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ABA President Comments on the Chauvin Verdict

ABA President Refo: ABA Respects Jury Decision in Chauvin Trial, but One Verdict Not Enough to Ensure Equality

"A verdict may bring some justice, but it does not return George Floyd to his family," said ABA President Patricia Lee Refo, in a statement about last week's verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin. "While we have made great progress, the nation still must address the injustices, violence and racism that exist in our legal system that disproportionately and negatively affect people of color." The ABA believes reforms are necessary to restore public trust and to address systemic inequities in the justice system, Refo said; text and video of her statement are [on the ABA website](#).

To Reflect Its Work Toward DEI, Dallas Bar Association to Rename Historic Mansion Headquarters

Since 1977, when the Dallas Bar Association purchased the building, its historic mansion headquarters has been a point of pride and a welcoming venue for members and guests. Now, to help ensure that this welcome extends to everyone, the bar's board of directors has unanimously voted to change the mansion's name. Belo Mansion was named after its original owner, A.H. Belo, who was a Confederate colonel; in a statement, DBA President Aaron Tobin said that the decision to rename the building reflects the bar's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The [Dallas Morning News](#) has more details.

The Lost Art of Effective Disagreement: How to Help the Board Toward Healthy Conflict

For a board, conflict can be healthy and even necessary. But in today's polarized society, it has become more difficult for many people to disagree effectively and without lingering resentment. At [Associations Now](#), associate editor Rasheeda Childress talks with an association CEO and with governance consultant Mary Byers. What tips do they share to help ensure that board members can fully discuss contentious issues and still be on speaking terms afterward?

Rocket Lawyer Secures \$223 Million to Fuel Growth of Cloud-Based Legal Services

Last week, it was announced that online legal services provider Rocket Lawyer has secured \$223 million in funding to grow its cloud-based services, in part because the pandemic has helped increase demand for them. As indicators that it's time for the company to grow, founder and CEO Charley Moore points to recent regulatory changes in Utah (and potentially in other states) and to cultural shifts over the past year that have decreased legal consumers' perception that a physical law office is important. What could be next for Rocket Lawyer, which is a participant in Utah's "sandbox" to test new approaches to legal services delivery? Find out at [Westlaw Today](#).

ABA Practice Forward Group Releases Survey Results on COVID-19, How Law Practice May Evolve

The ABA Coordinating Group on Practice Forward has released the results of a nationwide survey of more than 4,200 ABA members. "[Practicing Law in the Pandemic and Moving Forward](#)" assesses the experiences and needs of lawyers in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic and their expectations about how law practice is likely to evolve as the worldwide health crisis winds down and eventually comes to an end. Bar leaders are also encouraged to visit [Practice Forward](#) for continually updated tools and resources to help legal professionals move their practice forward during COVID-19 and beyond.



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