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Future of Mandatory Bars?

Do Recent Rulings in First Amendment Cases Signal a Major Shift for Mandatory Bars?

In the past few years, both before and after the *Janus* decision, several mandatory bars have faced First Amendment challenges that have mostly been resolved in their favor. But late June and early July 2021 might be remembered as the time when all of that changed. In two rulings on one day and a third just a few days prior, the Fifth and Tenth circuits breathed new life into cases against the State Bar of Texas, the Louisiana State Bar Association, and the Oklahoma Bar Association. At [National Law Journal](#), Chief Washington Correspondent Marcia Coyle looks at each case separately and at what this cluster of rulings could mean for what one judge has called "bar wars."

California Bar Exam Commission Has First Meeting, Seeks Experts on Diploma Privilege, Other Alternatives

The Joint Supreme Court/State Bar Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the California Bar Exam had its first meeting last week and has asked to hear from more experts, including those with expertise in diploma privilege and non-exam alternatives. The commission is also interested in the recent New York State Bar Association task force recommendation to withdraw from the uniform bar examination and develop a bar admissions test that is more specific to New York state law. What fundamental questions are on the table for this commission, and what are some likely next steps? Find out at [Bloomberg Law](#).

ABA President Patricia Lee Refo: Blaming Women Lawyers for Lack of Career Success Is 'Appalling'

A recent column in *ABA Journal* appeared to suggest that women lawyers' lack of upward mobility may be attributed to their overlooking key career strategies because of other commitments, including motherhood. A [rebuttal](#) by current ABA President Patricia Lee Refo and signed by the nine women past presidents of the ABA says that this viewpoint unfairly focuses on personal decisions while ignoring systemic issues that hold women back. "This is not a 'woman' problem," Refo writes, in reviewing recent data and spotlighting the ABA's efforts to address this form of inequity. "It is a legal profession problem rooted in outdated workplace structures."

In Rush Toward Recovery, Don't Put Those Pandemic Hero Employees Back on the Shelf

Earlier in the pandemic, it seemed self-evident that the goal was to get back to normal as soon as possible. But somewhere along the way, there's been a big shift: In a recent survey, 65 percent of employees said they were concerned that the pandemic-induced sense of urgency in their organizations will disappear. Why? During this extended crisis, individual employees stepped forward, regardless of hierarchy, and used their skills in ways that made them heroes. What can leaders do now, if they don't want to put all that talent and firepower back in the same old boxes as before? At [Harvard Business Review](#), partners from management consulting firm Bain & Company share two important lessons and five key steps to help those newly identified heroes continue to feel engaged, energized, and

appreciated.

ABA, White House, Other Leaders Collaborate on Efforts to Divert Evictions, Help Tenants and Landlords

As the pandemic recedes and evictions resume, the ABA is collaborating with the White House to develop strategies to help vulnerable families gain access to counsel, divert evictions, and connect both renters and landlords with resources. One part of this effort was a summit on June 30, which included representatives from the ABA, Legal Services Corporation, and the National Conference of Bar Presidents, as well as local government, judicial, legal and community leaders from 50 cities. Also late last month, the ABA and the Harvard Negotiation & Mediation Clinical Program released a report that identifies best practices to divert eviction filings and enhance housing stability. One finding from this research, which was coordinated through the Eviction Committee of the ABA Task Force on Legal Needs Arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, is that more than 70 percent of landlords surveyed were receptive to addressing tenant nonpayment issues outside of the court system. An [ABA news item](#) has more details about this collaboration and a link to the report.



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