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Issue 37 for Jan 2012

People

State Bars

KS | Kansas Bar Association

Jeff Alderman has left his position as the bar's executive director.

Local Bars

OH | Toledo Bar

Sarah Corpening is the bar's new executive director, replacing the retired Trish Branam.

IL | West Suburban Bar Association

Glenda Sharp is the bar's new executive director.

News

BLI Registration Closing Soon

Registration will close February 24 for the ABA's [2012 Bar Leadership Institute](#), scheduled for March 14-16 at Chicago's Downtown Marriott. Confirmed speakers include *Total Leadership* author Stewart Friedman, marketing and generations guru Sarah Sladek, and communications expert Michael Sigman.

The BLI, an annual meeting that helps incoming bar leaders prepare to take the reins of their associations, draws more than 300 attendees.

ABA Midyear to Feature Diversity Programs

Several diversity programs will be featured at the ABA's midyear meeting program in New Orleans next week, including a roundtable discussion, "Greater ROI on Pipeline and Leadership Development Programs," exclusively for bar leaders. For more on diversity programming at the midyear, click [here](#).

ABA, US Government, Alert Lawyers of Money Laundering Risk

The ABA is making lawyers aware of an increasing vulnerability to money laundering schemes carried out by criminal and even terrorist groups. The issue is serious enough that the US Department of the Treasury has asked the ABA to develop guidelines to help lawyers avoid being entrapped.

A recent ABA Journal article, [Into the Breach](#), addressed the issue. It shows lawyers how to assess their risks to money laundering schemes and limit their vulnerability to them. The article is available for reprint in bar association publications. To request permission, fill out the form [here](#).

ABA Model Rule Changes to Be Debated at Midyear

The ABA will hold a public hearing at its midyear meeting next week on amendments to its Model Code of Judicial Conduct and Model Rules of Professional Conduct. The proposed amendments will provide necessary guidance to states on disclosure requirements and standards for judicial disqualification. Bar associations may submit comments or testify.

BLOG OF THE MONTH

[3 Geeks and a Law Blog](#) |

Residing at the intersection of technology, knowledge, and firm management, this blog is insightful and indispensable. You can follow each of the "geeks" on Twitter for even more cutting edge news and analysis.

- Elizabeth Derrico

MAF SURVEY FACT

50% of voluntary state bars have increased their dues in the last year, with the average increase being 9.48%.

[Order the 2011 Membership, Administration & Finance Survey.](#)

MEMBER ADVANTAGE

Trying to spend less money in 2012? Check out the array of [discounts offered by ABA Member Advantage](#), including up to 26% off shipping costs, up to 25% off car rentals, and more.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

1/31 - 2/4/12

[NABE/NCBP/NCBF](#) Midyear Meeting
New Orleans
Contact: [Chrishelle Bradford](#)

2/1 - 2/7/12

[ABA Midyear Meeting](#)
New Orleans
Contact: [Meetings & Travel](#)

2/2

Senior Lawyers Outreach Forum
New Orleans | Sheraton Hotel
Contact: [Judith Legg](#)

2/3

[Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the Model Code of Judicial Conduct Regarding Judicial Disqualifications](#)
New Orleans | Sheraton Hotel
Contact: [Dennis Rendleman](#)

2/4

[7th Summit on Indigent Defense Improvement](#)
New Orleans

The hearing will be held Friday, February 3, at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans. For more, click [here](#).

US AG Holder to Address Bar Leaders

Eric Holder, current US attorney general, will deliver the keynote address at the ABA's upcoming Summit on Indigent Defense Improvement. The summit, which will take place during the association's midyear meeting in February, will examine the bar's role in indigent defense.

Holder, 60, has served as attorney general since February 2009. He will deliver the keynote luncheon address during the summit's bar-focused afternoon session on Saturday, February 4. Several bar leaders will also be featured.

The summit is no charge. Tickets to the summit luncheon are \$60. For more on the program, click [here](#).

Resources

Bar Benchmarking Tools Released and Renamed

It's not just dues anymore.

