

[People](#) | [News](#) | [Resources](#) | [Awards](#) | [Publications](#) | [Archives](#)

Issue 35 for Sep 2011

## People

### State Bars

#### CT | Connecticut Bar Association

Executive Director D. Larkin Chenault has left the bar. ([Press release](#))

### Local Bars

#### GA | Atlanta Bar Association

Executive Director Diane O'Steen has announced she will retire June 30, 2012, after 46 years with the bar, the last 25 in her current position. ([Job announcement](#))

#### NY | Onondaga County Bar Association

Jeff Unaitis is the new executive director. ([Press release](#))

#### OH | Toledo Bar Association

Executive Director Trish Branam has announced she will retire after nearly 11 years at the bar. ([Job announcement](#))

## News

### ABA Accredits Two Law Schools, Censures One

The ABA has issued full accreditation to [Pennsylvania's Drexel University](#) and [South Carolina's Charleston School of Law](#).

The association has also [publicly censured](#) Pennsylvania's Villanova University School of Law for "intentionally reporting inaccurate admissions data" over at least an eight-year period. The association imposed a series of sanctions on the school, including requiring it to post notice of its censure on its website for two years and engaging a compliance monitor for the same period.

### ABA Tries to Put New Labor Rule Out of Work

The ABA has asked bar associations to help stop a proposed rule from the US Department of Labor that would require many labor lawyers to report confidential client information to the government. The ABA asserts that the rule would undermine court and state bar client confidentiality rules, erode the client-lawyer confidentiality relationship, and discourage many labor lawyers from providing legal services to clients.

The association urged bar leaders to send a brief letter to the department by September 21 urging it to withdraw or modify its proposal.

For more on this issue, contact [Larson Frisby](#).

### "No" Law Day Theme for 2012

"No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom" will be theme for [Law Day 2012](#), the ABA has announced. The theme will highlight courts' pivotal role in the American form of government. Free planning information is on the Law Day website.

### THANKS

The division thanks the 117 bars that completed its recent Bridge Usefulness Survey!

### BLOG OF THE MONTH

[Behind Bars](#) | The blog from the Division for Bar Services. Written by DBS staff, it will keep you up to date on the latest news, information and expertise on bar leadership, management and programming. [Subscribe now](#).

- Elizabeth Derrico

### LEGAL SERVICES NOW

For the latest developments in legal aid funding and pro bono issues, click [here](#) (PDF).

### DUES SURVEY FACT

All voluntary state bars have member-only areas on their websites.

[Order the 2010 Dues Survey](#).

### LTRC CORNER

**Format non-consecutive text** | Say you prepare a document and decide afterwards that you want the first word of every paragraph to be bold and underlined: double-click the first word, hold down your Ctrl key, double-click each word you wish to format, then apply the desired format. Also works with non-consecutive paragraphs.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**10/18 - 10/21/11**  
[NABE Communications Workshop](#)  
Nashville, TN  
Contact: [Haley Swilling](#)

**10/19 - 10/22/11**  
[2011 ABA LRIS Workshop](#)  
New Orleans | Astor Crowne Plaza  
Contact: [Jane Nosbisch](#)

**10/21 - 10/22/11**  
[ABA GPSolo National Solo & Small Firm Conference](#)

## ABA Seeks to Revise Law School Accreditation Rules

The ABA has released proposed revisions to its law school accreditation rules. The [revisions](#) will require closer monitoring of ABA-accredited law schools for compliance with accreditation standards.

A hearing on the proposed changes is scheduled for September 22, at ABA headquarters in Chicago.

## Indigent Defense Summit Planned; Holder to Speak

A summit at the ABA Midyear Meeting will highlight challenges facing the indigent defense system around the country. Among several topics discussed will be the role of the private bar in indigent defense.

The summit, sponsored by the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (SCLAID), will be held Saturday, February 4. United States Attorney General Eric Holder will be the keynote luncheon speaker.

## New ABA President Robinson Seeks Justice

New ABA President Bill Robinson has made the work of the Task Force on Preservation of the Justice System one of his primary areas of focus during his term. The Task Force is addressing some of the most critical issues facing the legal profession, including severe underfunding of the justice system, depletion of resources, and the courts' struggle to provide access to justice for all Americans.

For more information on the work of the Task Force, including its recent recommendations approved by the ABA House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting in August, [click here](#).

## DBS Gets Ready for Next Dues Survey

It's Dues Survey time again. The Division for Bar Services recently sent the questionnaire for the 2011 version of its annual survey of state and local bar association dues, fees, and member benefits. The questionnaire went to executive directors at state and local bar associations.

Respondents to the survey will get a "substantial" discount on the price of the survey, which will be published in November. One respondent will win three free sessions of division webinar series "[Bar School](#)."

