Comments from the Chair of the House

William R. Bay

We are approaching the end of the first year in my term as Chair of the House of Delegates. I hope you have appreciated the changes made including the new HOD Newsletter, HOD Video, FAQ PowerPoint and HOD Demographics. These are all designed to help all of us better tell the story of the House of Delegates and its role and function within our Association. Please feel free to use them with the groups you represent or when you speak about your role in the House. None of this would have happened without the work of our House committees and staff. It has been a privilege to serve alongside them.

SCOPE Nominating Committee

I am pleased to report that the Nominating Committee for the Committee on Scope and Correlation of Work (“SCOPE”) has selected Harry S. Johnson of Baltimore, Maryland to fill a five-year term on SCOPE that will commence at the conclusion of the 2019 Annual Meeting. The House will vote on that recommendation at the San Francisco meeting.

Rules & Calendar Committee

As you might expect, the Rules & Calendar Committee (Chair Christina Plum of Wisconsin) has been working diligently to prepare for our sessions of the San Francisco House of Delegates meeting.

She has a terrific committee (Tommy Preston of SC, Aurora Austriaco of IL, Roula Allouch of KY and William Johnston of DE). We are blessed with a great House staff who is committed to make sure the House runs smoothly. Until one sees the work, it is hard to appreciate what goes into making the House function so well. Let me publicly thank them again.

2019 Annual Meeting Agenda

By now, you know all the details about the agenda in San Francisco. But if you missed it, CLICK HERE to be linked to the agenda. We expect to be very busy. We will start at 9:00 a.m. Monday and end at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Monday evening. We will reconvene at 8:00 am on Tuesday and adjourn no later than 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

Good travels everyone and I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.
Comparing Demographics: The House and the ABA as a Whole

By Christopher S. Jennison of Maryland

By now, you may be thinking that we’re bombarding you with demographics data. The Technology and Communications Committee has examined the demographics of the House of Delegates, and in another article in this newsletter, we explore the demographics of the House’s committees. But as the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard once said, “the goal is to turn data into information, and information into insight.” Providing that insight is one of the goals of the Technology and Communications Committee, as we seek to explore our House and communicate to its members, the Association, and the legal profession.

In this article, we’ll compare the makeup of the House to the makeup of the Association, especially as it pertains to Goal III.

As a reminder, these stats come from a voluntary survey of House members (556 survey respondents), and the Association stats come from the 2018 Annual Demographics Report.

- **Gender**: The House has better gender balance than the Association as a whole, but not by much. The House is 41.4% female, whereas the Association is 35.3% female.

- **Ethnicity**: While both the Association and the HOD are overwhelmingly white (86.5% of Association members and 61% of HOD members), the HOD is somewhat better at proportional representation than the full Association. African Americans make up 10% of the HOD versus only 4.5% of the Association, and Hispanics make up 4% of the HOD versus 3.4% of the Association. The percentages of Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and other ethnicities in the HOD closely mirror their percentages in the full Association.

- **Age and Years in Practice**: While the HOD has been criticized for the overall age and seniority of its members, and groups like the Law Student Division and Young Lawyers Division have sought ways to increase their representation in the HOD, the HOD has over time lowered the average age of its membership. Nevertheless, the HOD still trends considerably older than the Association as a whole, as the Association has experimented with free membership for law students and sought to create a membership pipeline earlier in a member’s career. As shown below, the share of HOD members below age 50 is significantly lower than the share of Association members below age 50. The HOD is heavily weighted in the 51-70 age range, outpacing the Association; above age 71, the HOD and Association memberships are more in line with each other.
The trend for experience level in the law is similar to that of age representation. The Association as a whole is made up of far more attorneys in the earlier stages of their careers, with 30.4% of the Association having practiced for fewer than 9 years versus only 11.5% of the HOD having practiced for fewer than 9 years. The HOD catches up to the Association when we look at groups of lawyers practicing 20 years or more.

- **Job Function:** Consistent with the trends for age and experience levels, HOD members who are in private practice are far more likely to be a Partner or Managing Partner than the general Association membership (78.3% of HOD members reported a job function of Partner or Managing Partner, whereas only 41.7% of Association members reported the same).

- **Practice Setting:** Compared to the Association as a whole, fewer HOD members are in a corporate setting (6.2% in HOD versus 10.8% in the whole Association), but government and the judiciary are more widely represented in the HOD than the full Association (13% in HOD versus 9.1% Association-wide).

- **Sexual Orientation:** The share of HOD respondents who identify as lesbian or gay is similar to that of the Association as a whole (4.7% in the HOD versus 4.8% Association-wide). In evaluating the data in this category, keep in mind that nearly 80% of the House did not respond to this inquiry.
Disability Status: The share of HOD respondents who identify as disabled is greater than that of the Association as a whole (2.3% of HOD versus .5% of Association).

