In this newsletter, I planned to follow up on my email to each of you about the virtual meeting in August and review some of the changes we are making in order to ensure that we have a productive meeting. There will be time to do that in future issues and you may review my email in the link here. Instead of that, I wanted to address the issue facing all of us today.

There is a great deal of hurt, pain, and anger today in our country and in our communities. While we are busy weathering the pandemic, trying to practice law and getting ready for virtual meetings, racial injustice in our nation continues. The senseless killing of George Floyd is a vivid reminder that our world is not as just as we wish it to be. In the House of Delegates, we have passed resolutions calling for change. Over the last five years, the House of Delegates – our profession’s voice – has passed a number of resolutions about the need for change in policing and in our courts.

You have spoken, recognizing that there is need for more change. Change that is even more visible. Change that is real. Change that matters. None of us have the perfect answer for the issues we face. They are challenging. But I am convinced that our House can be a catalyst for more needed change.

As we prepare for our virtual meeting in August, reach out to the members of your delegations and in your communities. Many are hurting. Listen because many feel like they are not being heard. People in our communities have suggestions we should hear.

What we do in the House matters. What we do in our communities matters as well. Perhaps most importantly, what we do as individuals matters a great deal. Thank you for all you do and for being vigilant in the personal and collective goal we share to defend liberty and pursue justice. Our individual voices and actions are needed now more than ever.
Update on HOD Working Group on House Operations
Robert M. Carlson, MT

At the Midyear meeting in February 2020, the HOD Working Group on House Operations conducted a listening session to gather comments regarding the work of the House of Delegates as it relates to resolutions, the calendar, recusals and related issues. The Working Group further sought assistance in determining whether to amend the House of Delegates rules of procedure to meet concerns about participation raised by House members and other entities. A common theme that arose from this session was the need to establish a procedure to determine whether proposed resolutions to be brought before the House of Delegates advance one or more of the ABA’s Four Goals.

Based on its work to date, the Working Group intends to recommend amendments to §45.1 and §45.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Delegates to add the requirement that the proponents of a resolution identify, at the time of submission, how the resolution advances one or more of the ABA’s Four Goals. The Working Group will propose these amendments for adoption at charge.
The ABA House of Delegates Technology & Communications Committee recently conducted a survey of House members. In addition to collecting demographic information, the survey requested information about the leadership experiences of House delegates. More than 270 of the near 600 delegates serving in the House responded to the survey.

The House consists of the officers and board members of the Association, plus representatives from the multiple Sections and Divisions of the American Bar Association and from state bars, local bars, and affiliated organizations. Although the delegates to the House come from a variety of backgrounds and practice areas, a prominent theme in the survey results was the leadership experience of the respondents.

Leadership in the House

The delegates in the House have an impressive record of leadership. Over 55% of respondents have previously served as presidents or chairs of national, state, or local bar associations; approximately 25% have served as presidents or chairs of national, state, or local young lawyer bar associations; and approximately 5% have served as presidents or chairs of national, state, or local judicial associations.

While serving as president or chair, these leaders are the voice of their constituents and represent their respective organizations. Because of the importance of this role, an organization’s president or chair is often selected by election of an organization’s members or nomination through peers, giving a nod of approval and credibility to the organization’s chosen leader. Many of these roles have succession plans, allowing organization leaders to develop and grow with their respective organizations over time. As leaders, these presidents and chairs have engaged in dialogue with their leadership teams and contingencies to discuss a multitude of multi-faceted subjects affecting the profession or the community in which the organization serves.

The survey results also suggest a strong correlation between young lawyer leaders and participation in the House. Some of the respondents were young lawyers in recent history, and several have served long ago. While the voice of the young lawyer has changed over time, there is no question that the voice of the young lawyer is taken
into consideration in the House, both by current young lawyer leaders and those who have served in the past.

The question posed in the survey did not address the multitude of other leadership capacities in which House members have served, including as members of boards, committees and committee leadership, and various other officer positions. The resumes of the House’s delegates would likely reveal a sprinkling, or in some cases, a flood, of additional bar leadership positions. In addition, many delegates in the House have served in multiple capacities in non-legal association leadership roles.

Longevity of Service in the House

A large majority of House delegates have served in the House for several years. Of the survey respondents, approximately 25% have served in the House for more than 10 years, and less than 14% have served for one year or less. While this may not be surprising as many delegates serve for multi-year terms, approximately 20% of respondents have served for 6-10 years and approximately 10% have served for 11-15 years.

The Constitution of the Association provides for three-year terms for delegates representing Sections and two-year terms for delegates representing territories and affiliated organizations. In addition, past presidents of the Association and past chairs of the House serve for their lifetimes while past secretaries and treasurers also serve for a specified time after their service as officer. Some organizations, such as local bar organizations, do not have limits to the term of service.

Despite service years and term limits set forth by the Association’s Constitution, many delegates have served the House in more than one representative capacity over the years, continuing to contribute their knowledge and experience to the House.

A House of Leaders

When considering the number of past presidents or chairs in the House, the number of delegates that have served in a multitude of leadership positions, and then taking into account the exponential number of lawyers and communities these lawyers have represented, the power of the voice of the House resonates. This is not a House of individual attorneys, but a House of leaders.

