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Oregon State Bar Asks Judge for Dismissal

Oregon State Bar Asks Judge to Dismiss Lawsuit Involving Mandatory Dues, Political Statements

The Oregon State Bar has asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit in which two attorneys contend that their constitutional rights were violated by having to pay mandatory dues in order to practice, and particularly by the use of those dues to publish a statement with which they disagreed. The attorneys say that they should have had a chance to object in advance to this use of their dues. The statement, in which several special-focus bars decried the rise of white nationalism under President Trump, ran in the April 2018 issue of the bar's *Bulletin*. This was followed by a decision to award \$1.12 (the per-member cost to publish that issue) to any attorney who objected. The bar's lawyers say that the bar is immune from federal lawsuits because it is an arm of the state; they also cite U.S. Supreme Court decisions pertaining to mandatory bar membership and the proper use of dues. Learn more at [Oregon Live](#).

American Bar Endowment Gives \$150,000 Grant Toward Representation of Asylum Seekers, Separated Immigrant Families

At the ABA's Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas last month, the association's Board of Governors approved a onetime grant of \$150,000 from the American Bar Endowment to the ABA Commission on Immigration. The grant is expected to fund the hiring of a pro bono coordinator to manage volunteer lawyers helping asylum seekers and separated immigrant families. Stephen N. Zack, a past ABA president and current president of the ABE, notes that his motivation in initiating this idea was not political but instead was both humanitarian and personal: Zack's family emigrated from Cuba when he was 13, after first being removed from a plane (before it had left for the United States) and briefly separated from each other. [ABA Journal](#) has more details about this grant and how it will be used.

ABA House Rejects Revision to Bar Passage Standard, Approves Several Other Resolutions

The ABA House of Delegates, at its recent Midyear Meeting, rejected the controversial Resolution 105, which would require that 75 percent of an accredited law school's graduates who sit for the bar pass it within two years. The Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar meets later this month and may decide to abandon the effort to revise the relevant standard, propose a different revision, or reaffirm and implement the changes. An [ABA news item](#) sheds light on the arguments for and against Resolution 105 and also lists the several other resolutions that were approved at Midyear.

Photos of New Partner Class Spark Controversy for One Big Law Firm Over Lack of Diversity

In December 2018, the law firm Paul, Weiss posted on LinkedIn the headshots of its latest partner class. There was just one problem: Out of 12 new partners, only one was a woman, and all of them were white. After criticism from many quarters (including a group of

general counsels), the law firm took down the image while also contending that this class is an outlier and that its overall diversity track record is solid. [The New York Times](#) talked with more than 20 women and people of color who have worked at Paul, Weiss and say they faced significant obstacles in their professional development and advancement. What are their stories?and what might the possible problems at this one firm help illustrate about the profession as a whole?

[2018 State and Local Bar Benchmarks Survey: Membership, Administration and Finance Is Now Available](#)

The 2018 Benchmarks Survey, a blueprint of the membership structures and activities of over 140 state and local bar associations, is now available for purchase. It provides information on membership trends, member dues/fees and member benefits provided, as well as data on bar administration and finance. Use the information to bring your officers and boards up to speed on trends and compare your bar with your peers. All respondents are eligible for a 40% discount off the purchase price of \$89. If you are a respondent, [contact Joanne O'Reilly](#) for your discount code before [ordering here](#).



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