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Data on the Pandemic's Impact on Associations

Four Recent Survey Reports Reveal How Associations Have Fared During the Pandemic, What's Ahead

You're probably well aware of the pandemic's impact on your bar—or its many different impacts, both positive and negative. But a post from [WBT Systems](#) offers a broader view, with links and highlights from four recent surveys of the association sector in general. For example, in one survey, respondents said their top three priorities were non-dues revenue; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and member retention. Another survey found that when it comes to events in 2021, 56 percent of respondents were interested in attending virtually, 53 percent were interested in attending in person, and 43 percent were interested in a hybrid format. What else did all four surveys reveal, how does your bar compare? and what factors did association expert Mary Byers' study identify as key in helping some organizations weather COVID-19 better than others?

In Response to Disciplinary Backlog, Proposed Bill Seeks to Halt State Bar of California from Collecting Licensing Fees

Following last month's release of an audit that was critical of the State Bar of California, state Senate Judiciary Chairman Tom Umberg (D-Santa Ana) has introduced legislation that would temporarily revoke the bar's authority to collect licensing fees. The bill also calls for the Legislature to consider what the licensing fee amounts should be, in light of this audit; for 2022, the bar had proposed a \$395 base licensing fee for active members. While the bar intended to shrink its backlog of unresolved disciplinary cases, the audit found that this backlog grew by nearly 90 percent from 2015 to 2020. The position of chief trial counsel for the bar has been vacant since 2018; the bill would prohibit the bar from collecting licensing fees until someone has been confirmed to fill this position. What do bar representatives say about the audit and the resulting legislation? Learn more at [law.com](#).

ABA Civics Survey: Views on Racial Bias in the Justice System Vary Widely by Race, Age

It's been said that we're a divided nation when it comes to our beliefs about race and the justice system. A survey released by the ABA in conjunction with Law Day 2021 put those differences in stark relief: While 80 percent of Black respondents and 63 percent of Hispanic respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there are racial biases built into the rules, procedures and practices of the justice system, only 45 percent of white respondents felt the same. The ABA 2021 Survey of Civic Literacy, the third annual such survey, also found big differences depending on the ages of the 1,000 people who responded. For example, more than two-thirds of Americans ages 18-34 believe there are racial biases in the justice system, compared with about one-third of Americans age 65 and older. [ABA Journal](#) shares other findings from the survey; a link to the full results; and a recap of a related event that featured ABA President Patricia Lee Refo, moderator Laura Coates from CNN, and three panelists.

Digital ABA Day 2021 Sees Highest Attendance Ever, Regardless of Format

For the second year in a row, ABA Day?during which lawyers from across the country meet with their congressional representatives about issues related to law and justice?was held online rather than in person. This year's ABA Day, April 20 and 21, also included a social media messaging campaign and a virtual conference. Among other speakers, attendees heard from several members of Congress and from U.S. District Judge Esther Salas (whose son was killed at her home, leading to increased focus on judicial safety). More than 500 people registered for ABA Day this year, which is more than have ever attended this event before, whether virtually or in person. At [ABA Journal](#), the ABA Governmental Affairs Office offers its perspective on ABA Day 2021 and what made it such a success.

Florida Supreme Court Considers New Rule to Limit How, When Legal Aid Can Spend IOLTA Funds

A new rule under consideration by the Florida Supreme Court has the stated intention of ensuring that legal aid groups spend IOLTA funds efficiently and strategically, by restricting how they can be spent and by what date. But legal aid organizations and others?including a group of 26 past presidents of the Florida Bar Foundation?say that the rule would promote instability and hinder legal aids' ability to attract new staff, to innovate, and to budget for the future. The proposed rule change stems from a task force report that made two main recommendations: that the Florida Bar Foundation should limit how much IOLTA funding can be spent toward administrative costs, and that this funding shouldn't be saved for future market downturns or other contingencies. [WJCT News](#) speaks with legal aid leaders and others about the proposed rule and its possible implications.



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