

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View In Browser](#)



Issue 202 | May 6

New Nationwide Disaster Relief Pro Bono Portal

Two New Online Tools: Nationwide Disaster Relief Pro Bono Portal, and New York State Bar Association Site for Pandemic-Related Unemployment Claims

Last week saw the launch of a first-of-its-kind nationwide Disaster Relief Pro Bono Portal, to help people with low incomes find pro bono legal assistance for pandemic-related issues? and to help streamline and coordinate efforts that previously were more ad hoc and difficult for lawyer volunteers to navigate. The portal was jointly developed by the ABA Young Lawyers Division Disaster Legal Services Program and legal technology company Paladin and has funding support from Clio and LegalZoom. Legal Services Corp. is inviting its grantees to use the new portal, writes Robert Ambrogi. Also last week, the New York State Bar Association, in partnership with Paladin and Clio, launched a website that offers resources for filing an employment claim, and that helps match people with attorneys, free of charge, if their claims are unsuccessful. Learn more about both of these new online legal assistance tools at Ambrogi's [LawSites blog](#).

Should Law Offices Be Considered Essential Businesses? NYSBA Forms Working Group

As some states continue making plans to allow certain businesses to reopen, should law offices be considered essential, with lawyers and legal staff allowed to return earlier than many other workers? The New York State Bar Association thinks so. Last week, the bar announced that it had formed the Restarting the Economy Working Group to consult with law office managers, health authorities, labor experts and others to guide law firms and policymakers on safe, efficient ways for law offices to reopen. At [The American Lawyer](#), learn why the NYSBA believes the legal profession should be a top priority in business reopening plans.

State of Georgia Loses Copyright Suit over Its Annotated Legal Code

In a 5-4 decision last week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the state of Georgia in a case that hinged on whether a state can copyright its annotated legal code. In writing for the majority and in favor of pro-access organization Public.Resource.Org, Chief Justice John Roberts said that the government edicts doctrine is pertinent to materials created by legislatures (an arm of the Georgia state legislature produces the annotations) and that it makes clear that "no one owns the law." While advocates of open access to legal codes were pleased, others noted that this ruling could disrupt similar arrangements in 25 other jurisdictions. [Bloomberg Law](#) has more details about the decision and its possible implications.

Utah Supreme Court Proposes Allowing Nonlawyer Ownership, Other Regulatory Reforms

Citing the COVID-19 pandemic as one driver for its decision, in late April, the Utah Supreme Court proposed far-reaching regulatory reforms, including allowing nonlawyers to own or invest in law firms. The court's proposals are the next step in a process that began with a working group that issued a report last summer and that was continued by Utah's

Implementation Task Force on Regulatory Reform. The proposals incorporate the "sandbox" idea, in which any regulatory changes would be pilot tested before potentially being fully implemented. The high court is seeking public comment on its regulatory proposals until July 23. [ABA Journal](#) shares further information, including the connection to COVID-19, specifics about some of the proposals, and comments from a justice who also chairs the implementation task force.

New COVID-19 Resources: Survey Template to Assess Members' Needs, Two Upcoming Programs

On its COVID-19 resource page, the ABA Division for Bar Services has posted a [downloadable survey template](#) with questions that bars are free to use in order to get a better sense of their members' needs related to the pandemic. The division is offering low-priced assistance for bars that want help in creating, distributing, and analyzing the data from this type of survey. Also, the Division for Bar Services has two upcoming programs that will address governance during this crisis. First, as part of the [Board Catalyst webinar series](#), on Wednesday, May 13, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, nonprofit expert David Renz will discuss appropriate ways for boards to contemplate risk, even at a time when it's tempting to be more risk averse than ever. On Wednesday, May 20, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern, a [complimentary joint webinar](#) between the Division for Bar Services and the National Conference of Bar Presidents will cover the do's and don'ts of conducting bar governance remotely.



[Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services](#)

[Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine](#)

{{AA_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}