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ABA Advocates for Limited Practice for Law Grads

ABA Board of Governors Urges States to Allow Limited Practice for Law Grads if July Bar Exams Are Called Off

What happens if the COVID-19 pandemic causes cancellation of July 2020 bar exams? Last week, the ABA Board of Governors approved a resolution to urge states to adopt emergency rules that would allow recent law graduates in this situation to perform limited practice under supervision by lawyers. These rules would apply to 2019 and 2020 graduates of ABA-accredited law schools who have not yet taken a bar exam. They would have to take a bar exam by the end of 2021, and their limited authorization would end if they take and fail a bar exam. Under this model rule, limited authorization would not be offered to anyone who has previously failed a bar exam. [ABA Journal](#) has more information about the resolution, the vote, and the parameters for this limited practice authorization.

When Lawyers Receive Bad Reviews Online, How Should They Be Allowed to Respond?

When consumers are displeased with a service they receive—including legal service—they often react by leaving a negative review on Yelp or other such sites. If lawyers are criticized in this way, what type of response should they be allowed to make? ABA Model Rule 1.6 prohibits them from responding to online reviews in ways that are inflammatory or that reveal client confidences. Recently, several states have issued ethics opinions pertaining to online reviews because many lawyers are unclear on what is allowed, or they wish to have more latitude in how they can respond. [Bloomberg Law](#) shares the latest from several states that are taking a new look at their ethics rules in this area, that have recently issued ethics opinions, or where lawyers have filed defamation suits over negative reviews.

Crisis Sparks Innovation: Utah State Bar Launches Virtual Legal Clinic

The Utah State Bar launched a virtual legal clinic last month, offering free consultations online, in response to COVID-19. There has not yet been a major surge in demand, but Robert Jepson, director of the bar's Access to Justice Office, expects that this may happen soon. It's likely that people are now dealing with financial and personal matters and will focus on any legal issues once they feel a bit more stable, Jepson told the [Deseret News](#). Jepson believes that the innovation brought about by this crisis will be useful in the long term. Why does his office plan to continue the virtual clinic even after the pandemic has passed?

Even Before COVID Layoffs, March Saw Big Decline in U.S. Legal Jobs

The U.S. legal industry lost 1,700 jobs in March 2020—and that was before any pandemic-related layoffs and furloughs were announced. Prior to this loss, the number of legal industry jobs was at its highest level in 10 years. How does this compare with overall U.S. job trends that same month, and with the number of legal industry jobs in March 2019? Find out at [ABA Journal](#).

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Launches

Pledge Against COVID-Related Discrimination

Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals and communities have experienced bullying, racist language, loss of business, and other forms of discrimination related to the coronavirus. Now, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association is asking the legal community, the business world, and other organizations to sign on to a pledge to stand together against this type of hate, violence, and racism. Along with six national bar associations (including the ABA), many other bars and law firms are among the signatories. [NAPABA's website](#) offers a video that explains the pledge, an easy way to sign on, and a list of signatories that is updated daily.



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