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**Issue 157 | May 28**

**New Bar Passage Standard**

## **ABA Section of Legal Ed Moves Forward with Controversial Bar Passage Standard**

After years of discussion and two rejections by the association's House of Delegates, the council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has tightened its accreditation standard pertaining to bar passage. To comply with the revised Standard 316, at least 75 percent of a law school's graduates who sat for a bar exam must pass within two years of graduation. Previously, there were a few different ways to meet the standard. Among those who have objected to the revision, many cite their concern that it will negatively affect diversity in the profession and could also prompt state courts to change their cut scores. In a statement, Barry Currier, the ABA's managing director of accreditation and legal education, noted that because most law students intend to practice, bar passage is an important metric for a law school's performance. When will law schools first be required to comply with the revised standard? Find out at [ABA Journal](#).

## **New York City Bar Association Launches Pipeline Initiative to Boost Diversity in the Profession**

Thanks in part to a grant from the New York Community Trust, the New York City Bar Association is embarking on a major pipeline effort that it hopes will help diversify the profession. The bar currently has internships and other initiatives for pre-college students through first-year law students; with this new initiative, its pipeline work will start with elementary school students. The bar plans to create opportunities for lawyers to volunteer in schools; encourage law firms that have signed on to diversity commitments to also commit to pipeline initiatives; and advocate for including a required CLE credit category pertaining to learning how to build and maintain student pipelines. Learn more about this project, and the findings of a related task force report, at [Bloomberg Law](#).

## **3 Great Tips for Engaging Young Professionals in Your Association**

What young professionals want most from associations, writes Jeanette Gass, is "to make connections, build networks, advance our professions, give back, and do good in our communities and the world." That sounds like the kind of member most associations would be thrilled to have and Gass says these functions are more or less what associations were designed to provide. But it takes some real effort to get young members involved and help them feel connected. At [AssociationSuccess.org](#), Gass (who is herself a young professional who works for an association) shares three ways that associations can most effectively engage their young members.

## **May-June Bar Leader: Improving Diversity and Inclusion Takes Leadership**

What does it take for bar associations' efforts in diversity and inclusion to be successful? According to a panel at the 2019 ABA Bar Leadership Institute, it takes leaders who are personally invested in welcoming every member and who realize that the work that's required won't always be comfortable or easy. The [May-June 2019 issue of Bar Leader](#) recaps this discussion and also looks at how some bars across the country are making sure

diversity and inclusion stay at the forefront despite annual transitions in leadership.



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