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Bar Exam Updates

Bar Exam News: State Bar of California to Be Sued over Facial Recognition Software, Texas Board of Law Examiners Offers Makeup Exam, Other Provisions Due to Winter Weather

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a prominent civil rights group, is delaying its planned lawsuit against the State Bar of California over the use of facial recognition technology (FRT) in the remote bar exam. According to [Bloomberg Law](#), FRT has been criticized lately because it disproportionately misidentifies individuals who are Black or Brown; as a result, some examinees have reported being shut out of their bar exams. The Lawyers' Committee, which plans to gather more data and file its lawsuit sometime before the July bar exam, says there are better alternatives to FRT and that its continued use effectively discriminates against people of color. In other bar exam news, the Texas Board of Law Examiners announced that because of the unusual freeze in that state, it will offer a makeup remote bar exam in March. For those who opted to go ahead with the February remote bar exam as planned, the board offered hotel reimbursement of up to \$250 for anyone without power during the exam; there were also provisions for anyone who lost internet connection. Learn more at [ABA Journal](#).

ABA House of Delegates Approves Resolution to Urge More Protection for Judges and Their Families

At the association's 2021 Midyear Meeting, the ABA House of Delegates approved a resolution to urge Congress to enact greater protections for members of the judiciary. Resolution 10E supports passage of the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020, which is named for the late son of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas. In July 2020, a disgruntled lawyer posing as a delivery driver shot and killed Aderl at Salas' house. The bill would prohibit disclosure of personally identifiable information belonging to judges and their immediate family members, in response to what [ABA Journal](#) says is a rising trend in violence against them. [Westlaw Today](#) has additional coverage, indicating that the resolution passed with a vote of 384-4, and that the bill had strong bipartisan support in 2020 until Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) insisted it be expanded to add protections for Congress members.

6 Key Takeaways from Disease Experts' Report on Safe Courtroom Reopening

When U.S. District of Maryland Chief Judge James K. Bredar began trying to figure out how to have in-person hearings during the pandemic, he quickly realized he needed expert advice, so he called on an epidemiologist from Johns Hopkins. After visiting the courthouse, Dr. Jonathan N. Zenilman and three other infectious disease experts convened with federal judges across the country to help develop policy recommendations for safe reopening. Their guidance covers everything from proper ventilation, to how to configure the courtroom, to the need for lawyers and others to avoid yelling and thereby spreading particles. [ABA Journal](#) pulls out six key takeaways, with detailed explanation, and also links to the group's summary report.

Legal Tech Association Plans Hybrid Conference in Las Vegas This August

If you've been wondering when big, in-person legal industry conferences will return, there's one scheduled for August 2021: the International Legal Technology Association's annual ILTACON. The in-person component of this hybrid event will be held in Las Vegas and will include an exhibit hall. [LawSites](#) has more information.



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