Pursuant to §6.3(e) of the ABA’s Constitution, the state of Montana will elect a State Delegate to serve an unexpired term due to the passing of Damon L. Gannett. The unexpired term will commence immediately upon certification by the Board of Elections and will expire at the conclusion of the 2020 Annual Meeting.

PETITIONS
Nominating petitions are provided only upon request and must be filed with the Board of Elections at Association headquarters no later than Thursday, November 14, 2019. A candidate for nominee and all signers must be lawyer members of the Association whose membership is in good standing and is accredited in the state where the election is being held. There is no limit to the number of candidates who may be nominated, and the nominations are made only on the initiative of members themselves.

A minimum of twenty-five signatures of members of the Association is required. Only original signatures will be counted, printed signatures are unacceptable, and the petitions can be scanned and submitted electronically.

A candidate’s petition submission must be accompanied by a typewritten list that indicates the names, addresses and ABA member ID numbers of all members that signed a petition in support of the candidate’s nomination. The list must coincide with the order by which the petition(s) were submitted, and the sequence by which the signatures appear on the petition(s). In addition, a one-hundred-word biographical sketch for the candidate nominee, and a signed House of Delegates Statement of Expectations must also accompany a nominee’s petition submission. Forms/guides in support of completing and providing the additional required documents will be provided to each member that request a nominating petition for these elections.

UNCONTESTED ELECTION
In accordance with §6.3(e) of the constitution, no ballots will be sent to members when a State Delegate election is uncontested. If only one valid nominating petition is filed, the Board of Elections will certify that the sole nominee is elected.

CONTESTED ELECTION
A State Delegate office is deemed contested if more than one valid nominating petition is filed for a state. The Board of Elections shall prepare election ballots for the contested State Delegate Election. The election ballots will be sent, no later than Friday, December 20, 2019, to lawyer members in good standing and accredited in the state where the election will be held.

The Board of Elections also will have the name of each nominee, and the names of twenty-five signers of the nomination petition, indicated in the ABA Journal. While it is desirable that more than the required minimum of twenty-five names of members of the Association appear on the nominating petitions, only twenty-five names of signers of any petition will be published as provided by §6.3(b) of the Association’s Constitution.

The biographical sketch of nominees in contested elections will be included in the ballot material that will be provided to each Association member in the state (Montana) where election is being held.

Each nominee in a contested State Delegate election is entitled to receive one list of the names and addresses of the Association members in his/her state. The list is to be made available only after the proper filing of nominating petitions, after the filing deadline, and upon written request. The nominee should allow up to fourteen days from receipt of the request until delivery of the list. In addition, ABA staff will send one email on behalf of the candidate to the ABA lawyer members in the contested state.

FILING
Nomination petitions may only be obtained from the Board of Elections at the headquarter office of the American Bar Association, c/o Leticia D. Spencer, 321 N. Clark Street, 21st Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60654-7598, (Leticia.Spencer@americanbar.org), and also must be filed (via mail or electronically) at the ABA headquarters before the close of business at 5:00 p.m. (Central), Thursday, November 14, 2019.

ABA BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Justice Michelle Meier Keller, Chair
Michele Coleman Mayes
Dwight L. Smith