

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View In Browser](#)



Issue 267 | September 8

New Lawsuit Filed Against the State Bar of Texas

State Bar of Texas Faces New Challenge from Lawyers Who Say Previous Ruling Is Not Being Followed

Last week, a lawsuit was filed in Houston's federal court on behalf of three lawyers who believe the State Bar of Texas has not complied with the 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals' July decision in *McDonald v. Longley*. That earlier case against the mandatory bar pertained to its use of dues to fund activities not related to regulating the legal profession. The lawyer for the plaintiffs in this new case argues that the bar ignored the ruling because it continued to demand full dues payments from all members by August 31 but had not yet offered refunds for dues spent on non-germane lobbying activities. A spokesperson for the bar said that it is committed to complying with the 5th Circuit decision in a timely manner, is taking steps to update policies and procedures, and has reviewed the new complaint. [Reuters](#) has more information about the new lawsuit, the previous decision, and how other mandatory bars have fared with similar challenges in recent years.

New Study: Two-Thirds of Americans Had at Least One Legal Problem, Only Half Were Completely Resolved

Across all income levels, two-thirds of people in the United States experienced at least one legal problem in the past four years, and slightly less than half of those identified legal issues were completely resolved. That's according to "Justice Needs and Satisfaction in the United States of America 2021," a study released last week by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System and the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law. The study, based on an online survey of 10,058 Americans conducted last year, addresses access to justice as a broad social problem and explores how people of various income levels and races and ethnicities experience legal issues differently. [ABA Journal](#) has more details and a link to the full report.

Law School News: First ABA Accreditation Under Way for Online-Only Degree Program, and New Survey Explores Deans' Pandemic Stress

While the details are still under wraps pending an official notice, last week, [Above the Law](#) broke the news that the ABA Council for the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar will approve accreditation for an online-only law degree program, a first, from St. Mary's University School of Law. In other law school news, a recently published survey found that deans across the country have experienced significant stress, anxiety, and lost sleep due to the challenges of COVID-19. Among the biggest stressors were budget cuts, the need to transition classes to a virtual format and, in some cases, political pressure to resume in-person classes sooner than may have been safe. Why did one law school dean decide to conduct this survey of his peers, and what has his own pandemic experience been like? Find out at [Reuters](#).

With COVID-19 Still Active, What Responsibility Do Meeting Planners Have for Health and Safety? 4 Key Questions

Both planners and attendees have been eager to get back to big, in-person events. But now, fear of new outbreaks of COVID-19 and the emergence of the delta variant have prompted many people to rethink their plans. What happens now and in the next year or so, if COVID-19 remains a factor?and what duty of care do event planners have, in terms of health and safety for attendees, staff, vendors, and others? In a blog post for his conference management consulting firm [Velvet Chainsaw](#), Managing Director Dave Lutz shares four questions that can help meeting planners consider what their responsibilities are and how to carry them out, and a sample release that attendees can complete when they register for an event.

Join the Student Debt Week of Action, September 20-24

A recent ABA Young Lawyer Division [survey](#) showed that the problem of student debt is worsening: 97 percent of law school students took out loans, and 75 percent of those graduated with over \$100,000 in crushing debt. During the pandemic, Congress and the White House acted to suspend federal student loan payments through January 2022, but the burdens will be there when the moratorium lifts. So, the ABA is joining with national organizations of other professions for a Student Debt Week of Action from September 20 to September 24?and wants you to join in, too! The ABA has graphics and messaging to help you spread the word on social media and tools that make it easy for your bar members to share their story with members of Congress to ask for change. Click [here](#) to learn more!



[Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services](#)

[Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine](#)



This message was sent to &EMAIL;.
Your e-mail address will only be used within the ABA.
We do not sell or rent e-mail addresses.

American Bar Association
321 N Clark, Chicago, IL 60654-7598
800-285-2221 | 312-988-5522

[Update profile](#)

[E-mail preferences](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Contact Us](#)