

People

Local Bars

GA - Atlanta Bar Association

Terri Beck will be the bar's new ED, effective January 14, 2013. She will replace current ED Diane O'Steen.

IL - West Suburban Bar Association

Vicki Thiesse will be the bar's new ED, effective January 1, 2013. She will replace current ED Glenda Sharp.

News

BLI Registration Opens; Scholarships Available

Registration has opened for the ABA's signature conference for bar leaders. More than 300 leaders are expected to attend the [2013 Bar Leadership Institute](#), to be held March 13-15 at Chicago's Downtown Marriott. The meeting will prepare incoming bar leaders to lead their associations, with a focus on governance and communications skills.

Five need-based [scholarships](#) are available for the meeting, consisting of a waiver of the registration fee and a \$500 travel reimbursement. Applications are due Wednesday, January 9.

Registration Open for NABE/NCBP/NCBF Midyear

Registration has opened for the NABE, NCBP, and NCBF Midyear Meeting in Dallas, TX. The meeting, scheduled for February 5-9, will feature information-packed sessions on professional development, and workshops on key issues facing the organized bar. All business meetings, programs and select events will be held at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in the heart of the Dallas Design District.

Early registration for the meeting ends December 7. Advance registration closes January 11. Register now at [ambar.org/Midyear](#).

Questions can be sent to NABE-NCBP-NCBFregistration@americanbar.org.

Task Force on the Future of Legal Education

A new ABA Task Force will study key issues relating to legal education, and recommend improvements by late next year. The 19-member [Task Force on the Future of Legal Education](#) will examine issues including the rising cost of legal education and declining job prospects of new lawyers.

The Task Force will consider bar association efforts to address these issues and invites their comments. The group intends to produce a final report by fall 2013.

Indigent Defense Summit to Focus on State Bars

The ABA has announced special programming for state bars at its 2013 Midyear Meeting in Dallas. The programming, part of the annual Summit on Indigent Defense Improvement, will be held Saturday, February 9. Topics will include *The*

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).

MAF SURVEY FACT

Fifty-five percent of unified states, 26% of voluntary state bars and 22% of local bars own their bar space.

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

LTRC CORNER

Check your e-mail junk folder

Even the best junk-mail filters catch legitimate messages you'd like to read. Check this folder on a regular basis to make sure you don't miss something important.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

12/6 - 12/7/12

[2012 Women in Law Leadership \(WILL\) Academy](#)

San Francisco | The Palace Hotel

Contact: [Melissa Wood](#)

2/5 - 2/9/13

[NABE/NCBP/NCBF](#) Midyear Meeting

Dallas | Hilton Anatole

Contact: [Pamela Robinson](#)

[Register Now](#)

2/6 - 2/12/13

[ABA Midyear Meeting](#)

Dallas | Hilton Anatole

Contact: [Meetings & Travel](#)

2/9/13

[2013 Summit on Indigent Defense](#)

Dallas | Hilton Anatole

Role of the State Bar in Improving Indigent Defense, led by State Bar of Texas President Buck Files.

Interested bar leaders can register for the program on their [Midyear Meeting registration form](#). The sessions most relevant to state bar leaders are scheduled for the afternoon, after NABE, NCBF, and NCBP meetings have concluded.

ABA Asks Bars to Pledge Support to Disabled Lawyers

The ABA is encouraging bar associations and other legal employers to [sign a pledge](#) affirming their commitment to lawyers with disabilities. Called the *Pledge for Change*, the one-page document obligates signers to 'affirm their commitment to diversity...regarding individuals with mental, physical, and sensory disabilities in the legal profession.'

Resources

Law Day 2013 Theme Announced

The ABA has announced that *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All* will be the theme for Law Day 2013, to be observed May 1. The event will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the impact that the Civil Rights Movement has had on equality under law regarding race, gender, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation.

For talking points, planning ideas, and other resources, visit www.lawday.org.

ABA to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of Landmark Decision

The ABA will commemorate the 50th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that required state courts to provide counsel in criminal cases for defendants who cannot afford their own. The anniversary will be March 18, 2013.

The ABA is inviting bar leaders to join in the occasion and use it to refocus attention on the crisis facing the criminal justice system. A [tool kit for bar leaders](#) will be posted soon. Suggestions include featuring the event on March journal covers, as the ABA Journal will do.

For more on the event, contact [Tori Jo Wible](#) or [Karyn Linn](#).

ABA Asks How Bars Accommodate Disabled Bar-Takers

The ABA is seeking stories of how state bars accommodate bar exam takers with disabilities, for use in an upcoming publication. To share your bar's procedures or concerns about bar exam accommodations, e-mail Sherri Rita at sherri.rita@americanbar.org.

Awards

Nomination Period Opens for Public Service Award

The ABA is seeking nominations for the [John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Award](#). The award honors individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the quality of justice in the community.

The nomination deadline is December 4.

Nomination Period Opens for Legal Access Award

The ABA is seeking nominations for the [Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access](#). The award recognizes programs and projects that use innovations to expand

Contact: [Tori Jo Wible](#)



access to those of moderate incomes, who do not qualify for legal aid. The award is presented at the ABA Midyear Meeting. The deadline for nominations is December 7.

Nomination Period Opens for ATJ Award

The ABA is seeking nominations for the [Paul G. Hearne Award](#). The award is presented to an individual or organization that has furthered access to justice for people with disabilities. The nomination deadline is Friday, March 29, 2013.

Nomination Period Opens for Brent Award

The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession is accepting nominations for its [2013 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award](#). The award honors five women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence and actively paved the way to success for other women lawyers. It will be presented in August 2013, at the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

The nomination deadline is Monday, December 3.

Volunteers Sought for Minority Internship Program

The ABA Section of Litigation is seeking volunteers for its [Summer 2013 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program](#). The program lets minority and financially disadvantaged law students intern with a state or federal judge for the summer.

Highly competitive, the JIOP fielded more than 650 applications last year. Volunteers are needed to help prescreen interviews, serve as panelists at program orientations, and participate in local mentoring programs.

Applications are due January 4, 2013.

Nomination Period Opens for Justice System Award

The ABA Justice Center is accepting nominations for the [John Marshall Award](#). The award is presented to an individual who has made a positive national impact on the justice system. Past winners include Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony Kennedy, and former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge.

The nomination deadline is Friday, February 15, 2013.