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Washington Sunsets LLLT Program

Washington Supreme Court Opts to Sunset Limited License Legal Technician Program

In a 7-2 decision last week, the Washington Supreme Court opted to sunset that state's widely known limited license legal technician program, in which nonlawyers are certified to provide some legal services in certain areas of law. In a letter to leaders of the Washington State Bar Association and the LLLT Board, Chief Justice Debra L. Stephens (who was one of the two dissenters) wrote that the decision was made after evaluating the overall costs of the program and the small number of interested individuals. [ABA Journal](#) has more information about this decision, including the cost of the program and number of participants, what was expressed in the written dissent, and what will happen to current LLLTs in good standing.

New York State Bar Association Report: More Progress Needed for Women Lawyers in Courtrooms

In 2017, a report from the New York State Bar Association revealed that only about 24.7 percent of lead counsels in courtrooms across New York state were women. A [NYSBA follow-up study](#) released last week shows limited progress in the three years since, as that percentage did increase, but only to 25.3 percent. Both the 2017 report and the update were prepared by NYSBA's Commercial & Federal Litigation Section Task Force on Women's Initiatives. In both studies, women lawyers working in the public sector were found to be significantly more likely to be lead attorneys than those in the private sector. What were some of the other key findings, to what degree do they show progress, and what do NYSBA leaders and members who prepared both reports think needs to happen next? Find out at [NYSBA.org](#).

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers: Rushing to Resume Criminal Jury Trials Unsafe, Unjust

While many jurisdictions mull when and how to safely reopen their courthouses, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers has cautioned that resuming criminal jury trials anytime soon would be "reckless and irresponsible." In a report released last week, the NACDL wrote that along with overall health concerns, resuming criminal jury trials now would result in less diverse juries because of trends in populations that are suffering disproportionately from COVID-19. And virtual trials are not a good option for criminal cases, the NACDL believes, because defendants have the right to be present and confront their accusers, and because studies have shown that proximity leads to more empathy among jurors. [ABA Journal](#) has more information about this report and its recommendations.

Council of ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar Proposes More Flexibility for Online Classes

As law students and law schools contemplate what the fall 2020 semester will look like, the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has proposed a rule change that would allow greater flexibility for offering online classes. Currently, council rules permit one-third of a student's credits to be taught online unless a variance is given;

this proposal would allow the council to more swiftly approve expansion of online classes for ABA-accredited schools as they adapt to the pandemic. An [ABA news item](#) offers more details about this proposal, which the ABA House of Delegates will consider at its virtual meeting in early August.

Black Lawyers Share Thoughts About Killing of George Floyd, the Path Toward Greater Justice

Fear for their own children and grandchildren. Memories of injustices that they, too, have suffered. A desire for attorneys to be at the forefront of bringing about change. Those are just a few of the emotions and insights that seven black attorneys, including partners and law firm leaders across the country, shared with [The American Lawyer](#) regarding the May 25 killing of George Floyd and the protests that have followed. What else did they have to say about police brutality, racial inequity, and the road ahead?



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