



Issue 204 | May 20

?Sandbox? Advances in California

State Bar of California Trustees Vote to Advance 'Sandbox' Idea, Utah Legal Sandbox Accepting Applications for Legal Providers Offering COVID Relief

In a resounding vote of 9-2, last week, the State Bar of California Board of Trustees opted to keep alive the idea of a "regulatory sandbox" to test potential changes in the legal system, and the possibility of nonlawyer co-ownership of law firms. The main issue was to choose between what became known as Option 1—to establish a working group that would explore the sandbox idea and consider all options, including nonlawyer ownership—and Option 2, which would have specifically prohibited the nonlawyer ownership idea from consideration. [Bloomberg Law](#) has more information about this vote and about what may happen next. Meanwhile, in the state that coined the "sandbox" term to describe a means to pilot regulatory changes in a controlled environment, the Utah Legal Sandbox is accepting applications for legal providers that offer solutions to issues related to COVID-19. The [ABA Center for Legal Innovation](#) shares details regarding the criteria for the proposals.

Bars Develop, Contribute to Plans for Law Firms, Courtrooms to Safely Reopen

As lawyers and others begin to look ahead to the end of the pandemic shutdown, bars are preparing or contributing to plans to safely reopen law firms and courtrooms. For example, [Bloomberg Law](#) highlights a New York State Bar Association working group's recently released model reopening plan, which calls for a gradual reentry with remote work continuing where feasible and social distancing, masks, and other safety measures when in the office. A task force at the Indiana State Bar Association also prepared a [law firm reopening plan](#), breaking down six essentials that must be adequately addressed for a firm to safely reopen, and specific tips for how to ensure that those essentials are covered. Also, Ian N. Friedman, president of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, led an advisory group that submitted a [report](#) to the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, outlining important considerations and safety measures in order for jury trials to resume.

May-June 2020 Bar Leader Covers Bars' Response to COVID-19

When it became clear that COVID-19 would disrupt everything, including the legal profession, bars across the country did what they do best: providing support, resources and community to help their members continue to practice, and to feel less alone. The [May-June 2020 issue of Bar Leader](#) looks at some of those efforts, and at how some bars' staffs are maintaining their own sense of connection and well-being so they can do this important work.

New Life for Case Against Oregon State Bar?

Up until recently, it looked as if *Crowe v. Oregon State Bar*, in which an attorney objected to certain uses of member dues, had come to an end. However, earlier this month, lawyers from the Goldwater Institute asked a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel to rule that a federal judge was wrong in dismissing the case, and that the U.S. Supreme Court's *Janus* decision is pertinent to integrated bars. Learn more at [Reuters.com](#).

A Message from the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services

As Memorial Day approaches, and with it the unofficial start of summer, the yearly abundance of bar conferences, board meetings, and gavel-passings has, for the most part, all gone online. Even as bars are successfully transitioning to virtual programming, the flexibility and intentionality with which bars must act is more than simply moving events to an electronic platform. It seems that as quickly as bar staffs moved to remote work, they are now preparing for a return to the office in the midst of altered strategic plans, overhauled budgets, and modified governance structures and practices, not to mention social distancing measures which change the workplace and how they manage volunteers. How we do things as bar leaders, both volunteer and staff, has changed and continues to do so, but our core mission to be of service to our members and the public remains the same. [Read more.](#)



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

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



This message was sent to
michael.ward@AMERICANBAR.ORG.
Your e-mail address will only be used within the ABA.
We do not sell or rent e-mail addresses.

American Bar Association
321 N Clark, Chicago, IL 60654-7598
800-285-2221 | 312-988-5522

[Update profile](#)

[E-mail preferences](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Contact Us](#)