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Issue 266 | September 1

Coming Soon: Expanded Tracking of Law School Diversity Data

ABA Council Votes to Expand Tracking of Law School Diversity Data

Among the inequities faced by law students of color is that, according to a study conducted a few years ago, they tend to borrow more and pay more for law school tuition. Late last month, the Council for the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar voted to track by race and gender the number of students receiving a tuition discount at each ABA-accredited law school. Earlier this summer, the council voted to track borrowing rates by race and gender. Kyle McEntee of Law School Transparency and Kristen Shaffer of the Iowa State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division believe the council is on the right path but hasn't gone far enough yet. At [Above the Law](#), they explain what else they think the council should track.

Connecticut Bar Association Takes In-Depth Look at Member Satisfaction

A recent Connecticut Bar Association membership research project went beyond the typical survey by interviewing some members in depth regarding what the bar does well and what it could do better. Several members mentioned the bar's ability to bring disparate lawyers together and offer opportunities for networking and connection. Opinions were divided about politics and diversity, equity, and inclusion: Some members praised the CBA's presence in the state Capitol while others wished it would steer more clear of politics, and some urged greater efforts toward DEI while others said they thought this was already too much of a focus. What else did members have to say? Find out at [Connecticut Law Tribune](#).

Spurred by COVID-19, Virginia Supreme Court Issues Emergency Order to Allow Pro Bono Work by Out-of-State Lawyers

To address "an emergency affecting the justice system" due to COVID-19, last month, the chief justice of the Virginia Supreme Court issued an order to expand the pool of lawyers available to help indigent clients facing eviction or in need of other legal assistance. The order by Chief Justice Donald Lemons says pro bono legal services can be provided by out-of-state lawyers and by law professors at Virginia law schools who are admitted to practice not in Virginia but in other states. [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including the parameters for this emergency pro bono work and what other states have recently adopted similar measures.

Mandatory Malpractice Insurance Disclosure Rule Takes Effect in Washington State

As of September 1, most licensed lawyers in Washington state must disclose to clients if they do not have malpractice insurance coverage at a certain level, and must obtain informed consent from their clients, confirmed in writing. Exceptions are limited, and the minimum amount of insurance to avoid the disclosure requirement is \$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 in the aggregate. Learn more about this new rule, which was approved in June 2021, at [JD Supra](#).

Thank You to New and Departing Members of the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services

A new bar year for the ABA begins on September 1, which means there's a new roster for the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services. The ABA Division for Bar Services wishes to recognize and thank these individuals who have completed their terms: Eric Cooperstein, Paula Frederick, Janet Welch and Chloe Woods. We also wish to welcome and thank these individuals who have started their terms: Mary T. Torres, Robert Spagnoletti, and Fred Ury. Thank you all for your service to the bar community!



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