



Issue 241 | February 24

ABA Calls for Changes to Federal Student Loan Repayment Plan Rules

ABA House of Delegates Approves Resolution on Law School Debt

On February 22 at its virtual 2021 Midyear Meeting, the ABA House of Delegates voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution to encourage federal lawmakers to help ease the debt burden for many young lawyers. The resolution, which was proposed by the ABA Young Lawyers Division and the ABA Law Student Division, calls for a series of changes, such as letting borrowers refinance their government-backed loans at lower rates, and allowing those with private student loans to participate in government repayment programs. A related resolution calling on the ABA to lobby federal lawmakers to make it easier for student loan borrowers to discharge their loans in bankruptcy was withdrawn but may be reintroduced at the 2021 Annual Meeting in August. Read more about the resolution that was passed, and the overall issue of law school debt, at [ABA Journal](#).

2020 ABA Model Diversity Survey Report: What Do 7 Key Findings Say About DEI in Law Firms?

Last week, the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession released its 2020 ABA Model Diversity Survey Report, which includes data from more than 370 law firms, gathered from 2017 to 2019. The intention of the report, which the ABA says is a first, is to help law clients make decisions informed by how well a particular firm fosters diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The report lists seven survey findings, most of which show alarmingly slow progress in DEI. Attrition rates were substantially greater for nonwhite attorneys (e.g., nearly three times greater for African American/Black and Hispanic/Latino attorneys) relative to white attorneys. Also, in most areas that were asked about (such as hiring and promotions), the average percentage of LGBTQ+, disability, and the racial categories of Pacific Islander and Native American/Indigenous was at or near zero, which indicates either a lack of representation, or a pattern of underreporting. An [ABA news item](#) shares more details and a link to the full report.

Lawyer Posts Personal Details, Asks 'Patriots' to Investigate Members of State Bar of Georgia Disciplinary Board

When the State Bar of Georgia began a disciplinary inquiry, reportedly pertaining to a rule that covers mental incapacity and substance abuse, the lawyer in question responded by posting the names and addresses of the disciplinary board members and asking an "Army of Patriots" to investigate them. Lawyer L. Lin Wood Jr., who previously advanced stolen election claims on behalf of former President Donald Trump and conspiracy theories involving former Vice President Mike Pence and two U.S. Supreme Court justices, made his request via the instant messaging app Telegram. It was viewed by more than 350,000 users; within hours, some had posted details such as a board member's wedding date, husband's name, and the city where they live. Wood told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the details he gave were public information and that his post did not amount to a threat. Learn more at [ABA Journal](#).

Report from Asian American Bar Association of New York

Highlights Rise in Anti-Asian Hate Incidents Due to COVID-19

Since the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Asian Americans have been unfairly blamed and have been subjected to harassment and even violence as a result. Now, the Asian American Bar Association of New York has released [a report](#) that quantifies, analyzes, and attempts to call increased attention to this troubling phenomenon. Focused on the New York City region, the report says "anti-Asian hate and violence have skyrocketed," notes that these incidents seem especially prevalent on public transit and on social media, and indicates that the actual increase may be even greater because most incidents are not reported or are not classified as hate crimes. Along with recent data, detailed accounts of pandemic-related incidents, and recommendations for how lawyers, policymakers, and others can help, the report also takes a deep dive into the history of anti-Asian sentiment in the United States.

Register for the 2021 ABA Bar Leadership Institute

Have you registered yet for the 2021 ABA Bar Leadership Institute? Registration closes on Friday, February 26th! Register today, and then get ready to join us, virtually, March 17-19, 2021. The 2021 BLI will provide bar leaders with the tools to adapt and thrive during these uncertain times. Learn more about our mainstage speakers and other key programs [here](#).



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