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COVID-19/Coronavirus Resources for Bars

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With much of the nation (and world) in some degree of self-isolation to prevent the spread of COVID-19/coronavirus, it's anything but business as usual for bars and their members and other stakeholders. Several tools are available to help you with business continuity and other aspects of crisis response. The [ABA Division for Bar Services Continuity Planning Resource Page](#) links to a number of bars' disaster/continuity plans, related articles, guides, and other resources. The [National Association of Bar Executives Pandemic Preparedness Resources Page](#) gathers information specific to pandemics and to COVID-19, including summaries of NABE's weekly roundtables on this topic. The [National Conference of Bar Presidents COVID-19 resource page](#) is available as well, specific to bar presidents and other elected leaders. Finally, [an ABA news item](#) announcing the formation of the Task Force on Legal Needs Arising out of the 2020 Pandemic links to several articles and sources of up-to-date information.

Working Remotely? Zoom Cheat Sheet Can Help

Among the ways COVID-19 has changed the way people work is that many are using the online videoconferencing system Zoom for the first time. Though it's known to be relatively easy to use, it's almost inevitable that some will encounter a few hurdles along the way. University of Texas Law School Professor Craig Ball, a veteran Zoom user himself, has put together a handy, downloadable [cheat sheet](#) that can help you make the most of this technology.

New York State Bar Association Releases Rural Practice Report, Announces New Grant

When we hear about rural practice and efforts to help lawyers make a living and serve clients in more remote areas, we may think of states that are sparsely populated overall. But New York state, too, has access to justice issues in its rural areas, given that 96 percent of its lawyers practice in metropolitan areas. Adding to the problem is that 75 percent of the state's rural practitioners will retire in the next 10 to 30 years, and few or no new lawyers are stepping in to take their place. What could help close this gap? In a report released last week, a New York State Bar Association task force called on law schools, the state government, and the legal industry to do more to increase rural justice—and the bar itself has created a \$22,000 annual grant for new lawyers who serve rural communities. [Law.com](#) offers detailed information about the recommendations of the NYSBA Task Force on Rural Justice, and a link to the full report.

Free, Bar-Focused Webinar: Leading in a Time of Crisis

Join your colleagues at 1:00 p.m. Central on Thursday, March 26, for a free, one-hour webinar in which former State Bar of Arizona chief executive officer and former chief of staff of the U.S. General Services Administration John Phelps will provide leadership and governance guidance during this pandemic. John will provide you with tools to determine what your members and the profession truly need at this time, and what's expendable. This session, provided jointly by the ABA Division for Bar Services and the National Conference of Bar Presidents, is intended to help bar leaders be servant leaders as we navigate these trying times. [Register today.](#)

U.S. Supreme Court Denies Petition for Certiorari in Case that Challenged State Bar Association of North Dakota

In the final blow to a closely watched case involving the State Bar Association of North Dakota, earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a petition for certiorari (meaning it declined to hear the case) in *Fleck v. Wetch*, according to [SCOTUSblog](#). This case, whose defendant was president of the bar at the time it was first filed, was one of several in which an attorney in an integrated bar state cited the *Janus* decision to argue that mandatory bar fees are unconstitutional even with opt-out procedures for objections to political and ideological positions and speech.



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