While the HOD is a more diverse group overall than the Association as a whole, it has room for improvement. As the Association’s membership and focus trends younger but the HOD trends older, it would seem prudent to recognize the possible gap in interests, priorities and constituencies as the HOD performs its policymaking function.

As noted before and elsewhere in this newsletter, responses are completely voluntary but if you are willing, please update your ABA profile by logging-in to www.americanbar.org. Use the drop-down menu with “Hi [Your Name]!” and go to “My ABA”, then click on “Edit →” under your picture/name and edit/update your demographic and other profile information.

Christopher S. Jennison is an Attorney Advisor for the Federal Aviation Administration. He is currently the Maryland Young Lawyer Delegate for the House of Delegates as well as the ABA YLD Clerk for 2019-20.

This article is part of a series of articles about House demographics. In future newsletters, the Technology and Communications Committee anticipates providing further observations about the make-up of the House. Please let us know about any other demographic issues you would like the Committee to explore. We will compile and share the results with you.
Comparing Demographics: The House and its Committees
Christopher L. Brown of Ohio

Previously, the House Committee on Technology and Communications published a newsletter article exploring the demographics of the ABA’s policy making body. Many readers quickly observed that the House largely consisted of Caucasian, male, and shall we say… experienced lawyers? All kidding aside, the numbers don’t lie: the average age of the House delegate is 60 years old, and 61% of House delegates have practiced 30 years or more. In comparison to the demographics of the ABA’s policy making body, the demographics of the House’s committee leadership shows an improved picture of diversity and inclusion. This article will discuss the demographics of the House’s committee leadership: The House has nine committees, including Rules and Calendar, Select, Tellers, and the authors of this newsletter. This demographic data was gathered from House committee members’ ABA profiles. Newsletter readers may be happy to learn that the House is making great strides in serving Goal III of the ABA’s four goals (promoting equal participation in the association) when it comes to committee leadership.

Gender

Starting with gender, there is greater representation of women in committee leadership. Where the House is 59% male, committee leadership is majority-female (53% female).

Ethnicity

There is also greater ethnic diversity in committee leadership than the House generally. Whereas the House is 61% white, committee leadership is 50% white. Minority representation in the House leadership is 42% (with 8% unknown) or more than twice as much as the House as a whole (with 20% unknown.) African American representation is 21% in committee leadership compared to 10% in the House. Based on the responses received, although Hispanic representation remains lower than ideal, it did increase from 4% in the House to at least 13% in the committees. All other categories showed smaller increases.

Age and Years Since Bar

While committee leadership is still mostly over the age of 50 years old (50% are 51 years old or older), there is greater representation of those members between the ages of 31-50 years old. The average age in the House is 60, but in committee leadership,
nearly two-third are under 60 and 40% under age 50 and nearly one in four are under the age of 40. Members between the ages of 31 and 40 years old represent 17% of committee leadership (compared to 11% of the House), and members between the ages 41 and 50 years old represent 17% of committee leadership (compared to 12% of the House). The years-since-barred category showed differences, with members who had 40+ years since barred shrinking from 30% of the House population to 11% of the House leadership. House population, however, 55% of committee leadership consists of members with 20 to 39 years of practice.

**Practice Setting**

Committee leadership also shows greater diversity in practice setting, with private practice still representing the majority of committee leaders (55%), but no longer at its supermajority level of 69% in the House. Those members in the government/judiciary setting saw the most gain, improving to 23% in committee leadership (up from 13% in the House), and those members in corporate practice increasing their representation to 10% from 6% in the House.

**ABA Tenure**

When compared to the whole House, there was increased diversity in almost every demographic category in committee leadership, except where years of ABA tenure demographics remained the same when comparing committee leadership to the House at large.

In conclusion, the committee leadership of the House is a great reflection of the objective of the ABA’s goal III to enhance diversity and eliminate bias in the association.

As previously noted, there are areas where there is incomplete information. In addition, there are other areas where we did not report because the data was insufficient to show meaningful data on the demographics. For example, on the question of sexual orientation, much like the complete House survey, nearly 80% of the committee leadership did not respond to this inquiry. Of course, responses are completely voluntary but if you are willing, please update your ABA profile by: logging-in to www.americanbar.org, use the drop-down menu with “Hi [Your Name]!” and go to “My ABA”; click on “Edit →” under your picture/name and edit/update your demographic and other profile information.

