



## Top News

### BLI 2016 Registration Opens

Registration has opened for the ABA's signature conference for bar leaders. More than 300 are expected to attend the [2016 Bar Leadership Institute](#), to be held March 16-18 in Chicago.

A total of six need-based [scholarships](#) are available for the meeting. Applications are due Wednesday, January 13.

### DBS Releases Latest Bar Membership, Dues Data

What's the average top dues level for voluntary state bars with over 20,000 members? What is the total cost to practice in each state? Which bars collect demographic information? Find the answers in the [2015 State and Local Bar Membership, Administration and Finance Survey – Membership Update](#). This benchmarking standard captures the dues and fees structures of nearly 200 bars, as well as information about bar benefits and services.

### Bars Make Presence Felt in Inaugural Day of Service Event

The Alabama State and Tuscaloosa County Bars are among [13 bar association winners](#) of the Day of Service competition initiated by ABA President Paulette Brown. The contest, part of the Celebrate Pro Bono week, recognized the pro bono contributions of bar associations, lawyers, and other legal organizations.

### ABA Seeks Committee Nominations

The ABA is seeking [recommendations for appointments](#) to its committees and other groups for the 2016-17 association year. Recommendations are due February 26.

## Resources

### ABA CLE Value Pass for Bars

Has your bar been looking for a way to round out its CLE portfolio? Look to the new [ABA CLE Value Pass for Bars](#) program! Fill your CLE gaps with this special edition of the ABA Value Pass and provide in-person group viewings of ABA programs in your bar's space!

Contact Jill McCall at [jill.mccall@americanbar.org](mailto:jill.mccall@americanbar.org) or (312) 988-6215 to subscribe in your bar's name at the individual member price of \$575 per year.

## Awards

### Submission Period Opens for Silver Gavel Awards

Submissions are being accepted for the [2016 Silver Gavel Awards for Media and the Arts](#). The award recognizes works that foster the public's understanding of law and the legal system. Entry deadline is January 10.

### Nominations Open for 2016 Solo and Small Firm Awards

Nominations are open for the [GPSolo Solo and Small Firm Awards](#), which

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## BAR SCHOOL

Jan 11

Staff/Volunteer Relationships  
*Registration Coming Soon*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

2/2 - 2/6/16

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

San Diego

Contact: [NABE/NCBP/NCBF  
Registration](#)

2/3 - 2/9/16

[ABA Midyear Meeting](#)

San Diego

Contact: [ABA Meetings & Travel](#)

2/6/16

[11th Annual Summit on Public  
Defense](#)

San Diego

Contact: [Tori Wible](#)

3/16 - 3/18/16

[Bar Leadership Institute](#)

Chicago

Contact: [Magdalena Bieniek](#)

4/19 - 4/21/16

[ABA Day](#)

Washington, DC

Contact: [Alex Kandalajt](#)

5/11 - 5/14/16

[Joint Spring Conference on  
Group & Prepaid Legal Services](#)

Key West, FL

Contact: [Tori Wible](#)

5/12 - 5/14/16

[Equal Justice Conference](#)

Chicago

recognize outstanding solo and small firm practitioners, bar leaders, and bar associations. Nominations are due February 26.

### Nominations Sought for Professionalism Awards

Nominations are open for the [2016 Gambrell Awards](#), honoring excellence and innovation in professionalism programs. Nominations are due March 31.

### Nominations Sought for John Marshall Award

Nominations are open for the [2016 John Marshall Award](#), which recognizes individuals who improve the administration of justice. Nominations are due April 15.

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## Policy & Legislation

### ABA Seeks Comments on Law School Accreditation

The ABA is seeking comments on the [qualifications of 18 law schools](#) whose accreditation will be reviewed during on-site visits next year. Law schools scheduled for review include Stanford, John Marshall, and Notre Dame.

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## People

### Two EDs Leave

In New York, longtime Monroe County Bar Association Executive Director Mary Loewenguth has announced she will leave the bar in January to become Clerk of the Court for the Federal Western District of New York.

In Michigan, Executive Director Mitzy Sharp Futro has left the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. Darlene Trudell has been named her replacement.

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## For Your Members

### ABA, KIND Seek Volunteers to Represent Unaccompanied Children

The ABA Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division has partnered with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) to help volunteer attorneys [assist unaccompanied children](#) who otherwise may be forced to represent themselves in immigration court proceedings. Free CLE training is available.

### Nominations Sought for Pickering Award

Nominations are being accepted for the [John H. Pickering Achievement Award](#). The award honors lawyers and judges who demonstrate outstanding legal ability and have compiled a distinguished record of service to the profession and their communities. The deadline for nominations is February 29.

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Contact: [Ashley Coleman](#)

6/2 - 6/3/16

National Conference on  
Professional Responsibility  
Philadelphia

Contact: [cpr@americanbar.org](mailto:cpr@americanbar.org)

**RECOMMENDED**  
[Washington Letter](#)  
[Legal Services Now](#)  
[ABA Membership](#)

### COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF LEGAL SERVICES

Be sure to check in on the recent activities of the [Commission on the Future of Legal Services](#), and of local futures discussions around the country.

### BOOKS FOR BARS

ABA Books for Bars is free to join and offers bar members a 15% discount on ABA books, and a 15% commission for your bar. Participants receive marketing materials and assistance promoting the program! [Learn more](#)

