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## **The Pandemic's Potential Impact on Diversity in the Profession**

### **Pennsylvania Study Finds Diversity Downturn Among Trial Lawyers**

Many diversity, equity, and inclusion experts have expressed concern that DEI efforts within law firms will stall out during the pandemic. A newly released survey report from Pennsylvania appears to bear this out, at least within the trial bar. The Legal's annual diversity survey found that after years of slow growth in terms of adding women and lawyers of color, over the past year, the trial bar in Pennsylvania saw a decrease of more than 5 percent in women lawyers and nearly 4.5 percent in minority lawyers. How big of a factor is COVID-19, and how can DEI remain in focus during a difficult time for plaintiffs firms in particular? Learn more at [The Legal Intelligencer](#).

### **Building a Sandbox Takes Time: An Overview of Shared Efforts by Utah State Bar, Judiciary**

For years, there's been talk—but not as much action—regarding regulatory changes that may be needed to close the gap in access to justice. In 2019, many eyes turned to Utah, when a work group appointed by the state Supreme Court recommended setting up a "regulatory sandbox" to pilot new approaches to legal services delivery. This recommendation was approved in August 2020, and because things have progressed rapidly, it may seem as if the sandbox popped up suddenly. In fact, it took years of work and cooperation among the Utah State Bar (which first recommended establishing the work group), the Utah Supreme Court, and others. [ABA Journal](#) takes a look back at the history of Utah's efforts toward change.

### **No More Essay Questions? Study Recommends Big Changes for Bar Exams**

Should bar exams have multiple choice questions and essay questions—and if not, what should replace them? A new study from the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System says multiple choice questions should be used sparingly, if at all, and that ideally, essay questions should be replaced with performance tests. The study also recommends that any multiple choice and essay questions that are given should be open book, with more time for completion than is currently allowed, and that supervised clinical work should be required for licensure. How was this study conducted, and what was the reaction from the National Conference of Bar Examiners, which has been preparing research of its own? Find out at [ABA Journal](#).

### **Updates from the Copyright Battle Between ThomsonReuters and ROSS**

The judge in a copyright lawsuit by legal research company ThomsonReuters against legal research startup ROSS Intelligence took issue with some aspects of ThomsonReuters' complaint but is unlikely to dismiss the case outright, according to legal technology expert Robert Ambrogi. Instead, U.S. District Delaware Chief Judge Leonard P. Stark may give ThomsonReuters a chance to amend its complaint that ROSS copied and used the company's copyrighted Westlaw content. At his [LawSites blog](#), Ambrogi summarizes key points made by both sides in a recent hearing, what the judge had to say, and what the

next steps are likely to be.

## Meeting Planners: ABA Leverage Offers Free COVID-19 Consultations, Can Also Help Once In-Person Events Resume

Do you need some help dealing with in-person meeting cancellations due to COVID-19? Are you starting to look ahead to when in-person events are more possible again? ABA Leverage provides strategic solutions for sourcing and contracting meetings globally for national, state, and local bar associations. Use ABA Leverage's expertise to negotiate cost savings and liability avoidance for future in-person CLE programs and events. Schedule a complimentary consultation to discuss current hotel contract cancellations and strategies to avoid financial liabilities. Email Allison Goldmann ([Allison.Goldmann@americanbar.org](mailto:Allison.Goldmann@americanbar.org)) to learn more and to set up your consultation.



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