

**People**

Local Bars

**VA | Virginia Bar Association**

Yvonne McGhee is the bar's new executive director. She had been executive director of Virginia's Fairfax Bar Association and Fairfax Law Foundation.

**News**

**Ethics Commission Seeks Comment on Proposals**

The ABA Commission on Ethics 20/20 has released its initial proposals on several topics related to ethics, including lawyers’ use of technology and inbound foreign lawyers. To review and comment on these proposals, click here.

Proposals for remaining issues on the commission's agenda will be released by September. Final versions of the proposals will be considered by the ABA’s House of Delegates at the association’s annual meeting in August 2012.

**Resources**

**New Dues Spinoff Hits Bars Close to Home**

The Division for Bar Services has released its Customized Dues Survey, a special-focus benchmarking tool based on the 2010 Dues and Benefits Survey. A svelte companion to the original, the custom edition shows only market averages - average responses for bars in the requesting bar's market. Statistics are displayed side-by-side with the bar’s own responses, for a direct comparison.

The book, available as a PDF only, is the second in the line of customized publications from the division, after the Customized Bar Activities Inventory. It can be purchased by itself for $50, or with the original Dues Survey for $100 (a 15% discount). To preview or purchase the book, click here.

**ABA Offers Help with the Tough Questions**

A lawyer spends six hours on a cross country plane trip on behalf of client A. While on the plane, he spends four hours working on a matter for client B. Can he bill six hours to client A and four hours to client B?

Such questions are the specialty of ABA ETHICSearch, the ABA’s free ethics advice service. The service, operated by the ABA’s Center for Professional Responsibility, provides guidelines - such as ABA ethics rules, state and local bar
association ethics opinions, case law, and law review articles - to help lawyers through ethical quandaries. ETHICSearch fields about 2,500 inquiries per year.

To use ETHICSearch, call (800) 285-2221 and press 8, e-mail ETHICSearch@americanbar.org, or fax (312) 988-5491. Though all inquiries are accepted, questions from ABA members are given priority.

New Website to Help Military Families
The ABA has launched a new website, www.abahomefront.org, to provide legal support to military families and opportunities for lawyers looking to volunteer to help them.

Public Ed Showcases Civics & Law Academies
The ABA is seeking lessons and activities from successful civics and law academies for publication in an online resource guide. The guide, from the Division for Public Education, will help academy organizers develop their own programs. To submit materials and review sample lessons, click here.

Help for Constitution Day
The ABA has launched a website to promote Constitution Day, September 17. The site includes lesson plans and conversation starters to help bar associations commemorate the event, which will mark the 224th anniversary of the signing of the nation's charter.

Journal Seeking Some Photo Bono from Volunteer Lawyers
The ABA Journal is featuring photos of lawyers engaged in volunteer service to showcase in its new feature, Lawyers Giving Back. Click here for more on the feature.

Join the ABA's Expert Author Pool
A new ABA service helps diversity lawyers add "published author" to their resumes. Called the Legal Expert Author Pool, or LEAP, the service maintains a pool of authors with expertise in a legal field who are willing to write for an ABA periodical, then connects them with ABA publishing entities that have committed to the project. Click here for more.

Awards

Application Period Opens for Outstanding Activity Awards
The Division for Public Education is accepting applications for its 2011 Law Day Outstanding Activity Awards. The awards honor creative and successful Law Day programs. The application deadline is June 17. For more on the awards, click here.

Federal Bar Chapter Wins Tweed Award
The Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association will receive the 2011 Harrison Tweed Award for preserving and increasing access to legal services for...
The chapter is being recognized for its *Pro Se Project*, a collaboration with the U.S. District Court to assist civil pro se litigants, the majority of whom are of limited means.

The award, given annually by the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, will be presented during the ABA Annual Meeting in Toronto on Friday, August 5, at a joint luncheon of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, National Association of Bar Executives and National Conference of Bar Foundations.