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**Issue 152 | April 23**

## **Pondering the Bar Pass Rate Decline**

### **A Big Question in Legal Education: Why Are Bar Pass Rates at a Record Low?**

The single biggest challenge in legal education today might not be shrinking enrollment, but a precipitous decline in bar pass rates over the past five years, according to an article in [The Recorder](#). The average score on the Multistate Bar Exam sank to a 34-year low in July 2018, the article says, and between 2013 and 2017 (the most recent data available), 42 out of 203 ABA-accredited law schools saw their pass rate fall anywhere from 10 to 20 percent. Where have the declines been the most significant, and what are the possible reasons for the overall trend?

### **Farewell to Vesey Street: New York County Lawyers Association to Sell Its HQ Building**

The New York County Lawyers Association's 89-year-old headquarters is a New York City landmark designed by the same architect as the U.S. Supreme Court building—and with the same majestically thick walls. That's a problem these days: Wi-Fi is spotty as a result, and many bars (not just NYCLA) find that young lawyers just aren't wowed by historic buildings anyway. Those are a couple of reasons the bar's board unanimously voted earlier this month to sell the headquarters building to an undisclosed buyer. Where will the bar move to, and how might the new location better meet members' needs? Find out at [New York Law Journal](#).

### **New Platform Aims to Make Divorce as Painless, and as DIY, as Possible**

In the United States, the average total cost for a divorce attorney is \$18,000 to \$27,000, which makes it tempting for many people to try to do it themselves. But that can be a big challenge in family law, where it's not always clear which forms are required, which ones are optional, and where they need to be filed. To offer an almost-DIY option for divorce, this month, family lawyer Erin Levine will launch a platform and app called Divorce Navigator 2.0. The technology uses artificial intelligence and conditional logic to help users fill out the right forms correctly, while also guiding them to additional resources—including flat-fee lawyers—as needed. Learn more at [Above the Law](#).

### **Legal Rebels Podcast Checks in with 'Low Bono' Pioneer Luz Herrera**

A lot can happen in 10 years. For example, in the time since Luz Herrera was named an *ABA Journal* Legal Rebel in 2009, three of the innovations in which she was a pioneer have taken off across the country: "low bono" practice, nonprofit law firms, and legal incubators. Herrera is now a professor and associate dean at the relatively young Texas A&M University School of Law in Fort Worth. In its [Legal Rebels podcast series](#), *ABA Journal* catches up with Herrera, who shares her thoughts on the state of consumer-focused legal innovation today.



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