



Issue 232 | December 9

ABA Urges Congress to Renew Eviction Moratorium

ABA President Refo to Congress: Renew COVID-19 Eviction Moratorium to Prevent Crisis

If the current moratorium on evictions is allowed to expire on December 31, it could result in a spike in both unemployment and homelessness and a dramatic increase in demand for legal services and social services, warned ABA President Patricia Lee Refo. In a letter last week to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, Refo urged passing a renewal of the eviction moratorium and essential economic relief for rental property owners. [ABA Journal](#) has more details and a link to the full text of the letter.

Diversity and Inclusion Survey Finds Legal Profession Lags Behind and Is Losing Ground

In a recent survey by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, the legal profession was found to lag behind other, comparable professions in diversity and inclusion and to have lost ground on several metrics in the past two years. For example, on a metric called "belonging," law firms and legal departments scored well below professional services counterparts such as accounting and consulting firms. According to [Bloomberg Law](#), this indicates that many respondents, especially lawyers of color, feel that they can't be themselves at work and that their voices are not heard. Where else is the legal profession behind other professions, and how do the most recent scores compare to those from 2018?

State Bars in Nevada, Iowa, and Texas Debut or Spotlight Innovative Programs in Legal Services Delivery

As we head toward a new year, the momentum toward innovative delivery of legal services shows no signs of slowing. For example, the State Bar of Nevada is launching an incubator program to begin in March 2021. The Handle|BAR Incubator Program is "designed for those with an entrepreneurial spirit and enthusiasm about serving low- and modest-income clients," according to [the bar's website](#). The Iowa State Bar Association Rural Practice Committee is starting a mentoring program specifically for law students who are considering rural practice. An [ISBA news item](#) says about a dozen law students have expressed interest. Meanwhile, in his [executive director's column](#), Trey Apffel of the State Bar of Texas highlights the ways participants in the Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator have adapted and thrived during the pandemic.

Executive Director Candidate Files \$2.9 Million Discrimination Claim Against State Bar of California

A former statehouse attorney is suing the State Bar of California for \$2.9 million, alleging that she was offered the job of executive director but was then told the offer was rescinded without explanation. Fredericka McGee, who is African American, alleges that the bar's board of trustees breached a contract with her, engaged in discriminatory hiring practices, and violated her privacy. In a statement, a spokesperson said that the bar does not agree with the factual and legal statements in McGee's claim. Learn more about this case, including the date by which the bar must grant or deny the claim, at [The Recorder](#).

Now Available: Digital New Bar Board Member Handbook to Share with Your Board

Great news! Now, you can order a digital version of the ABA Division for Bar Services publication New Bar Board Member and share it with all of your organization's board members. An essential for well-functioning boards, the New Bar Board Member handbook provides an overview of the bar landscape and refreshes board members' understanding of fiduciary duty and the practices of exceptional boards. Use New Bar Board Member as a foundation for your orientation or for any board training effort. Access to the digital version will be available for a year from the date of purchase, for a one-time price of \$65; purchasers will be invoiced. To request a digital copy of New Bar Board Member, please email Lela Durham at Lela.Durham@americanbar.org.

What's Ahead for Public Interest Lawyers and Advocacy? Free ABA Program Looks at 2021 and Beyond

This year, growing awareness of systemic racism and a global pandemic have starkly spotlighted longstanding barriers to access to justice that persist in our country. On Tuesday, December 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Eastern time, the ABA is hosting a virtual program where lawyers and law students can learn what's ahead in 2021 for civil legal aid and public defender funding, the state of the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, how lawyers can help increase racial equity, and how to connect with ABA resources that address these and other issues. Brendon Woods, public defender of Alameda County, Calif., will moderate the panel discussion. On hand to field questions and solicit attendees' input will be ABA President Patricia Lee Refo and Legal Services Corporation President Ronald S. Flagg. [Registration](#) for this non-CLE program is free to both ABA members and nonmembers.



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