



Top News

Scholarships Available for BLI 2017

The ABA is offering [five need-based scholarships](#) to help presidents-elect and other upcoming leaders of small bar associations attend the [2017 Bar Leadership Institute](#), March 15-17 in Chicago. In addition, the National Association of Bar Executive is funding a sixth scholarship, which will be earmarked for an executive director who is a NABE member. The scholarships consist of a registration waiver and a \$500 travel reimbursement. The application deadline is Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

The Division for Bar Services Releases Benchmarking Survey

The [2016 State and Local Benchmarks Survey](#) provides a blueprint of the membership, leadership, and governance structures of 160 bar associations. Groupings by bar size and type make comparisons with peers effortless. The publication also offers an analysis of significant changes from previous surveys. This publication would not be possible without your critical contributions. As such, responding bars received a discount code for 40% off the purchase price which is valid through February 3, 2017. Please contact [Joanne O'Reilly](#) if you did not receive your code, or if you have other questions about the survey.

ABA Center for Innovation Launches Fellows Program

Applications are being accepted for the ABA's inaugural [Fellows Program](#), sponsored by the new ABA Center for Innovation. The program features two types of fellowships that allow recent law school graduates and others to work at ABA headquarters in Chicago, and work with creative thinkers from around the country who are addressing critical needs in the legal sector. The application deadline is January 31, 2017.

Resources

ABA Releases Model Diversity Survey

The ABA has launched a [new survey](#) to assist law firms and clients in analyzing the role of minorities, women, LGBT, and disabled lawyers in law firms and on client matters.

Equal Justice Conference Offers Bar Leader Scholarships

Six [scholarships](#) are available for the [2017 Equal Justice Conference](#), including three specifically for bar association leaders. The conference will be held May 4-6, 2017, in Pittsburgh. Applications are due February 13, 2017.

Annotated Model Code of Judicial Conduct, Third Edition

This [revised and updated publication](#) from the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility presents an authoritative and practical analysis of the judicial ethics rules and the cases, ethics opinions, and other legal authorities essential to understanding them.

The Improvement of the Administration of Justice, Eighth Edition

This [publication](#) from the ABA Judicial Division gives an overview of the judicial

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BAR SCHOOL

JAN 30

Business Protocol
Registration Opening Soon

FEB 27

Legal Check-Ups
Registration Opening Soon

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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 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](#)

RECOMMENDED

[Washington Letter](#)

system and discusses how it has been and could be improved, from the perspective of academics, practitioners, and judges.

Awards

NCBF Excellence Award Winner Announced

Honorable Debra Walker, Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, has been announced as the winner of the NCBF Excellence Award. The award recognizes an outstanding contribution to law-related philanthropy by an individual. Judge Walker had served in several different leadership capacities in the Illinois Bar Foundation, including a two-year term as president. She also served as a member of the NCBF Board of Trustees.

To view past winners, [click here](#) and scroll down.

Nomination Period Opens for Professionalism Award

Nominations are being accepted for the [Michael Franck Professional Responsibility Award](#), which honors a career commitment to legal ethics, professionalism, and professional regulation. Nominations are due December 31.

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](#).

Nomination Period Opens for Young Lawyer Professionalism Award

Nominations are being accepted for the [Rosner & Rosner Young Lawyers Professionalism Award](#), which recognizes young lawyers dedicated to lawyer professionalism. Nominations are due December 31.

Nominations to Open for ABA Pro Bono Publico Awards

Nominations will open in January for the [ABA Pro Bono Publico Award](#). The award honors lawyers and legal organizations that improve or deliver volunteer legal services to the poor.

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

Three ED Changes

New York State Bar Association ED David Watson will be leaving the bar at the end of the year to become executive director of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education at the University of Michigan. An article announcing the position opening is [here](#).

In Pennsylvania, Steven Grumm is the new ED at the Lancaster Bar Association.

In Florida, David Seitz is the new ED at the Lee County Bar Association, replacing Sharon Brotherton.

For Your Members

GPSolo Buddy Program

A new ABA program offers an opportunity for both new and veteran members of

[Legal Services Now](#)
[ABA Membership](#)

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](#)



the ABA Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division to develop beneficial one-on-one relationships. For more information or to sign up for the program, email [Molly Hesse](#).

Get the Most Out of Retirement: Checklist for Happiness, Health, Purpose and Financial Security

This [book](#) from the ABA Senior Lawyers Division walks you through the process of planning retirement, from crafting a budget and managing money to last a lifetime to simplifying your life so you can really focus on what you want to do next.

E-Lawyer: A Guide to Legal Practice Leadership in the Internet Age

This [book](#) from the ABA Section of International Law shows lawyers how to navigate the new paradigm of law practice, create successful digital relationships, and build effective, modern leadership competencies.

Structured Negotiation: A Winning Alternative to Lawsuits

This [book](#), from the ABA Commission on Disability Rights and the Section of Dispute Resolution, describes an effective and path-breaking way to resolve claims without depositions, expert battles, or runaway costs.

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