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## **ABA Unveils New Web Resource on COVID-19**

### **ABA Task Force Launches Web Resource on COVID-19**

The ABA Task Force on Legal Needs Arising Out of the 2020 Pandemic launched a [website](#) to provide information about resources, changes in benefits and emerging legal issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Designed to be a national source of information about the coronavirus and the delivery of legal service, the website includes resources on remote service delivery, court access and rules changes, legal needs, public benefits programs, and pro bono mobilization. The task force is receptive to adding new resources to the site, especially in the form of links to content that is dynamic and frequently updated. Please email [Denise Dempsey](#) any submissions for consideration.

### **How a Culture of Inquiry Helps Your Board, and How to Build One?Even Now**

A crisis might seem like a bad time to devote a lot of attention to how your board works. But in fact, writes Joy Folkedal at [BoardSource](#), those that have a culture of inquiry?in which board members seek more information, ask difficult questions, and actively solicit and listen to different points of view?are in much better position to help their organizations face the challenges associated with COVID-19. The good news, she adds, is that if your board doesn't currently have this type of culture, there are ways to help build it now. What are the four building blocks of a culture of inquiry, and how can you implement them, even during this pandemic?

### **Baltimore Public Defender Shares How Remote Work Presents Critical Gaps in Justice**

"[A]sking public defenders to work remotely is like asking an NFL team to train in a swimming pool. Our work, by its nature, necessitates contact." That's according to Todd Oppenheim, a public defender in Baltimore who?along with most other state employees in Maryland?has been asked not to physically go to work during the pandemic. While there is work that he can do remotely, he writes, his ability to fully advocate for his clients, especially in a court system that is operating in a very limited capacity, has been severely curtailed or even eliminated. What effect does this have on clients' rights to a fair trial, and on their health and safety? At [Slate](#), Oppenheim offering a sobering view of a situation that may be unfolding in many other jurisdictions as well.

### **State Bar of California Delays Vote on 'Regulatory Sandbox' Proposal**

It was anticipated that the board of trustees of the State Bar of California would vote at its March 12 meeting on whether to approve a task force recommendation to establish a "regulatory sandbox" to test possible reforms. However, while the board did approve two proposals to amend legal ethics rules?including one pertaining to fee sharing with nonlawyers?the vote on whether to move on the sandbox idea was postponed until May. [ABA Journal](#) has more details on what was approved and the reasons behind, and reactions to, the delay.

### **ABA Offers Online Resources to Safely Commemorate**

## 19th Amendment Centennial

To commemorate Women's History Month and the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote, the ABA launched a social media campaign featuring motion graphics that incorporate historic images from the suffrage movement. Please share these posts when you see them on the ABA's social media accounts. In addition, in light of program cancelations due to the coronavirus, the [ABA's 19th Amendment website](#) has been reconfigured to better highlight a range of virtual resources that bars can use to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment.



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