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## **CT & NY Bars to Examine Racial Inequity in Law Enforcement**

### **Connecticut Bar Association, New York State Bar Association Establish Task Forces to Address Racial Inequity in Law Enforcement**

As organizations across the country consider their next steps in addressing the killing of George Floyd and other recent instances of racial inequity, at least two state bars have established task forces related to law enforcement, and both are expected to make recommendations for police reforms. The Connecticut Bar Association Policing Task Force, established at the suggestion of President Ndidi Moses, had its first meeting on June 19—the date of the Juneteenth holiday, which celebrates the African American experience and freedom from slavery. The task force includes 10 lawyers, 10 individuals with a law enforcement background, and 10 members of the general public, according to [Connecticut Law Tribune](#). In a statement announcing his establishment of the New York State Bar Association Task Force on Racial Injustice and Police Reform, President Scott M. Karson wrote that police brutality against people of color is "a symptom of the broader and more complex deep-seated racial disparities within our criminal justice system that undermine the rule of law." A [NYSBA news item](#) has more information about this task force, including the three types of reform toward which it will make recommendations.

## **After Struggle for ABA Accreditation, Failed Transfer in Ownership, Concordia Law School in Boise to Close Soon**

After a lengthy struggle to achieve ABA accreditation and then the collapse of an expected transfer in ownership that would have helped it stay open, the Concordia University School of Law will close its campus in Boise, Idaho, once the summer term concludes. Concordia-Portland, which ran Concordia-Boise, closed in February after more than 100 years in operation. Another branch, based in St. Paul, Minn., intended to purchase and operate the Boise campus, but this transaction became too difficult to complete. Is anyone helping current students find ways to finish their education elsewhere? Find out at [Boise Weekly](#).

## **Florida Board of Bar Examiners Cancels July In-Person Bar Exam in Favor of August Exam Online**

Last week, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners announced that it had canceled the in-person bar exam scheduled for the end of this month in Orlando and Tampa, and would instead offer an online exam on August 18. This decision came after criticism and an online petition by bar applicants who were concerned about contracting COVID-19—and after a [Miami Herald article](#) in which some prospective exam takers expressed their specific concerns and their frustration with the board. A [subsequent article](#), on the day of the announcement, explains how the online exam will be structured and how it will be monitored.

## **To Help Others, Washington State Bar Association President Shares His Experiences with Anxiety, Depression**

It's widely known that lawyers suffer from high rates of depression, anxiety, and other

mental health problems?and that those who are very successful and prominent in their firms and in leadership are not immune. Still, says Rajeev Majumdar, president of the Washington State Bar Association, it felt risky for him to open up in [a recent podcast](#) about the anxiety and depression that prompted him in 2007 to seek therapy. In a follow-up interview with WSBA publication [NWSidebar](#), Majumbar says he felt it was his duty as a bar president to share his own experiences and perhaps help others who are struggling. What personal insights does Majumbar share about his work toward increased well-being and about the mindset that he says prevents many lawyers from seeking help?

## **ABA Report: High Fees, Debt from Privatized Services Erode Trust in Criminal Justice System**

According to a recent report by the ABA Working Group on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System, about 10 million Americans owe more than \$50 billion in debt related to their involvement in the criminal justice system. Much of this debt, which the report says breaks people's trust in the system, stems from fees paid to private companies that contract with courts and government entities to provide drug and alcohol testing, electronic monitoring or other services. The report, "Privatization of Services in the Criminal Justice System," tracks several individuals through the justice system as they accumulate more debt?and more despair regarding whether they'll ever be free of it. Learn more about this report, including what it says about how these fees disproportionately harm minority communities, at [ABA Journal](#).



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