: sharon.terrill@americanbar.org, Phone: (202) 662-1970.

8. **Firearm Permits**

   Urge federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to enact statutes, rules and regulations that would: a) require any person seeking to purchase a firearm to first obtain a permit to be issued by a law enforcement or public safety agency; and b) prohibit the sale, delivery or transfer of a firearm to anyone who does not possess a valid permit. **Standing Committee on Gun Violence.** Contact: Monte Frank, Pullman & Comley LLC, 850 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06601-7006, E-mail: mfrank@pullcom.com, **Sharon L. Terrill, E-mail: sharon.terrill@americanbar.org, Phone: (202) 662-1970.
9. **Ghost Firearms**

Urges federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to enact statutes, rules and regulations that would: (a) make it unlawful for any person to transfer, sell, trade, give, transport, or deliver any unfinished frame or receiver to any person (other than a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or licensed collector) unless (i) the unfinished frame or receiver is serialized in accordance with federal requirements for the serialization of firearms, (ii) a background check consistent with the federal requirements for the transfer of a firearm is conducted on the recipient, and (iii) records consistent with the federal retention requirements for the case of the transfer of a firearm are created and retained; and b) prohibiting the possession, without a federal firearms license, of a finished or unfinished firearm frame or receiver that has not been serialized. **Standing Committee on Gun Violence.** Contact: Monte Frank, Pullman & Comley LLC, 850 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06601-7006, E-mail: mfrank@pullcom.com, **Sharon L. Terrill, E-mail: sharon.terrill@americanbar.org, Phone: (202) 662-1970.

10. **Changes to the Interpretation of the Public Charge Doctrine**

Urges the Executive Branch and Congress to reestablish the public charge definition from prior and maintain that definition as the legal standard. The Department of Homeland Security proposed regulations earlier this year that would overturn longstanding agency guidance governing the admission and adjustment of status and the application of public charge in immigration cases. The concern is that the changes put forth in the proposed rule (currently stayed by federal injunction as of October 15th) would have a detrimental effect on low-income immigrants as the rule would dramatically change the standards that apply to immigrants who may use a range of public benefits. **Commission on Immigration.** Contact: Wendy Wayne, CPCS Immigration Impact Unit, 21 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, E-mail: wwayne@publiccounsel.net, Phone: (508) 641-9209.

11. **Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)**

Addresses the topic of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), which returns asylum seekers to Mexico to await legal immigration proceedings. The process and problems associated with MPP are fluid, but a recent Human Rights First article summarizes the issue. “MPP works in tandem with other illegal administration policies . . . to ban, block, and terrify refugees from seeking protection in the United States. The forced return policy violates legal prohibitions in U.S. law and international obligations on returning people seeking U.S. protection to persecution and torture, and blatantly flouts the asylum laws and due process protections Congress adopted for refugees seeking protection at the border. Since the start of MPP in January, DHS has forced nearly 50,000 asylum seekers and migrants to wait in danger in Mexico.” **Commission on Immigration.** Contact: Wendy Wayne, CPCS Immigration Impact Unit, 21 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, E-mail: wwayne@publiccounsel.net, Phone: (508) 641-9209, **Tanisha L. Bowens-McCatty, E-mail: tanisha.bowens@americanbar.org, Phone: (202) 662-1007.

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