



**Issue 217 | August 19**

## **Utah Gives Green Light to Numerous Regulatory Reforms**

### **Utah Supreme Court Unanimously Approves 'Regulatory Sandbox,' Nonlawyer Ownership**

For those across the country who have wondered what would become of the "regulatory sandbox" idea in Utah, the suspense is over. Last week, the Utah Supreme Court unanimously approved a slate of reforms, including ones to allow nonlawyer ownership or investment in law firms and to permit nontraditional legal services providers to try new ways to serve clients. These and other reforms were approved for a two-year pilot period, starting on August 14, after which the court will evaluate them to see if they should become permanent. [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including what the court had to say about this decision, and reactions from regulatory reform advocates in the United States and Canada.

### **Recent Figures Give Mixed News Regarding the State of the Legal Economy**

Figures released last week by the National Association for Law Placement show that law school graduates in the class of 2019 saw the biggest gains in the employment rate and median salary since just before the Great Recession. Among graduates whose employment status was known, what were the overall employment rate and the percentage of graduates working in full-time, long-term jobs that required bar passage? Among those who reported their pay, what was the national median salary? Find out at [ABA Journal](#). In contrast with the good news about the 2019 JD class, July's monthly jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed a steep decline in the number of new jobs added in the legal sector, compared with figures for May and June of this year. What does this mean for the legal profession's recovery from the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic? Learn more at [law.com](#).

### **Legal Administrators: Working from Home Is Here to Stay**

When the majority of legal professionals in the United States began working from home this past spring, many assumed that at some point, the office life they were accustomed to would resume. Recently, however, 91 percent of legal administrators in a nonscientific poll by the Association of Legal Administrators said they believe the changes to professional practices brought about by the pandemic—including working remotely—are permanent. One panelist in the webinar during which the poll was conducted said law firms will need to focus on how the work gets done, rather than on where it gets done. At his [LawSites blog](#), Robert Ambrogi highlights some key insights from a recently published white paper about this poll.

### **How Can Foundations, Others in Philanthropy Shift Power, Increase Racial Equity?**

As people across the nation continue to grapple with racial inequity and the systems that help it remain entrenched, what role can foundations and individuals in the world of philanthropy play? Typically, writes Nicole Jarbo, founder of social impact consultancy Goodbets Group, those working in and leading nonprofits spend a lot of time looking for the best frameworks with which to address inequity. But, she adds, they fall short when it comes to talking frankly about how to shift power in order to make meaningful change. At

[Fast Company](#), Jarbo suggests ways all organizations can ensure that people of color get a seat at the table and, for grantmaking foundations, strategies to remove bias and unfair hurdles from the process of deciding whom to support, and how.

## **ABA House of Delegates Passes Resolutions on Police Reform, Racial Injustice, Protest**

At the 2020 ABA Annual Meeting earlier this month, the ABA House of Delegates adopted several resolutions that address police reform, racial injustice, and the right to protest. For example, Resolution 301A calls for curtailing the qualified immunity doctrine that critics say shields officers from civil lawsuits regarding unlawful searches and excessive use of force. Resolution 116A encourages the collection of records and data on use of deadly force. Resolution 301C asks the government to "desist" from using force to "suppress lawful First Amendment activity." [ABA Journal](#) takes an in-depth look at these and other resolutions passed by the house.



---

[Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services](#)

[Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine](#)

{{AA\_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}