Michelle A. Philo is the State Bar of California’s YLD Delegate
So, you’ve been appointed or elected as your state’s young lawyer delegate? Congrats! While both exciting and meaningful, your first time attending a meeting of the ABA House of Delegates (HOD) can also be a little overwhelming.

We hope that this article provides you some helpful resources and answers a few questions you may have been reluctant to ask.

Here are the fast facts (and a few friendly recommendations) you need to know before you go:

- At the Midyear Meeting, the House of Delegates (“HOD”) meets for one day (Monday) and usually ends at 5:30 pm local time.
- At Annual Meeting, the HOD is two days (Monday and Tuesday), and the meeting sometimes ends earlier in the afternoon on Tuesday. The Chair (with the help of the Rules & Calendar Committee) set the agenda and determine the adjournment time. You should watch for specific updates, but plan to stick around until 5:30pm – *that means don’t book your flight home until 7:00pm depending on ground travel to the airport*.
- We recommend you arrive early on Saturday to both Midyear and Annual Meetings. We understand everyone’s situation (and budget) is different, but there are several networking opportunities on Saturday and Sunday; some are free and some are ticketed; some are open to all and some are by invitation only. Attending these events can give you a wealth of information about the Association and the practice of law, while also providing opportunity to make some friends before the House meets. Be sure to check with your State Delegate if you have questions about specific receptions!
- Sundays are for caucusing! What’s a caucus you ask? Affinity groups with similar perspectives get together to discuss how proposed resolutions impact their constituents and stakeholders, debate some possible amendments, and discuss candidates for Association office. Caucuses include, but are not limited to the: Women’s Caucus, Minority Caucus, LGBTQ+ Caucus, and Young Lawyer Caucus. You are welcome (and encouraged) to attend any and all
caucuses; as a young lawyer, you are especially encouraged to attend the Young Lawyer Caucus! The Young Lawyer Caucus includes all of the young lawyers in the HOD regardless of their status (some represent their state bar, some represent Association entities, and others are appointed by the ABA Young Lawyers Division).

- HOD meetings are strictly business, so dress accordingly. The networking receptions and caucus events are slightly less formal so your business casual is often appropriate — but there will still be plenty of people in business attire. We think it’s important to dress for comfort — you may have several long days – but don’t forget, these are prime opportunities to network. Our recommendation is to leave the casual outfits for exploring the city on your own time!
- Don’t be afraid to ask questions! Our experience has been that ABA leaders at every level are always available to answer questions. This group is all about making the profession better, so don’t be afraid to reach out! Start with your State Delegate and ABA YLD Constitutional Representatives in the HOD. And if you are still hesitant to reach out to them – you can always shoot us an email!

So now you know the basics for your first (or second) HOD meeting! While we understand that it can be intimidating to enter a room full of leading lawyers from across the country, you earned your spot in the HOD—you belong!

Still nervous? Perhaps you know your state’s delegation pretty well (it’s a good place to start!). Remember, maybe every other Delegate to the HOD is just a friend you haven’t met yet. Either way, we’ll leave you with some advice with the Chair of the House, William Bay: “It never hurts to bring candy.”

See our picks for the best online resources:

- Leadership Directory (including State Delegate info):
  - New Member Checklist
  - New Delegate Handbook
  - Policy Made Easy Brochure

If you enjoyed this article – be on the lookout for the next newsletter on how to get involved in House leadership!

Christopher Brown is the Chair-Elect for the ABA Young Lawyers Division. Chris is the Deputy Law Director for his hometown, the City of Mansfield, Ohio

Christopher Jennison is the Assembly Clerk for the ABA Young Lawyers Division. Chris is an Attorney Advisor with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the Office of Chief Counsel, Employment and Labor Law Division.
Delegate Spotlight

In Memoriam: Albert J. Krieger, FL, 96. Albert served as Chair of the Criminal Justice Section in 2002-03 and was the recipient of the section's Charles R. English Award in 2005. He was a founder of the National Criminal Defense College and one of the original members of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, serving as its president in 1979-1980. NACDL, with thousands of members today, honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award, one of numerous legal awards in his career. Albert defended several high-profile figures, including New York crime boss John Gotti, Miami Vice cocaine smuggler Willie Falcon, and the Lakota Sioux tribe that occupied Wounded Knee during the American Indian Movement. Albert Krieger was truly a giant of our profession, and his legacy will live on for generations. Obituary

Here is the link written out: https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/obituaries/article242783966.html

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One of our own Technology and Communications Committee members was recently featured in the ABA Journal for his contributions of time and expertise to the COVID-19 crisis. Christopher Jennison embodies the spirit of service common in our profession and inspires us all.

Here is the link written out: https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/emergency-medical-technician-calls-on-emt-experience-during-coronavirus-crisis

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Members of the ABA House of Delegates we would like to share your efforts related to the pandemic due to COVID-19. Please CLICK HERE to provide your name and 1 to 3 sentences about your efforts for helping with the pandemic issues. We will feature as many responses as we can in the coming editions of the HOD Newsletter.

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CLICK HERE to provide us with information about recent awards or achievements that you or other House members have received since September 1, 2019, so we can consider the information for inclusion in future House of Delegates Newsletters