Christopher L. Brown is the Deputy Law Director of his hometown, Mansfield, Ohio. He is currently the Ohio Young Lawyer Delegate for the House of Delegates as well as the ABA YLD Secretary for 2018-2019.

This article is part of a series of articles about House demographics. In future newsletters, the Technology and Communications Committee anticipates providing further observations about the make-up of the House. Please let us know if there are any other demographic issues you would like the Committee to explore. We will compile and share the results with you.
Spending Time in San Francisco  
*By Myra McKenzie-Harris of Arkansas*

Take a break! Go away with us for the summer! Let’s go upstate…to San Francisco! If San Diego and Los Angeles captivate the hearts of those who love the sun, San Francisco is for those who want to live life like it’s golden. The Golden City has a lot to offer single professionals, couples, and families. From art to iconic architectural feats, nature, science, music, and outstanding seafood, San Francisco will not disappoint during the 2019 ABA Annual Meeting. Below are just a few of the many wonderful things to see and do during your time by the Bay.

1) **Art.** Those who love art will enjoy visits to the de Young Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Walt Disney Family Museum. The de Young Museum, located in the iconic Golden Gate Park, is a cultural and artistic icon dating back to 1895. In 2005, it reopened in a new facility and boasts collections of 17th through 21st century American art in addition to art from South America, Africa and the Pacific islands. Admission to the permanent collection is free for guests 18 and under. The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, founded in 1935, experienced a makeover in 2016 and now includes 45,000 square feet of contemporary and modern art. General admission is free for visitors 18 and under. For those a young at heart, consider visiting the Walt Disney Family Museum, a 40,000 square foot shrine dedicated to the life’s work of an American artistic icon—Walt Disney. Located in Presidio, the decade-old Museum has interactive galleries, exhibitions narrated in Walt Disney’s voice, early Disney drawings, listening stations, and a 14-foot model of Disneyland. Gold star!

2) **Architectural Icons.** No visit to San Francisco is complete without a visit to the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz. Possibly the most well-known suspension bridge in the world, the orange **Golden Gate Bridge** is 1.7 miles long and has twin towers that are just shy of 750 feet high. There is no cost to walk or bike across the bridge. Afraid of heights? No problem! A virtual tour of the Bridge is available at [http://goldengatebridge.org/photos/bridgewalk.php](http://goldengatebridge.org/photos/bridgewalk.php). **Alcatraz,** while known as one of the most famous prisons in the world, is also the site of the first lighthouse built on the Pacific coast. On an island 1.5 miles from Fisherman’s Wharf, Alcatraz is now a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Tours of the former prison and its grounds are available as a part of various cruises departing from Piers 31-33 of the San Francisco Bay. Check out
options at https://www.nps.gov/alca/planyourvisit/hours.htm. Make your reservations now because trips will sell out by the time ABA Annual rolls into town.

3) **Seafood.** For the foodie in you, San Francisco is a great place to get your fix. **Betty Lou’s Seafood and Grill,** 318 Columbus Ave., is a great place to have seafood with an Italian flair. Situated at the southern tip of San Francisco’s North Beach, Betty Lou’s offers reasonably priced, fresh seafood in a comfortable, casual atmosphere. Check out a specialty like Mike’s Wok Crab or a San Francisco standard like Cioppino. Gluten free and vegetarian options are also available. Looking to have a Pacific seafood meal on the waterfront? Check out **Scoma’s,** 1965 Al Scoma Way Pier 47. It is a San Francisco icon located in Fisherman's Wharf--with a working fishing boat! Open for more than 50 years, the views, “pier to plate” fare, and excellent service make it a must during your visit. The delicious house-made desserts and complimentary Wi-Fi and valet service are also a plus. A third option is the **Fog Harbor Fish House** located at Pier 39. Known for its sustainable seafood and award-winning clam chowder, Fog Harbor Fish House is sure to be a hit. It has an extensive wine list and several non-alcoholic drink options in addition to a summer seasonal menu.

4) **Nature.** Visit the **Redwood National Forest (Muir Woods National Monument)** and **Aquarium of the Bay** if you want to see some of nature’s best work. Located 16 miles outside San Francisco, **Muir Woods** is a part of the Redwood National Forest. National Park Rangers provide free tours starting at the Visitors Center. Be aware, reservations for parking and shuttle service are required. See here: https://www.nps.gov/muwo/planyourvisit/hours.htm. Also, please note that no cell phone service or Wi-Fi is available in the Park. So, prepare to unplug if you decide to visit. If you are not willing to go that deeply into nature’s den, check out the **Aquarium of the Bay,** San Francisco's waterfront aquarium located near Pier 39. It boasts 300 feet of tunnels that showcase more than 20,000 marine animals from the Bay and surrounding areas. Animal encounters, feedings and other interactive options are available. General admission costs vary. Family bundles (2 adults and 2 children (ages 4 to 12)) are available for $75, and a senior discounted general admission rate of $23.25 is offered to visitors age 65 and over. https://www.aquariumofthebay.org/.

