

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View In Browser](#)



Issue 213 | July 22

Does Access Improve Equity?

Research Team: For Increased Equity, Public Needs Easier Access to Court Documents

U.S. court documents are publicly available online, but they're behind paywalls in a database that's difficult to navigate. Is this really in the spirit of offering open access to this information? And is it fair? A team led by researchers from a variety of disciplines at Northwestern University raised those questions recently, in a paper published in the journal *Science*. Being able to analyze court records more easily could help members of the public identify patterns of inequity that could then be fixed, the team wrote. What three-pronged approach do they think could make this happen? Find out at [Northwestern Now](#).

Accounting Firm Deloitte Launches New Consulting, Tech Unit for Corporate Legal Departments

Last week, Big Four accounting firm Deloitte announced that it has formed a new unit that will offer consulting and technology services for corporate legal departments and, Deloitte hopes, "transform the business of law." This launch, the most recent in a series of inroads into the U.S. legal market that accounting firms have made or attempted, comes as several states are considering loosening rules against law firm ownership by nonlawyers, notes [Bloomberg Law](#). What, exactly, will this new unit do? and how has the COVID-19 pandemic helped make its potential clients more receptive?

Utah Judicial Council Establishes New Office to Address Racism, Bias in Court System

The Utah Judicial Council announced last week that it is establishing an Office of Fairness and Accountability to look into racism and bias in the state's court system and make recommendations for improvement. Though people of color are 20 percent of Utah's population, they make up 43 percent of the prison population there, and research from Pew indicated a racial disparity in sentencing and outcomes for juveniles. The new office will address not only how judges interact with and sentence people, but also how people are treated by security guards, clerks, and other personnel from the moment they walk into the courthouse. Learn more at [ABC4.com](#).

In Conjunction with ABA Profile of the Legal Profession, Free Program to Examine Legal Deserts

For the second annual ABA Profile of the Legal Profession, the ABA Division for Media Relations explored the issue of legal deserts, meaning areas in all 50 states where legal services are especially difficult to access. On Tuesday, July 28, at 11 a.m. Eastern time, the division will host a free, live, one-hour Zoom program called "Legal Deserts in America: A Threat to Justice for All." ABA President Judy Perry Martinez will moderate. Panelists include Pat Goetzinger, past president of the State Bar of South Dakota and South Dakota Bar Foundation, and founder of Project Rural Practice; and law professors Lisa Pruitt (UC-Davis) and Lauren Sudeall (Georgia State). [Register today!](#)

July-August 2020 Bar Leader: Bars' Role as Convener,

Including During Difficult Times

As some bars begin to work toward reopening their physical offices, what are they anticipating as far as the mix of live, in-person events and those held via Zoom and similar platforms? The July-August 2020 issue of *Bar Leader* looks at whether the pandemic shutdown has prompted any longer term rethinking of bars' headquarters spaces, and at the important role that bars have played in convening members online to maintain their sense of community and well-being. Also, Hon. Pamela J. Brown, chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services, shares some thoughts on racial inequity and a preview of further coverage in the September-October issue.

Don't miss out on next week's virtual ABA Annual Meeting! Registration is free for members and \$95 for nonmembers.



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

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

{{AA_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}