



Top News

BLI 2017 Registration to Open; Scholarships Available

Registration will open this month for the ABA's signature conference for bar leaders. More than 300 are expected to attend the [2017 Bar Leadership Institute](#), to be held March 15-17 in Chicago.

The ABA is offering five scholarships to help presidents-elect and other upcoming leaders of small bar associations attend the meeting. The application deadline is Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

ABA Launches Grant Program to Help Immigrant Children

The ABA is offering grants up to \$1,000 to help bar associations train attorneys to represent unaccompanied immigrant children pro bono. The grants, sponsored by the ABA Working Group on Unaccompanied Minor Immigrants, can be used to cover expert speakers, space, CLE accreditation, and other expenses.

Applications can be emailed to juliet.gilbert@americanbar.org, and should explain: 1) the amount of funds requested, 2) the need for financial assistance, 3) how the funds will be used, 4) the need for training, and 5) estimated capacity to recruit pro bono attorneys.

For more information, contact Juliet Gilbert at 312-988-5710 or juliet.gilbert@americanbar.org. The application deadline is November 17.

Resources

National Pro Bono Celebration Extended through Veteran's Day

The ABA is encouraging bars to participate in this year's [National Pro Bono Celebration](#), which has been extended to November 11. The annual event is an effective strategic tool for enhancing and expanding local efforts to increase access to justice for all. This year's event will emphasize service to veterans.

Leadership is the Theme of The Latest GPSolo Magazine

The [September-October issue](#) of GPSolo Magazine features stories about lawyers as leaders in the profession.

ABA Offers Office Supply Discount to Bar Members

A new ABA program allows bar associations to offer members a [discount of up to 50%](#) with Office Depot and claim a 2% commission for the bar.

America Votes! Challenges to Modern Election Law and Voting Rights

This [new book](#) discusses the complexity of the federal electoral system in the United States and how that system is inextricably bound with its courts.

The Lawyer's Guide to Succession Planning

This [book](#) provides guidance to law firms on succession and transition processes and approaches.

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BAR SCHOOL

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Giving Effective Performance Feedback

UPCOMING MEETINGS

11/14 - 11/16/16

[2016 ABA Section of Litigation Professional Success Summit](#)
Atlanta, GA
Contact: [Porscha Boyd](#)

1/31 - 2/4/17

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

2/1 - 2/7/17

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

2/4/17

[12th Annual ABA Summit on Public Defense](#)
Miami
Contact: [Geoff Burkhart](#)

3/15 - 3/17/17

[ABA Bar Leadership Institute](#)
Chicago
Contact: [Magdalena Bieniek](#)

5/4 - 5/6/17

[2017 Equal Justice Conference](#)
Pittsburgh
Contact: [Julie McCullough](#)

Technology Tips for Seniors

This [book](#) is a guide for attorneys who want to learn how to successfully navigate the vast world of modern technology.

Awards

Winners Announced for Stonewall Award

Hon. Tonya Parker; Kevin M. Cathcart, Executive Director of Lambda Legal; Diana Flynn, Senior Executive and Director of Federal Civil Rights Litigation and Legal Counsel Program are winners of the [2017 Stonewall Award](#).

The award recognizes lawyers, members of the judiciary and legal academia who have effected real change to remove barriers on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The award reception will be held at the ABA's Midyear Meeting in Miami on February 4, 2017.

Nominations Sought for Professionalism Awards

Nominations are open for the [2017 Gambrell Awards](#), honoring excellence and innovation in professionalism programs. Nominations are due January 31, 2017. For a list of the 2016 winners, including the Wake County Bar Association, [click here](#).

Nominations Open for Women Lawyers Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the [2017 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards](#). The awards honor women lawyers who have excelled in their field and have paved the way to success for other women lawyers. Submissions are due December 16.

Equal Justice Conference Scholarships Coming

Three scholarships will be made available in December for the [Equal Justice Conference](#). The conference will be held May 4-6, 2017, in Pittsburgh.

Calls to Action

Volunteers Sought for Diversity Internship Program

The ABA Section of Litigation is seeking volunteers for its [Summer 2017 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program](#). The program places diverse and financially disadvantaged law students with a state or federal judge for a summer internship. To volunteer, contact [Suzanne Steliga](#).

Policy & Legislation

Forum to Discuss Model Rules Amendments

The ABA will host a [public forum](#) on Friday, February 3, 2017 at the ABA Midyear Meeting on a proposal to amend ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct on lawyer advertising and other issues. Comments should be submitted by March 1, 2017 to modelruleamend@americanbar.org.

People

Five New EDs Appointed; Pyrz to Retire

Stacy King is the new executive director at the Federal Bar Association. In the Midwest, longtime Indiana State Bar ED Tom Pyrz has [announced](#) he will retire at the end of 2017 after 25 years, while Susie Brown has been named ED at Minnesota's Hennepin County Bar Association. On the east coast, Victor Velasquez is the [new ED](#) at the Maryland State Bar.

In California, Bonnie Thomson is the new ED at the Kern County Bar, while Deborah Kemper is the Interim ED at the San Mateo County Bar Association.

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