Responses are due September 30.

## NABE Workshops Approaching

The National Association of Bar Executives is gearing up for two of its staple workshops. The [Communications Section Workshop](#) will be held October 18-21 in Nashville, TN, while the [Government Relations Workshop](#) will take place November 7-9 in Des Moines, IA.

## ABA HOD Looks to Organize Resolutions

The ABA's House of Delegates is seeking a summary of resolutions with reports likely to come before it at its 2012 Midyear Meeting in New Orleans. Bars considering an issue likely to result in a resolution for the house should send a narrative summary of it, and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of a contact, to Adrienne Barney at [Adrienne.barney@americanbar.org](mailto:Adrienne.barney@americanbar.org). Summaries are due Friday, October 7.

## Ethics Commission to Hold Hearing

On Friday, October 14, 2011, the ABA Commission on Ethics 20/20 will hold a public hearing, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Brown Palace Hotel, 321 17th Street, in Denver, Colorado.

Denver | Westin Denver  
Downtown  
Contact: [Nicole Nikodem](#)

**1/31 - 2/4/12**  
[NABE/NCBP/NCBF](#) Midyear Meeting  
New Orleans  
Contact: [Chrishelle Bradford](#)  
**Registration information coming soon!**

**2/1 - 2/7/12**  
[ABA Midyear Meeting](#)  
New Orleans  
Contact: [Meetings & Travel](#)

**2/4/12**  
7th Summit on Indigent Defense Improvement  
New Orleans  
Contact: [Tori Jo Wible](#)

**3/15 - 3/16/12**  
[ABA Bar Leadership Institute](#)  
Chicago | Downtown Marriott  
Contact: [Karyn Linn](#)

**4/17 - 4/19/12**  
[ABA Day in Washington 2012](#)  
Washington, DC | Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill  
Contact: [Ken Goldsmith](#)

The hearing will serve as an open session to discuss any of the Commission's proposals released in September 2011, Issues Papers, or Initial Proposals. The Commission welcomes testimony from the profession and the public.

The Commission's newest and revised proposals, released in September 2011, can be viewed [here](#).

## Resources

---

### **New Newsletter Sheds Light on Ethics**

A new ethics e-newsletter will feature select articles from the ABA's flagship ethics publication. The newsletter, [Lawyers' Professional Conduct Update](#), will be published every other week. Each issue will include articles from the [ABA/BNA Lawyers' Manual on Professional Conduct](#). To subscribe, [click here](#).

### **New Edition of Robert's Rules Coming Soon**

A new edition of parliamentary procedure guide *Robert's Rules of Order* will be released Friday, September 23. Parliamentary Expert Nancy Sylvester will explain the updates from the most recent guide on [her website](#) shortly after the book's release.

### **Pro Bono Celebration**

National Pro Bono Week Celebration is scheduled for October 23-29. Event suggestions can be found at the [celebration Web site](#), where bars can also register their planned activities.

### **Commission Seeking Bar Disability Programs**

The ABA is seeking descriptions of bar programs aimed at including lawyers with disabilities in the legal profession and addressing their challenges. The association is also looking for moral character and fitness questions for bar applicants regarding mental health and treatment.

Bars with such programs should send a description, including a web address if available and the name of a contact person, to Amy Allbright at [Amy.Allbright@americanbar.org](mailto:Amy.Allbright@americanbar.org). The information will be posted on the [Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law's website](#) and be used to ensure the inclusion of lawyers with disabilities in the legal profession.

### **New Directory Helps Disabled With Bar Exam**

A new online directory lists state-by-state accommodations for bar exam applicants with disabilities. The [directory](#), from the Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law, includes each state's definition of "disability," requirements for requesting accommodations, and more.

## Awards

---

### **Nomination Period Opens for Margaret Brent Award**

The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession is accepting nominations for its 2012 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. The [award](#) honors five outstanding women lawyers who have excelled in their field and actively paved the way to success for other women lawyers. The application deadline is November 22.

The award will be presented at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago on August 5, 2012.

### **Nomination Period Opens for Legal Access Award**

The ABA Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services is seeking nominations for the 2012 Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access. The [award](#) recognizes bar associations and other organization programs that enhance access to justice. Organizations that have worked to expand legal services access to those who do not qualify for legal aid but can't afford traditional legal services are particularly encouraged to apply.

The nomination deadline is December 2.

### **Nomination Period Opens for Diversity Pipeline Award**

The ABA Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline is accepting nominations for the Fourth Annual Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity. The [award](#) recognizes exemplary leadership by an individual or organization, working along the educational "pipeline" from preschool to law practice.

Submissions are due October 3. The award will be presented at the ABA Midyear Meeting in New Orleans, on February 3, 2012.