New Member Orientation Luncheon

ABA House of Delegates
February 2020
Getting Ready for Your First Meeting of the House of Delegates: “The Basics”
Who and what is the ABA?

- Created in 1878 by the efforts of a number of state & local bars
- One of the largest professional organizations in the world
- Represents the legal profession in the United States
Governance

• Officers
• Board of Governors
• House of Delegates
Officers

Judy Perry Martinez  
President

William R. Bay  
Chair, House of Delegates

Patricia L. Refo  
President-Elect

Mary L. Smith  
Secretary

Michelle A. Behnke  
Treasurer

Bob Carlson  
Immediate Past President
# Board of Governors

Acts on behalf of ABA between meetings of the House

| 43 members | • 6 officers of the ABA  
|            | • 19 district representatives  
|            | • 18 members-at-large |
House of Delegates

Where representatives from our profession come and debate the issues and policies important to our country, our communities and our profession.

- Makes Policy
- Elects Officers
- Oversees ABA
ABA members can join up to 34 sections, divisions and forums. They are organized, based on practice setting, demographics or substantive interests.
Committees

- 29 standing committees, 13 commissions, 3 special committees, 3 coordinating committees, and 6 centers
- Each deals with specific, discrete issues
- Members are generally appointed by the President-Elect
Who speaks for the ABA?

• The President
• But only when there is a policy adopted by the House of Delegates
• Or there is a principle in our constitution and by-laws
What is the House and who is represented there?

• The House is the policy-making body of the ABA
• It is comprised of nearly 600 members, with over 2/3 representing state, local and special-focus bars

(52) State Delegates
(257) State Bar Delegates
(78) Local Bar Delegates
(18) Delegates-at-Large
(76) Present & Former Officers & Board Members
(75) Section, Division & Conference Delegates
(2) Ex-Officio Members
(27) Affiliated Organization Delegates
(5) Territorial Delegates
(8) Goal III Members-at-Large
What do we know about the people who serve in the House?

**Gender**
- Male: 59%
- Female: 41%
- Unknown: < 1%

**Ethnicity**
- White: 61%
- Black/African American: 10%
- Hispanic: 4%
- Asian: 3%
- Native American: < 1%
- Pacific Islander: < 1%
- Other: < 1%
- Unknown: 21%

NOTE: These results are based on ABA data self-reported by members. Additional data is available but not reported due to incomplete responses. This information is solely intended for the individual use of ABA House of Delegates members in connection with the House mission, goals and activities. All other use is strictly prohibited without prior written authorization from the ABA House of Delegates.
What do we know about the people who serve in the House?

### AGE OF MEMBERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81 AND OVER</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71-80</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 AND UNDER</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For members who did not report a birth date, age was inferred based on bar year (bar year – 25 = assumed birth year).

### AGE AND GENDER

This chart provides age data for male and female House members. For example, as depicted below, 11% of male House members are between 41-50 years of age and 15% of female House members are between 41-50 years of age. The actual number of House members in that age category (represented on the x-axis) is 34 men and 32 women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81 AND OVER</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71-80</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 AND UNDER</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MEMBERS WITH A DISABILITY

2.3%

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What do we know about the people who serve in the House?

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What do we know about the people who serve in the House?

ABA TENURE

3% Non-Member
3% Less than 1 year
11% 1-5 years
8% 6-9 years
10% 10-14 years
8% 15-19 years
9% 20-24 years
48% 25+ years

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How does an idea become a resolution?

• Generally, resolutions permit the ABA to lobby, file amicus briefs or to otherwise urge others to act.

• Any member, affiliated bar association or ABA entity can bring a resolution. Typically, they seek co-sponsors and work to reach consensus.

• Resolutions should propose new policy, a change in policy, or reaffirm existing policy more than 10 years old.

• Resolutions state the ABA’s positions. The ABA urges, opposes, endorses, etc.

• The Report that accompanies a Resolution explains why we are taking the action.
What are the parts of a resolution submission?

- Resolution
- Report
- General information form
- Executive summary form
What kind of policies or resolutions does the House adopt?

There is a detailed chart of the resolutions approved over the last 3 years. They generally fall into 10 categories.

- Access to Justice
- Civil Rights
- Criminal & Juvenile Justice
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Family and Children’s Law
- Federal Court Policy
- Rule of Law & International Law
- Legal Profession
- Substantive Practice
- Uniform Acts & Rules
Who brings the resolutions to the House?

In the last 3 years, the House has considered resolutions from many sources. This is a list of primary sponsors by type:

- Practice-focused ABA Sections and Forums: 39%
- ABA Divisions such as Young Lawyers, Law Students, and Senior Lawyers: 14%
- ABA Standing Committees: 14%
- State, local, and special-focus bar associations: 14%
- ABA Commissions: 9%
- Other ABA entities: 4%
- Entities which are treated in a special way (National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Law, Section of Legal Education & Admissions to the Bar, and Standing Committee on Paralegals): 6%
Other responsibilities of the House of Delegates

• The House elects officers and members of the Board of Governors
• How? Through a nominating committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominates Officers and Board of Governors at each Midyear Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House elects at the following Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 52 State Delegates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 7 Section Delegates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 Judicial Division Delegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 Young Lawyers Division Delegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 8 Goal III Members-at-Large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who or what makes the House of Delegates function?

• Volunteer leadership and staff
• Over 100 members serve on House committees
  • 53% are female
  • 42% are ethnically diverse
  • Nearly 40% are 50 years of age or younger
  • More than one in seven have practiced less than 10 years
What will happen Monday?

• Regular orders
• Special orders
• Consent calendar
What should I know when I walk into the House tomorrow?

Seating chart

House Signature Roster

Supplemental Information (Provided only Electronically)

• Late Reports
• Amendments/Revisions
• 177A – Board Transmittal
• 177 – Board Informational Report
How do I vote?

Voting

• No proxy voting
• Must be in your seat (or in the well of the House if waiting to speak)
• Required Abstention Procedure
Can I/should I speak at my first meeting? How?

• Come to the Rules & Calendar table in the front
• Fill out a salmon slip
What else do I need to know about how the House operates?

• Check the Rules of Procedures, accessible on the House website.
• We have a quick overview to take with you.
What happens with resolutions the House approves?

Check out the 2018 Resolution Review and Impact Video highlighting the history and impact of a single resolution (Shackling of Juveniles).
What resources are available to a new member?

• The ABA website
• House of Delegates website
• Delegate handbook
• Online Policy and Procedures handbook
• Online Leadership Directory handbook
• Online constitution and bylaws
• Summary of House Rules of Procedures
For the next meeting of the House, what should I expect to see?

Before the Meeting

- Sneak Preview
- Preliminary Agenda
- Executive Summary
- E-book of Resolutions
- Message from the Chair of the House
For the next meeting of the House, what should I expect to see?

During and after the meeting

- Revised Resolutions and Late Resolutions
- Reports
- Daily Journal
- Summary of Action
- Implementation Letters
Other Items
Reimbursements

• Midyear Meetings
  • Air/Ground transportation to and from as long as present at end of meeting

• Annual Meetings
  • Travel reimbursement is not available

• **Important Note**: Delegates attending House Committee meetings during Midyear and Annual Meetings are eligible for per diem reimbursement. A Reimbursement Form MUST be submitted.
What are the first things I should do when I leave here?

✓ Attend one of the caucuses
✓ Update your member profile
✓ Review House resolutions
✓ Watch your email for updates on the House of Delegates Listserv
✓ Show up tomorrow
Questions? Contact Policy and Planning Office