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An Inside Look at the Demise of the Washington State LLLT Program

Why Did Washington State's LLLT Program End?

When the treasurer of the Washington State Bar Association recommended that the Washington Supreme Court consider sunsetting the Limited License Legal Technicians program, he cited the program's high cost and low participation. But now, in the aftermath of the court's June decision to eliminate the program, some LLLTs and others are suggesting that changes on the bar's board and on the court over the past few years led to a steady withdrawal of support, and to decisions that hindered the program's development. For example, while a similar program in Utah allows nonlawyer licensees to perform limited legal tasks in family law, debt collection, and landlord/tenant, the Washington Supreme Court rejected the LLLT board's request to add practice areas other than family law. [ABA Journal](#) talks to justices, bar leaders, LLLTs, and others for their take on exactly what happened. Also, in an opinion piece for the [Seattle Times](#), three high-profile leaders criticize the decision to eliminate the LLLT program. What specific objections are raised by William Neukom (CEO of the World Justice Project, retired partner at K&L Gates LLP, and ABA past president), Andrea Jarmon (past member of the WSBA board and LLLT board), and Mark Hutcheson (chair of Davis White Tremaine LLP and co-founder of the Endowment for Equal Justice)?

Bar Exam News: Illinois Applicants Petition for Diploma Privilege, Oregon Judge Questions Exam's Value

Whether directly because of COVID-19 or on general principle, many people lately have been questioning the necessity of bar exams?this year, or ever. For example, earlier this month, Illinois became the most recent state to mull diploma privilege, as applicants to the bar filed a petition with the Illinois Supreme Court. Why do the applicants think diploma privilege is a better response to the pandemic than moving the exam online? Find out at [Jurist](#). Meanwhile, in Oregon, which has opted for diploma privilege, one long-time appeals court judge has been holding nothing back when it comes to her thoughts on the bar exam in general: It's largely useless, she wrote in a recent opinion piece. How did Judge Darleen Ortega arrive at this conclusion, and what does she think would be a better way to assess prospective lawyers? [Above the Law](#) has more details.

LEAP to Be a Better Ally to Black Colleagues

The mortality rate from COVID-19 among Black Americans has been more than twice as high as for other U.S. racial groups, writes Stephanie Creary in [Harvard Business Review](#). Another public health crisis affecting Black Americans, she adds, is the systemic racism that underlies the shooting of George Floyd and other recent incidents. The "collision of these two crises" has awakened many people to the inequities and challenges that their Black colleagues face, Creary says?but how can coworkers who are not Black become stronger allies? Creary, an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Management, shares her framework called LEAP, which she says can help people reach out more effectively to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion at work.

Leaders of State Bar of Texas, Texas Young Lawyers Association Denounce Past Online Comments by State Bar President

Late last week, leaders of the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association issued a [joint statement](#) denouncing online comments made a few years ago by Larry McDougal, who is now president of the state bar. The statement notes that the comments, which disparaged #BlackLivesMatter, were not in keeping with the values of the State Bar of Texas nor with recent official statements by leaders of both the bar and the TYLA. The statement also says that the leaders of both organizations will work closely with and support the State Bar Office of Minority Affairs and the state bar sections and committees that focus on diversity and inclusion and equal justice under the law. The leaders also expressed support for bar President-elect Sylvia Borunda Firth's plans to create a task force to further advance these issues.

[Georgetown Law Journal Special Edition Commemorates 19th Amendment Centennial](#)

In collaboration with the ABA Commission on the 19th Amendment, the *Georgetown Law Journal* recently published a [special edition](#) commemorating the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Articles in the publication address the 19th Amendment as it pertains to women's rights; the intersectionality of gender and race; marriage equality; and voting rights. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg also shares her thoughts on many of these topics in a transcript of *Searching for Equality: The Nineteenth Amendment and Beyond*, a conversation between Justice Ginsburg and the Honorable M. Margaret McKeown, chair of the ABA Commission on the 19th Amendment.



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