Meeting Profile

Mission of the Bar Leadership Institute
The mission of the Bar Leadership Institute (BLI) is to support the organized bar by educating new bar leaders on their roles and responsibilities. The BLI provides the best governance and communication models to bar leaders and supports the profession by encouraging inter-bar cooperation.

Goals of the BLI
Since 1978, this conference has provided bar leaders with a unique experience, preparing them to lead their bar association in service to members, the legal profession, and the public by:

◊ Growing their leadership skills.
◊ Introducing and reinforcing best practices in bar governance and communications.
◊ Facilitating the exchange of information and ideas among bar leaders.
◊ Familiarizing bar leaders with the resources available to enhance their experience and impact as bar leaders.
◊ Creating an ongoing, positive relationship between participants and the ABA.

2018 Attendee Profile
Total Attendance in 2018 – 324
- 113 Presidents-elect
- 65 Other officers
- 124 Executive staff
- 15 ABA officers and committee members
- 5 Young lawyer leaders

Organizations Represented - 150
- 45 State bar associations
- 92 Local bar associations
- 3 National bars of color
- 6 State and local women bar associations
- 1 State and local special interest bar associations
- 2 Bar foundations
- 1 International (Saudi Arabia)

Overview of the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities & Services and the Division for Bar Services (DBS)
The Standing Committee on Bar Activities & Services' key role is to maintain the ABA's partnership and support of state, local, and special focus bar associations and related organizations. In addition to overseeing operation for the Division for Bar Services, the committee carries out its mission through a variety of activities including sponsorship of the BLI, participation at bar association regional conferences and sponsorship of the ABA Partnership Awards.

The Division for Bar Services (DBS) serves as the primary link between the ABA and state, local, and special focus bar associations. DBS provides support, products and services that facilitate the professional development of bar leaders and staff, and the exchange of information. The 14-member staff provides management and leadership expertise to its constituents.

Relationship of State, Local, and Special Focus Bar Associations to the ABA
State, local, and special focus bar associations are independent organizations, each with their own boards of directors and identities. They are not formally affiliated with the ABA in a chapter-type arrangement. ABA bar association constituents that meet certain size criteria are represented in the ABA’s policy-making body, the House of Delegates.
Bar Associations

There are two basic types of bar associations, unified and voluntary. There are 34 unified state bar associations. In unified bar states, attorneys must be members of the state bar in order to practice law in that jurisdiction. In many unified states, the bar exercises regulatory authority over lawyers. Membership in other bar associations is voluntary. The general purposes of most bar associations includes the provision of continuing legal education, promoting access to justice, fair and impartial courts, and professionalism, and educating the public about the rule of law.

About the ABA

With close to 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.

Key Issues Facing the Organized Bar

◊ Demographic changes impacting both unified and voluntary bar associations
◊ Continuing relevance to four generations of members
◊ Access to legal services
◊ Economics of practice and the changing nature of the delivery of legal services

Bar Leadership Institute Location

Chicago Marriott Downtown, 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611
Driveway entrance located on 541 North Rush Street
Phone: 312-836-0100 Fax: 312-836-6139
Full Service Business Center- FedEx Kinko’s, 2nd Floor
Phone: 312-832-0090

Registration Location: 7th Floor Registration Desk

Room Set-up: Classroom/Theater unless otherwise specified.

Materials Format for Speakers: Electronic, ten pages or less; PowerPoint presentations in original format.

Dress: Business attire.

Special Events: Evening reception on Wednesday at the Chicago Marriott Downtown, 7th floor

Staff Contacts:

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