



Issue 206 | June 3

Court Wins for the State Bar of Texas & State Bar of Wisconsin

Wins for Integrated State Bar of Texas, State Bar of Wisconsin in First Amendment Cases

Continuing a pattern of victories for integrated bars, both the State Bar of Texas and the State Bar of Wisconsin recently prevailed in First Amendment cases that cited the U.S. Supreme Court *Janus* decision. On May 29, in *McDonald v. Sorrels*, U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel ruled that the requirement to join the State Bar of Texas, and thus provide support for its activities, does not violate attorneys' rights to free speech and assembly. According to [the Statesman](#), Judge Yeakel also determined that activities that could be seen as political or ideological can still be financed by mandatory membership fees if they are germane to regulating the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services. On June 1, the U.S. Supreme Court declined a petition for certiorari in *Jarchow v. State Bar of Wisconsin*. Learn more about this decision, including which two justices dissented and on what grounds, at the [National Law Journal](#).

As Courts Reopen, Should Virtual Technologies Continue to Play a Key Role?

As the justice system looks toward reopening in the coming weeks, should things go back to how they were, as much as possible? Or should virtual court remain permanently in session, now that it's proven to be viable? Bob Glaves, executive director of the Chicago Bar Foundation, believes a hybrid approach would be best—one in which certain simpler matters are handled online and the physical courtroom is available to meet more complicated needs. At his [observations blog](#), Glaves shares a proposed framework for deciding what should be resolved in which forum, and how to make the best of the innovation opportunities that the pandemic has helped spark.

Philadelphia Bar Association Partners with Online Mental Health Care Company to Offer Video Counseling

The Philadelphia Bar Association has entered into a new partnership with an online mental health care company to provide video counseling services to bar members and their families. The service, through eVideo Counselor, offers face-to-face, anonymous counseling with licensed mental health professionals at discounted rates and with insurance compatibility. Bar Chancellor A. Michael Snyder says that while COVID-19 has intensified the need, he has been working to help increase mental health resources for Philadelphia lawyers for the past three years. [Law.com](#) takes a closer look at this partnership and at ways some other bars have been working to support lawyers' health and well-being.

Florida Bar Special Committee Will Explore Regulatory Changes to Increase Legal Access

Florida is set to become the latest state to explore possible regulatory changes, as The Florida Bar Special Committee to Improve the Delivery of Legal Services prepares to hold its first meeting on June 15. The 10-lawyer committee, sanctioned last year by the Supreme Court of Florida, is chaired by John Stewart, whose term as bar president ends on June 19. While some expect that the reforms proposed by this committee will be less sweeping than those in California, Utah, and Arizona, Stewart has said that he's a fan of

pilot programs to test new ideas, and that it's conceivable that Florida will establish this type of "sandbox." [Bloomberg Law](#) has more details about this new committee and the scope of its work.

ABA Division for Public Education Offers Bars Free Access to Virtual 19th Amendment Discussion

Looking for engaging virtual programming to offer over the summer? The ABA Division for Public Education and the Law Library of Congress are offering bars free on-demand screening of their Law Day 2020 program "[Social Movement Changing America: The Legacies of the 19th Amendment](#)." The digital conversation was moderated by Kimberly Atkins, senior correspondent for WBUR-FM, Boston's NPR news station, and featured Martha S. Jones, Society of Black Alumni presidential professor, and professor of history at the John Hopkins University; Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF); and Julie Chi-hye Suk, professor of sociology, political science and liberal studies at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

ABA Collecting Statements on Floyd Protests

The Division for Bar Services is collecting [bar association statements](#) regarding the death of George Floyd and the subsequent protests. If you'd like your bar's statement added to the list, please send it to [Michael Ward](#).



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

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

{{AA_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}