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**Issue 167 | August 6**

## **The Future of Character & Fitness Questions**

### **Do Character and Fitness Questions About Mental Health Violate the ADA?**

It's been said that character and fitness questions about bar applicants' mental health history, diagnoses, and treatment may discourage law students from seeking necessary help. But could they also violate the Americans with Disabilities Act? In April, the U.S. attorney in Connecticut agreed to end an investigation into ADA complaints when bar examiners there said they were already planning to stop asking applicants about their mental health histories. Meanwhile, in Georgia, there are no plans to eliminate questions about mental health, as the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants believes its questions are appropriately limited in scope and focus more on conduct than simply on diagnosis. How many other states still have questions like this, and which ones are currently reevaluating them? Find out at [law.com](http://law.com).

### **To Make Up for Error, State Bar of California Shares Essay Question Topics with all Exam Takers**

After the bar exam is administered, the State Bar of California invites a rotating group of law school deans to attend a bar exam grading session. But for the July bar exam, the invitation went out five days before the exam started, which means that deans at 16 law schools knew in advance what the essay question areas were and what the performance test would entail. Though the bar didn't think that any of the deans disclosed what they had learned, in the interest of fairness, this same information was then shared with everyone taking the test. How much of a difference is this advance knowledge likely to make? [ABA Journal](#) asked a few law school academic services professors if there's any benefit to an informed, but last-minute cram session.

### **4 'Dingbat' Leadership Beliefs That Can Snare Even Smart People**

What is a dingbat, exactly? According to leadership consultant Dan Rockwell, it's a smart person doing stupid things. Rockwell identifies four dingbat ideas related to leadership. One example, he says, is thinking that high-performing individuals automatically make good managers. "The best boss has emotional intelligence," he explains. "The best employees have technical skill." Learn about the other three dingbat beliefs, plus a bonus one that is the most dangerous of all, at [Leadership Freak](#).

### **New 19th Amendment Centennial Details Announced, Including Theme for Law Day 2020**

Last week, the ABA Division for Public Education announced more details about the [19th Amendment centennial celebration](#), including the Law Day theme for 2020: "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100." A new ABA Commission on the 19th Amendment has been formed, the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress has created a traveling exhibit, with hosts now being determined, and digital toolkits are now available to help educate the public about the amendment that gave women the constitutional right to vote. Make sure to stay up to date as plans progress.

Bar Leader Weekly will not be published next week due to the ABA Annual Meeting.



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