ABA Adopts New Model Rules
The ABA has approved a new Model Act Governing Assisted Reproductive Technology. The act was written to help resolve family law and probate controversies for which there is little legislative guidance.

The association has also adopted a Model Rule on Conditional Admission to Practice Law. The rule was created to guide states in monitoring bar admission candidates recovering from substance abuse or mental health problems.

ABA Committee to Hold Technology Hearings
The ABA is seeking bar association input at a series of hearings on the use of Internet-based legal services. The hearings will be used to guide amendments to the bar’s policies on legal services technology. For more, click here. To testify or submit materials, contact Janice Jones.

Bar World Expands, Re-forms, Renames
Several new bars have recently been formed, and one has been renamed:

- Lawyers in Illinois' Will County have formed the Will County Black Bar Association. Click here for a Chicago Tribune article on the bar.
- Pro Bono counsel have created the Association of Pro Bono Counsel. The group has 90 members from more than 65 firms.
- Ohio's Cleveland and Cuyahoga County bar associations have merged, becoming the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.
- California's Bar Association of Northern San Diego County has renamed itself the North County Bar Association.

ABA Petitions Bars to Promote Healthcare Directive
The ABA's Commission on Law and Aging is working with bar associations and other organizations to promote National Healthcare Decisions Day, April 16. The effort encourages people to execute an advance healthcare directive, which only 29% of Americans have. More than 100 organizations have joined the effort. For more about participating, visit the NHDD Web site.
Awards

For Your Members

Nomination Period Opens for Child Advocacy Award
The ABA's Young Lawyers Division is accepting nominations for its Child Advocacy Award, which honors lawyers and judges who perform distinguished service on behalf of children. One award will be presented to a young lawyer, and one to a non-young lawyer. The nomination deadline is April 30. For more information, click here.

Application Period Opens for YLD Scholarship Program
The ABA's Young Lawyers Division is accepting applications for the ABA YLD Scholarship program. The program encourages lawyers to participate in the division. The application deadline is June 15. For more on the program, click here.

Nomination Period Opens for Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
The ABA's Young Lawyers Division is accepting nominations for its 2008 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. The nomination deadline is August 28. For more on the award, click here.

Resources

Fastcase Now Free Case
Fastcase has released the Fastcase Public Library of Law, described in its news release as the "largest free law library on the Web."

New Online Directory of Women's Bar Groups
The ABA's Commission on Women in the Profession has created a directory of Web sites for women's bar groups.

New Resources on Judicial Criticism Response
The ABA's Standing Committee on Judicial Independence has announced a soon-to-be-released publication to help bar associations respond to unjust judicial criticism. The book, Response to Unjust Criticism of Judges, will include examples of unjust criticism, guidelines for determining when to respond, response options, and recommended educational programs.

In anticipation of the book's release, the committee has released Top Ten Tips for Handling an Assault on the Judiciary, a free, one-page tip sheet on responding to judicial criticism.

Publications

Each publication listed, unless otherwise noted, can be ordered from the ABA Web Store, or by calling the ABA Service Center at (800) 285-2221 and referencing its product code. Click any publication cover to open its Web store page.
Clearinghouse Item of the Month

**Campaigning for an Independent Judiciary**

*Author: The Schapiro Group*

*Entity: State Bar of Georgia*

This report on effective judicial independence campaigns contains the results of a scientific survey of 400 Georgia voters.

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**Upcoming Meetings**

**4/16 - 4/19/08**

ABA YLD Spring Conference
Washington, DC | Hyatt Regency
Contact: Renee Lugo

**4/19/08**

ABA YLD Diversity Summit
Washington, DC | Hyatt Regency
Contact: Tracy Kaempf

**4/30 - 5/3/08**

Reconceptualizing Child Custody: Past, Present and Future -- Lawyers and Psychologists Working Together
Chicago | Mariott Downtown
Contact: Carrie Asalon

**5/18 - 5/24/08**

Trial Advocacy Institute
Denver, CO | JW Marriott Denver at Cherry Creek
Contact: Alissa Brugger

**5/28 - 5/31/08**

National Conference on Professional Responsibility
Boston | Seaport Hotel
Contact: John Holtaway
5/30 - 5/31/08
24th National Forum on Client Protection
Boston | Seaport Hotel
Contact: John Holtaway

6/6/08
36th National Spring Conference on the Environment: "Climate Change II"
Baltimore, MD | University of Maryland School of Law
Contact: Elissa Lichtenstein

6/8 - 6/9/08
Annual Senior Lawyers Division
U.S. Supreme Court Trip
Washington, DC
Contact: Angela Boykin

6/26 - 6/27/08
National Conference for the Minority Lawyer
San Jose, CA | Dolce Hayes Mansion
Contact: Nhy Ly

6/27 - 6/29/08
Small Bar Conference
Sacramento, CA | Embassy Suites-Riverfront Promenade
Contact: Tondanisha Nevels

10/21 - 10/23/08
ABA Money Laundering Enforcement Conference
Washington, D.C. | Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Contact: Robert Snoddy

For an expanded list of upcoming, bar-related meetings, visit our Calendar of Key Meetings.

