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News

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](#).

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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](#).

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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.

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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.

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Blog of the Month

Dues Survey Fact

Legal Technology Corner

Legal Services Now

The latest issue of [Legal Services Now](#), newsletter of the ABA Division for Legal Services, is now online.

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 | Marriott 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*



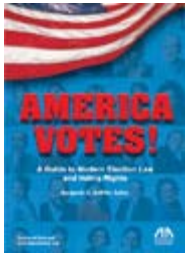
The 101 Practice Series: Breaking Down The Basics

\$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



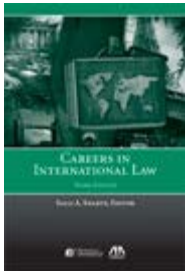
America Votes! A Guide to Modern Election Law and Voting Rights

\$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



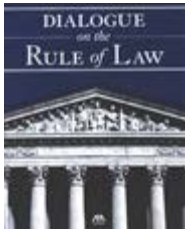
Commission on Civic Education and Separation of Powers - Resource Toolkit

\$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



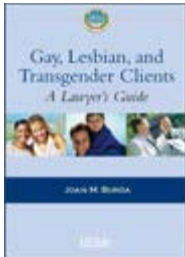
Dialogue on the Rule of Law

\$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

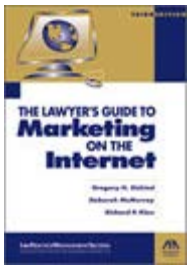
Product code 5110591

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



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.
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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.