5) **Science.** Is the Moon really green? Oakland’s **Chabot Space and Science Center,** in partnership with NASA, has a wonderful exhibit focused on lunar exploration and the Moon entitled, “**Luminous Moon.”** The interactive exhibit features dozens of high-resolution pictures of the Moon and lunar artifacts. Notably, during the Annual Meeting on **August 12th,** the Center will host a late night **Perseid Meteor Shower Event.** For an additional fee, guests are invited to relax on the Center’s observation desk and enjoy an amazing meteor shower. Astronomers will be on site to answer questions, and snacks and drinks will be provided. If that’s not enough science for you, consider visiting the world’s “Greenest Museum,” the **California Academy of the Sciences.** Within its Platinum LEED certified walls, you can find an aquarium (home to a South African penguin colony), natural history museum, planetarium, and multi-story rainforest! Additionally, during the ABA Annual
Meeting, the Academy is hosting an exhibit called, “Skin: Living Armor, Evolving Identity.” This exhibit explores the many uses, benefits, colors and textures of this organ. For more information regarding admission costs (less than $40 for non-resident adults during the Annual Meeting), see here: https://www.calacademy.org.

6) Music. Finally, would a visit to San Francisco be complete without the Sounds of Silence? Yes, music legend Paul Simon is coming out of retirement to serve as one of the headliners at the Outside Lands Music Festival, being held August 9th – 11th, at Golden Gate Park. Other performers include: Childish Gambino, Twenty One Pilots, Kacey Musgraves, Counting Crows and so much more. Tickets are available here: https://www.sfoutsidelands.com/tickets/

Don’t like any of the options above? Check out Trip Advisor’s San Francisco options at: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Products-g60713-San_Francisco_California.html. You can find hundreds of things to do and places to go. We will have a plethora of ABA meetings, CLEs, and receptions to attend in San Francisco, but remember to take a break and enjoy the Golden City before, after or during our time there.

Myra McKenzie-Harris holds the position of Senior Associate Counsel II in the Walmart Inc. Legal Department. She is also an At Large Member of the ABA House of Delegates and a member of the House’s Technology & Communications Committee.
Delegate Spotlight

Members of the ABA House of Delegates have many personal achievements to note.

**Wendy Shiba of California** was awarded the 2019 Warren Christopher Values Award from her former employer, the law firm O'Melveny & Myers. This award is a celebration of O'Melveny's core values of uncompromising excellence, distinctive leadership, and superior citizenship, and recognizes the contribution the firm's alumni make to the legal, business and public service communities they serve.

**Peter Bennett of Maine** On June 14, became Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

**Mike Byowitz of New York** (Wachtell Lipton), a member of the House for more than a decade and currently a member of the ABA Board of Governors, received the Leonard J. Theberge Award from the American Bar Association Section of International Law in April 2019. The Award is in memory of former Section Chair Leonard J. Theberge and was established to honor those persons who have made distinguished, long-standing contributions to the development of private international law.

**Sharon Stern Gerstman of New York, Karol Corbin Walker of New Jersey** and **Benjamin E. Griffith of Mississippi** have been elected as new members of The American Law Institute (“ALI”).

**Robert J. Grey, Jr. of Virginia** and **Frank X. Neuner of Louisiana** were two of the eight presidential nominees that were confirmed by the U.S. Senate on August 1, 2019, to serve on the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation (“LSC”).

**Harry S. Johnson of Maryland** a member of the House for more than a decade has been selected as a member of the Committee on Scope and Correlation of Work (“SCOPE”).

**Andrew J. (Josh) Markus of Florida** has been appointed by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria to be the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Bulgaria for the State of Florida.
Amy Lin Meyerson of Connecticut has started a new position as the President-Elect of the Connecticut Bar Association. She is also the Immediate Past President of the NAPABA Law Foundation and currently serves on the American Bar Association’s Representatives and Observers to the United Nations and is a member of the House Committee on Credentials and Admissions.

Harry Truman Moore of Arkansas was recently awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Paragould/Greene County (Arkansas) Chamber of Commerce for his leadership and service to the Chamber and numerous other civic and charitable organizations over the past 40 plus years.

CLICK HERE to provide us with information about recent awards or achievements that you or other House members have received since September 1, 2018, so we can consider the information for inclusion in future House of Delegates Newsletters.