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New ABA/Clio Partnership

ABA, Clio Partner to Help Lawyers Cope with COVID-19 Disruption

Last week, the ABA and Clio announced a collaborative effort to help lawyers deal with the changes caused by COVID-19 and free ABA membership is one part of the package. Anyone who signs up for annual Clio membership by December 31, 2020, will be offered a complimentary one-year membership in the ABA, and also in the ABA's Law Practice and Solo, Small Firm and General Practice divisions. Another component of this new partnership is a toll-free hotline for lawyers who have questions about practicing during the pandemic. [ABA Journal](#) has more information, including a statement from ABA President Judy Perry Martinez on the value of this new partnership.

Washington State Grants Emergency Diploma Privilege for Grads of ABA-Accredited Schools

Last week, the Supreme Court of Washington issued an order to grant diploma privilege to graduates of ABA-accredited law schools who have applied to take the July 2020 bar exam in that state. Currently, one jurisdiction (Wisconsin) offers diploma privilege for graduates of ABA-accredited law schools in its state, not related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Washington's case, this is an emergency provision that applies to the upcoming bar exam, regardless of the state in which the applicant graduated from law school. Learn more about this order, and some possible implications for the September 2020 Uniform Bar Exam and for future bar exams in other states, at [Above the Law](#).

What Could Help Pro Bono Attorneys Better Understand, Address Systemic Racism?

As protests continue in the weeks after the killing of George Floyd, many law firms are reaching out to legal services providers to offer assistance to protesters who have been arrested. But Caprice R. Jenerson, chief equity and inclusion officer at New York Legal Assistance Group, says pro bono attorneys need to do much deeper work if they want to help fight racial injustice. In an [Insight](#) column at [Bloomberg Law](#), Jenerson writes that pro bono lawyers whom she says are mostly white should engage in cross-cultural training to better understand and help dismantle systems of oppression that affect legal needs and access to justice for people of color. What are some examples of important factors that Jenerson says white pro bono lawyers often fail to see, and what could help them better recognize when systemic racism is part of the problem?

IOLTA Programs Project a Bleak 2020, and a Worse 2021

Those who track Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts programs have been warning for months that the fallout from COVID-19 and from a Federal Reserve interest rate cut in March was going to be severe. A survey released at the end of last month by the National Association of IOLTA Programs gives a clearer picture of this worrisome situation: The 36 state-based IOLTA organizations that responded anticipate a combined IOLTA revenue decrease of \$123 million, or 46 percent, this year compared with 2019. And projections for 2021 are even more dire: if interest rates remain the same as they are now, the surveyed organizations expect a 60 percent decrease compared with 2019. What states' programs have been particularly hard hit, and what could this mean for legal services providers that

receive IOLTA funding? Find out at [Law360](#).

What Applicants and Supervisors Need to Know About Limited Practice for COVID-Delayed Exam Takers

With many July 2020 bar exams canceled or rescheduled, some states have taken measures to allow qualified bar applicants to engage in limited practice, directly supervised by licensed lawyers. This means there's a pool of talented, tech-savvy young lawyers-to-be looking for work?but there are a few things that supervising attorneys need to keep in mind. For example, notes Teresa J. Schmid, director of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, both the applicant and the supervisor need to understand their jurisdiction's emergency rule and also the applicable rules of professional conduct and disciplinary process. In a post at the ABA Law Student Division blog [Before the Bar](#), Schmid raises some of the key considerations and also links to a variety of resources to learn more.



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