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Are Bar Associations a Growth Industry?

New Series Looks at How Bars in New York State Are Fighting to Stay Vital, Attract Millennials

Last week, [New York Law Journal](#) launched a six-part series called "Survival of the Fittest," focused on how bars in New York state are coping—or failing to cope—as older lawyers retire and not enough new ones join. In the first installment, several bar leaders and new lawyers discuss some of the reasons why Millennials don't join bars. For example, does it really boil down to not having the money or the time, or is it also that new lawyers don't see the value proposition—or why it's "cool" to join the bar? Find out how some bars are trying to get at what's really going on and how to fix it.

Will the Next Recession Bring Another Round of Painful Cuts to State Court Budgets?

With another recession potentially looming, many court officials are sounding the alarm regarding the serious consequences of state court budget cuts during the 2008 recession. For example, according to an ABA report, one court couldn't accept new cases because it was out of paper; in some jurisdictions, police officers sat waiting to testify rather than being out on the streets; and many people were treated unfairly in foreclosure cases, in part because judges lacked the time to properly monitor for abuses. [US Law Week](#) takes an in-depth look at some of these consequences of the last recession, and at what messages might help prevent a new round of cuts.

Most Recent Average MBE Score Prompts Cautious Optimism

Bar passage rates for July 2019 haven't been released yet, but one indicator is looking good, according to [Above the Law](#): The average national score on the July Multistate Bar Exam was up 1.6 points, to 141.1—the largest increase in scores since 2008. MBE scores make up between 33 percent and 50 percent of the overall score in the 54 jurisdictions that use the 200-question multiple choice exam. What does the president of the National Conference of Bar Examiners have to say about this news?and what could put a slight damper on any celebrations?

Where Does Your Jurisdiction Rank in Terms of Average Lawyer Salary?

The average salary for private lawyers has risen in the decade after the 2008 recession and is now \$144,230, according to the ABA Profile of the Legal Profession. However, there is significant disparity between those who are doing especially well and those who aren't, and geographic location plays a major role. For example, thanks to its technology and media hubs, California has four of the top 10 highest lawyer wage-earning metro areas. Perhaps not surprisingly, rural areas in several states are in the bottom 10. [ABA Journal](#) digs into the data from this report and other sources to examine how lawyers are doing financially in different parts of the country.

ABA Releases Free CLE Program on 19th Amendment,

Moderated by Pete Williams of NBC News

As part of its 19th Amendment centennial commemoration, the ABA has just released a free "CLE on Demand" program called "[The 19th Amendment Then and Now: Lessons for the 21st Century.](#)" The program, moderated by Pete Williams, NBC News justice correspondent, articulates the ongoing challenges and obstacles to full enfranchisement, and sheds light on the complex, nuanced legacies of the 19th Amendment and how the battle for women's suffrage can inform current discussions regarding equality and access in our democracy. The 19th Amendment is also the focus of [Law Day 2020](#); the theme is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100."



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