People
State Bars
CA | State Bar of California
Executive Director Joe Dunn has left the bar

CO | Colorado Bar Association/Denver Bar Association
Patrick Flaherty is the bars' new ED

News
BLI Registration Opens
Registration has opened for the ABA’s signature conference for bar leaders. More than 300 are expected to attend the 2015 Bar Leadership Institute, to be held March 11 -13 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. The meeting will prepare incoming bar leaders to guide their associations, with a focus on leadership, 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 14.

DBS Unveils Revamped Home Page
The ABA’s Division for Bar Services, which coordinates the association's services to bar associations, has unveiled a revamped home page for the 1,000+ member bar leader community.

The new page features design and navigation upgrades, including top billing for popular content and timely products. Said Bar Services Director Roseanne Lucianek, "We hope these changes will allow for easier accessibility to and knowledge of our resources."

The page is accessible at ambar.org/barservices.

ABA Seeks Standing Committee Recommendations
ABA President-Elect Paulette Brown is seeking recommendations for vacancies on ABA Standing and Special Committees. Applications are due February 27, 2015.

ABA President's Commission Seeks Bar Help on Legal Services
A new issues paper asks for bar association comments on improving legal services in the US.

The five-page document, released this month by the ABA’s Presidential Commission on the Future of Legal Services, asks legal organizations to comment on 10 topics related to legal services delivery. Comments will be used to examine and propose new approaches to legal services.

Comments should be sent by Wednesday, December 10, to Katy Englehart at
Disability Commission Seeks Bar Pledges
An ABA commission is asking bar associations and other legal groups to make a written commitment to diversity for individuals with disabilities. Called the Pledge for Change, the document was created in response to underrepresentation of lawyers with visible disabilities in the profession. 175 groups have signed the document so far.

Volunteers Sought for Minority Internship Program
The ABA Section of Litigation is seeking volunteers for its Summer 2015 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 program fielded more than 700 applications last year. Volunteers are needed to help prescreen interviews, serve as panelists at program orientations, and participate in local mentoring programs.

CLE Offered at London Sessions
On June 11-15, 2015 in London, the ABA will present a series of continuing legal education programs and plenary sessions in conjunction with the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta.

New Smartphone App Highlights Resources for Health Care Decisions
A new smartphone app enables individuals and families to manage and share their health care advance directives and related information. The app, developed by the ABA's Commission on Law and Aging, offers unlimited storage and management of personal and family profiles and documents.

The app is one of several commission resources for health care decision-making. Other tools include a Multi-State Health Care Power of Attorney, a Consumer's Tool Kit for Health Care Advance Planning, and a guide to Making Medical Decisions for Someone Else.

Professional Responsibility Speaker’s Bureau Launched
The ABA has created a speaker's bureau for professional responsibility speakers. Bar associations can recommend speakers using the online form and request speaker suggestions for ethics CLE programs.

CLE Series to Discuss Cloud Computing
A new CLE webinar series will examine the ethics issues implicated in lawyers' use of cloud computing. The three-part series will kick off January 28 with the topic Ethics and Cloud Computing: Cloud Computing Fundamentals for Lawyers. Follow-up sessions will take place in February and March.

Nomination Period Opens for Legal Access Award
Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access. The award honors innovative programs and projects that advance access to legal services for those of moderate incomes. Nominations are due Friday, December 12.

ABA Sponsors Magna Carta Video Competition
An ABA-sponsored video competition invites students to create a video celebrating the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. Videos should answer the question: "Magna Carta: What's So Great About the ‘Great Charter’?" Submissions are due January 15.

The competition is sponsored by the ABA in partnership with The Center for the Teaching of the Rule of Law.

Visit our awards page for more on ABA awards open to bar associations.