



**Issue 263 | August 04**

## **How Lawyers Have Fared During Pandemic**

### **Just Released: 2021 ABA Profile of the Legal Profession Looks at How Lawyers Have Fared During Pandemic**

Among lawyers at firms of 250 or more, 71 percent said they were concerned that returning to the office might be unsafe, but 29 percent also said they were worried about sharing these concerns with their employer. Three times as many women lawyers as men lawyers took on additional childcare responsibilities during the pandemic?and significantly more women than men reported feeling overwhelmed and stressed about work. This is according to the recently released 2021 ABA Profile of the Legal Profession. What else did survey respondents from law firms of all sizes say about how they've done during the pandemic? To find out, [download a PDF copy](#) or [view an interactive version of the report](#).

### **Seven Bars Join Together in Lawsuit to Increase Pay for New York City's Assigned Counsel**

The last time New York City's assigned counsel, or 18-B attorneys, received a pay raise was in 2004?and their workload has certainly not decreased since then. In fact, the low pay is forcing many to leave those positions, making it difficult for remaining attorneys to adequately represent the children and low-income clients who rely on them. Now, several bar organizations have joined together in a lawsuit against the city, the state, and the state's Finance Department. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit, filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, include: the New York County Lawyers Association, the Bronx County Bar Association, the Queens County Bar Association, the Richmond County Bar Association, the Assigned Counsel Association of New York State, the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, and the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County. [New York Law Journal](#) has more information about what the leader of the legal team calls an "extremely unusual" collaborative effort by the bars.

### **Pennsylvania Adopts Revised Version of Model Rule 8.4(g) Against Discriminatory, Harassing Conduct**

Late last month, in a 6-1 decision, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court adopted a new disciplinary rule similar to ABA Model Rule 8.4(g), which aims to curb potentially discriminatory and harassing conduct (including speech) by lawyers. A previous version of this same rule was adopted in June 2020 but then struck down as unconstitutional in December by the U.S District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Both the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Association praised this new rule, which has been revised to add some key definitions and clarify what is and isn't covered. However, some who pushed back against the original rule have indicated that they may challenge the new version as well. Learn more at [The Legal Intelligencer](#).

### **Which Way Forward? Three New Diversity Officers Share Their Experiences and Plans**

In recent years, some bars have hired chief diversity officers to guide their work toward diversity, equity, and inclusion. They're not alone: Many nonprofits and for-profits alike are appointing executives to fill this kind of role. What do some of them find most inspiring and challenging about their work, and what do they think needs to happen in order to break out

of old, cyclical patterns and make real progress? At [Associations Now](#), Senior Editor Rasheeda Childress spotlights three new diversity chiefs who share what brought them to this role, the trends they see, and their plans to move their organizations forward.

## July-August Bar Leader: Judicial Security, What's Ahead for the Legal Sector, and More

In the second of a two-part series on bars' support for the judiciary, the [July-August 2021 issue of Bar Leader](#) looks at how the ABA, the New Jersey State Bar Association, and others are calling attention to the need for increased safety for judges and their families, after Judge Esther Salas's son was killed at her home. Also in this issue: a Q&A with legal technology and delivery expert Jordan Furlong on where the legal sector is headed and how bars can help lawyers prepare for it.



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