The *State and Local Bar Dues Survey*, Bar Services' perennial reference on bar association dues and membership operations, has been beefed-up and renamed for 2012. Now known as the *Membership, Administration and Finance Survey*, the 2011 edition now includes stats on bar staff, facilities, and policies, with data on nearly 200 state and local bars.

A basic version of the data will go out free to bars that completed the survey questionnaire. Two special versions can be pre-ordered for a 15% discount in the ABA Web Store: a [slimmed-down edition](#) focusing just on market averages, and an [enhanced version](#) with statistical analysis. Both editions will be published in late February.

ABA Seeks Bar Help Protecting DV Victims

The ABA is looking for help persuading Congress to extend a wide-ranging act supporting domestic and sexual violence victims. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was originally passed in 1994, will expire in 2012. Studies have suggested that it has helped drastically reduce domestic violence in the United States.

The ABA is especially interested in Title I of the act, which addresses the justice system's response to domestic and sexual violence. The association, along with other groups, has created a [toolkit](#) to help communities advocate for reauthorization of the act.

For continuing updates on the reauthorization effort, "like" the National Task Force to End Sexual & Domestic Violence on [Facebook](#).

2012 Law Day Planning Guide Available

The Law Day [2012 Planning Guide](#) is now online for download. This year's theme "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom" underscores the importance of the courts and their role in ensuring access to justice for Americans.

Lawyers Needed to Judge ABA Moot Court Competitions

The ABA is seeking licensed attorneys to serve as moot court oral argument competition judges in six US cities this February and early March. The competitions will take place at federal and state courthouses in Atlanta, Boston, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC. The ABA is seeking CLE accreditation in states that accredit law student competitions.

Contact: [Tori Jo Wible](#)

3/14 - 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](#)

5/10 - 5/11/12

[Business Law Section 2012
Business Bar Leaders Conference](#)
Chicago | Renaissance O'Hare
Suites
Contact:

5/17 - 5/19/12

[2012 Equal Justice Conference](#)
Jacksonville | Hyatt Regency
Jacksonville Riverfront

5/30 - 6/2/12

[38th National Conference on
Professional Responsibility](#)
Boston | Seaport Hotel & Seaport
World Trade Center
Contact: cpr@americanbar.org

For more on the competitions, click [here](#). For more about CLE accreditation in your state, click [here](#).

Awards

Nominations Sought for Tweed Award

The ABA is accepting nominations for the 2012 Harrison Tweed Award, which recognizes bar association projects and programs that increase legal services access for the poor. The award will be presented in August at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, for work done between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012.

The nomination deadline is April 2. For more on the award, click [here](#).

Nomination Period Opens for Gambrell Award

The Standing Committee on Professionalism is accepting nominations for the E. Smythe Gambrell Awards, which recognize projects that enhance lawyer professionalism. Bar associations and other law-related organizations are eligible. Up to three winners will receive the \$3,500 award, to be presented during the ABA's 2012 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The nomination deadline is March 30. For more on the award, including entry forms, click [here](#).

Solo and Small Firm Project Award

Nominations are open for the Solo and Small Firm Project Award. The [award](#) honors bar leaders and associations for implementing projects or programs for solo and small firm lawyers.

Applications are due by March 30. Winners will be honored this May at the ABA GPSolo 2012 Spring Meeting's Awards Program in Charleston, SC.

Nomination Period Opens for Disability Award

The ABA Commission on Disability Rights is accepting nominations for its 2012 Paul G. Hearne Award for Disability Rights. The award is presented to an organization or individual who has performed exemplary service in furthering access to justice for persons with disabilities or their full participation in society.

The deadline for nominations is April 15. For more on the award, click [here](#).

Application Period Opens for Diversity Fellowship

The ABA General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division is accepting applications for its Diversity Fellowship Program. The program promotes diversity and leadership development. Four lawyers of diverse backgrounds will be appointed to funded fellowship positions. Each winner will be assigned a mentor.

Applications are due by April 30. For more, click [here](#).

YLD Subgrant Application Process Opens

Nominations are being accepted for the ABA Young Lawyers Division's [Subgrant Program](#). The program provides funding to young lawyer organizations for activities that benefit local communities, leaders, or members. The application deadline is March 1.