Comments?

Questions or comments about The Bridge? Send a letter to the editor.

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The Social Revolution
In this new feature, the ABA's Legal Technology Resource Center will discuss a current legal technology topic. In this issue, LTRC Research Specialist Tonya Johnson breaks down social networking.

Healthy Alternative
51% of unified state bars, 68% of voluntary state bars, 44% of large local bars, and 13% of small local bars offer health insurance to their members. The Dues Survey also lists bars that offer disability, dental, long-term care, life, professional liability, and vision care insurance to members. Order the Dues Survey.

Seth Godin's Blog
Godin is a combination marketing guru, media maven and master of the e-economy. His thoughtful blog will give you ideas and "aha!" moments to help you think "member" rather than "customer."

- Elizabeth Derrico
The 101 Practice Series: Breaking Down The Basics
$29.95
Published by the Young Lawyers Division
Product code 2050203
Examines the fundamental aspects of law practice. Ideal for new lawyers or law students

America Votes! A Guide to Modern Election Law and Voting Rights
$44.95
Published by the Multiple
Product code 5330200
A snapshot of America's voting and electoral practices, problems, and most current issues

Careers in International Law, Third Edition
$69.95
Published by the Section of International Law
Product code 5210200
An essential resource for law students and lawyers interested in a career in international law

Commission on Civic Education and Separation of Powers - Resource Toolkit
$9.95
Published by the Division for Public Education
Product code 2350238
Strategies for effectively communicating the importance of separation of powers and judicial independence

Dialogue on the Rule of Law
$1
Published by the Division for Public Education
Product code 2350244
Designed to stimulate conversations about the law and its role in society

Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Clients: A Lawyer's Guide
$89.95
Published by the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division
Product code 5150317
An introduction to the legal issues of lesbian, gay, and transgender persons

How to Build and Manage an Estates Practice, Second Edition
$44.95
Published by the Law Practice Management Section and Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law
Product code 5110591
Ideas and guidance on improving your estates practice

The Lawyer's Guide to Marketing on the Internet, Third Edition
$84.95
Published by the Law Practice Management Section
The Bridge, Apr. 08 (No. 14)

Product code 5110585
Practical online strategies and the latest innovations to help you immediately participate in your firm’s Web marketing effort

Second Chances In the Criminal Justice System
$30
Published by the Commission on Effective Criminal Sanctions
Product code 5090115
Focuses on how criminal offenders may escape the legal disabilities and stigma of a criminal record

Sex-Based Harassment: Workplace Policies for the Legal Profession, 2nd Edition
$34.95
Published by the Commission on Women in the Legal Profession and Section of Labor and Employment Law
Product code 4920039
Defines sex-based harassment and its essential elements. Also explains how to create and implement harassment policies and resolve harassment complaints

NATIONAL BARS

American Bar Association

Government Affairs Office

- **Thomas Susman** has been named director of the association’s Government Affairs Office. Susman, a Yale graduate, joins the ABA after 27 years as a legislative and regulatory practice lawyer with Washington, DC firm Ropes & Gray.
- State Legislative Counsel **Rita Aguilar** has left the association after five years, four with the GAO. She has joined Washington, DC-based Justice at Stake as counsel and director of the Federal Courts Program.

Hispanic National Bar Association

- **Marisel Morales** is the new executive director.

National Bar Association

- Executive Director **John Crump** has announced his retirement after 30 years of service.

STATE BARS

Colorado Bar Association

- Membership and Marketing Director and former NABE Staff Director **Shelley Joksimovic** has left the bar.

New York State Bar Association

- Attorney **Keith Soressi** has been named the bar’s new associate executive director. He replaces **John Williamson**, who has announced his retirement effective May 31.

North Carolina Bar Association

- Assistant Executive Director **Michelle Frazier** will be leaving the bar this May to return to private practice.

Oregon State Bar

- Executive Director **Karen Garst** will retire in December, after nearly 13 years in the position.

LOCAL BARS
CA – Palo Alto Area Bar Association

- Amanda Hom has been hired as the bar's association manager. Hom is a past executive director of the Bar Association of San Francisco’s Barristers Club.

IN - Indianapolis Bar Association

- Marketing Director Jennifer Infanger has left the bar to become communications director at Brebeuf Preparatory High School, her alma mater.

OH - Akron Bar Association

- Executive Director Sue Lengal has announced she will be leaving the bar effective June 30.

PA – Bucks County Bar

- Executive Director Heather Martin has left the bar.