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**New Source for Vital Statistics on the Profession**

## **As Part of 2019 Annual Meeting, ABA Debuts Profile of the Legal Profession**

One of the things the ABA does especially well is gathering data about the legal profession, including demographics, wages, well-being, and many other topics. For the first time, that data—from within the ABA and from other law-related organizations and the federal government—has been gathered into a report called the ABA Profile of the Legal Profession. This report, compiled by the ABA Media Relations and Strategic Communications Division as part of the association's 2019 Annual Meeting, will be updated annually. An [ABA news item](#) shares a link to the new resource, as well as many other links to more information on specific subject areas.

## **In Written Comments and at Public Hearing, California Task Force Recommendations Prompt Strong Reactions**

It may be no surprise that the 16 proposals put forth by the State Bar of California Task Force on Access Through Innovation of Legal Services have prompted impassioned responses, both for and against changes that include allowing nonlawyers to share in law firm profits and provide legal advice. Interestingly, while opponents put their thoughts in writing—outnumbering positive written comments by 9 to 1—many proponents opted instead to speak at a public hearing earlier this month. At that hearing, proponents praised the bar for starting an important conversation about modernizing the profession and increasing access to justice; however, the newly installed president of the Illinois State Bar Association cautioned that the full effects of regulatory changes in England, Australia, and New Zealand are not yet clear. [Bloomberg Law Big Law Business](#) spotlights some of the most notable comments, both written and spoken.

## **Last-Minute Tax Change to Affect Ohio Lawyers, Ohio State Bar Association Mulls Legal Action**

The Ohio State Bar Association is exploring whether to take legal action after lawmakers working on the bill that establishes the state budget inserted a change that excludes lawyers and lobbyists from Ohio's business income tax deduction. The change targets those two groups exclusively, causing many lawyers to wonder why they are being treated differently from any other small business owners. The change in the tax code would take effect in 2020, and the business deduction was first effective with 2013 returns. A managing partner at one small firm said that she and others like her might need to charge higher rates, restructure their practices, or look for jobs at larger firms. What was the response when [Crain's Cleveland](#) asked the speaker of the Ohio House about this last-minute change and why it seems to single out lawyers in particular?

## **Number of Law School Applicants Increases Slightly, but no More 'Trump Bump'**

The number of law school applicants for the 2019-20 admission cycle saw a modest increase, but it seems that the "Trump bump"—a large increase last year that many people attributed to a desire to resist certain actions by the current administration—is over. The most recent numbers from the Law School Admission Council show an increase of 3.3

percent in applicants this year, compared with an 8.1 percent increase last year. What are the most recent employment figures for new law grads, is there a prediction yet regarding the number of applicants for 2020-21, and how diverse is the applicant pool for this year? Find out at [ABA Journal](#).

## **ABA Panel: 19th Amendment Centennial Is a Milestone to Celebrate, but Voting Rights Are Still at Risk**

In opening remarks at a panel discussion at the 2019 ABA Annual meeting, Judy Perry Martinez, who is now president of the association, called the 19th Amendment the "largest expansion of democracy in the history of our nation." But that doesn't mean there isn't significant work yet to be done, the panelists said. For example, those who are African-American are disproportionately caught up in the criminal justice system and thus, more likely to be subject to laws that disenfranchise felons. Also, women who want to go a step further and run for office are frequently targeted with much more negative comments and actions than men are. An [ABA news item](#) has more details about the panelists and what they had to say about the 19th Amendment and the issues that imperil equality in voting rights.



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