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CA State Bar Looks to Expand Licensing

State Bar of California Proposes Making Lowered Cut Score Retroactive to 2015

Earlier this month, the executive committee of the State Bar of California Board of Trustees unanimously approved a plan to allow licensing more than 2,000 law graduates who narrowly missed passing the bar exam in recent years. If the California Supreme Court approves this plan, exam takers who scored 1390 or higher on a California bar exam from July 2015 through February 2020 would be admitted without having to retake the bar exam, if they meet certain conditions. The court recently lowered California's passing score from 1440 to 1390; this plan would effectively make that change retroactive. What other requirements would need to be met, how does this plan relate to the state's existing Provisional Licensing Program, and how soon is the court expected to consider and decide on this proposal? Find out at [Bloomberg Law](#).

New York State Bar Association Mulls Removing Giuliani from Membership, Petition Asks State Bar of Texas, The Missouri Bar to Disbar Sens. Cruz and Hawley

In a step that the voluntary New York State Bar Association is calling historic, President Scott M. Karson has launched an inquiry into whether Rudolph Giuliani should be removed from membership. The inquiry pertains to whether Giuliani's statements immediately before the January 6 violent uprising at the U.S. Capitol (as well as other statements and actions in recent months) violate the bar's bylaws, which ban from membership anyone who advocates overthrowing the government. A [NYSBA news item](#) has more information. Meanwhile, more than 7,000 lawyers and law students have petitioned the State Bar of Texas and The Missouri Bar (both mandatory) to disbar Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) for announcing their intention to object to the certification of the Electoral College votes. The widely circulating petition says that these announcements helped incite the violence on January 6; both senators have made statements denouncing that day's criminal activity. Learn more about this petition and others at [Bloomberg Law](#).

Is It the 2020 Effect? Dramatic Increase in Law School Applications for Fall 2021

The number of law school applications for the fall 2021 cycle is dramatically higher than it was the previous year—and many experts believe this stems from the challenging events of 2020 and how they brought the rule of law into greater focus. Overall, applications are up by 33 percent, with an even higher increase (39 percent) among Black applicants. Some schools are experiencing much higher increases; for example, Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law has seen a 54 percent increase in applications for fall 2021 and double the number of Black applicants compared with this time last year. [Westlaw Today](#) talks with several law school deans, applicants, and others to learn more about this trend and whether it's expected to persist as the application period continues.

ABA Center for Innovation to Develop Metrics to Measure 'Sandbox' Reforms, Access to Justice

As Utah, Arizona and other states establish "sandboxes" and other ways to test regulatory

reforms, one question has been how to measure whether the changes are achieving the desired outcomes, such as increased access to justice. The ABA Center for Innovation has launched an initiative focused on developing uniform metrics to do just that. This initiative stems from an ABA House of Delegates resolution approved last year, encouraging U.S. jurisdictions to consider regulatory innovations that may improve civil legal services (including access) and also to gather data to determine how well the changes bring about that result. [ABA Journal](#) shares more details about this new metrics project, as well as insights from the chair of the center's governing council and the chair of the committee leading this effort.

Don't Miss Out! Register for the 2021 ABA Bar Leadership Institute

Have you registered yet for the 2021 ABA Bar Leadership Institute? Get ready to join us, virtually, March 17-19, 2021. As always, the BLI is intended to guide leaders as stewards of their organizations by providing them with top-notch training in governance, communication, and leadership—all with an eye toward what's going on in the world today. Do not miss out on your chance to learn from mainstage speakers Valerie B. Jarrett, Daniel Pink, Al Tillery and Jeffrey Cufaude. [Register today!](#)



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