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U.S. Supreme Court Strikes Down Race-Conscious Admissions

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The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday struck down race-conscious admissions programs at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina citing the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. This decision will have profound impact on college admissions as 40% of all U.S. universities take race into account in their processes. ABA President Deborah Enix-Ross commented on the decision in a June 29 statement. "The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the admissions programs at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment," Enix-Ross said. "The ABA has a long history of supporting affirmative action and the consideration of race as one of many factors in law school admissions." The [ABA Journal](#) has additional information on this decision, including reaction from the Law School Admission Council.

The Florida Bar to Provide All Members with Free Trust Accounting Software

The Florida Bar is providing each of its 110,000 members with free access to legal trust accounting software – a move its new president, F. Scott Westheimer, believes will help attorneys better comply with trust accounting requirements and better protect the public from trust violations. Legal financial management company Nota, owned by M&T Bank, will provide free access to its trust accounting software to all licensed Florida attorneys. [Learn more](#) about the leadership experiences that motivated Mr. Westheimer to act in *Lawsites*.

Thomson Reuters to Buy Casetext

Thomson Reuters announced Monday that it had reached an agreement to buy the legal tech startup Casetext for \$650 million as part of its long-term investment in generative artificial intelligence. The company said in a statement it has signed a "definitive agreement" and will close the transaction in the second half of 2023, subject to regulatory approval. Casetext launched the legal AI assistant CoCounsel in March. The product, developed in a partnership with OpenAI and trained on the latest version of its GPT large language model, uses a chatbot interface to aid in legal research, document review and contract analysis. [Read more](#) about Thomson Reuters's potential next steps in the *ABA Journal*.

Alaska Bar Association Releases its Diversity Commission Report

The Alaska Bar Association recently released its "[Diversity Commission Report](#)" to document its efforts to help create and foster a more diverse legal profession in that state. While 35% of the state's population is non-white, only 6% of attorneys are. The report notes the barriers and impediments to increased diversity including the lack of an in-state law school. Among the suggested actions include a proposed law school student loan program with debt forgiveness to incentivize Alaskans to go to law school and return to Alaska and an exploration of a separate pathway to admission that does not involve taking the bar exam.



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