

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



**Issue 276 | November 10**

**Pro Bono Hours Increase During COVID-19**

## Pro Bono Institute Report Brings Good News About Lawyers' Service During COVID-19

Given that most of us isolated ourselves as much as possible during the first year of COVID-19, it might be natural to assume that lawyers' pro bono participation in 2020 was less than in 2019. However, according to a recent report from the Pro Bono Institute, the average number of pro bono hours worked in 2020 by individual lawyers in its Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge was 69.19—an increase of 15 percent over average pro bono hours worked in 2019. Pro bono and legal aid experts cite the ease of remote legal service vs. commuting to meet with clients in distant locations, as well as other factors—including a heightened focus on racial justice—that may help account for the increase. [ABA Journal](#) takes an in-depth look.

## When It Comes to Jury Selection, Vaccination Status Presents a Dilemma

From a public health standpoint, it may be perfectly sensible to exclude from jury pools anyone who is not vaccinated for COVID-19. But because of differences in gender, race and ethnicity, age, income, education level, geography, and political affiliation between those who are vaccinated and those who are not, this can result in a jury that does not represent a fair cross-section of the community. In a U.S. district court in Ohio, defendants successfully challenged the judge's vaccination order for jurors, citing these factors and public health data that showed only 42.6 percent of the state's population was fully vaccinated. How can courts help ensure health and safety without skewing the jury? Find out at [Bloomberg Law](#).

## New York State Bar Association Task Force: Excessive Billable Hours, Lack of Time Off a Major Hurdle for Lawyer Well-Being

To promote well-being and ensure that lawyers are able to take time off without feeling stressed about making it up later, law firms should cap billable hours at 1,800 per year and should not exceed this cap when determining bonus eligibility. That was one key recommendation by the New York State Bar Association Task Force on Attorney Well-Being, in a report released last week. The need for time off—truly off, without expectations to check phone messages or email—was an overarching theme in the report. Those in firms of 101 to 200 lawyers reported being the least satisfied overall, and 73 percent of them cited the lack of down time as the top problem affecting their well-being. [ABA Journal](#) shares additional data and a link to the full report.

## NCBP Fellows Award: Call for Nominations by December 1

Do you know a past bar president whose service stands out? Think about all it takes to be a bar leader who has demonstrated a lifetime of achievement or exceptional service to lawyers and/or the public—and then nominate a colleague to be recognized with the NCBP Fellows Award. The award will be given at the NCBP Midyear Meeting in Seattle on Feb. 11, 2022; submissions must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. Visit the [NCBP Fellows Award webpage](#) for details about how to submit a nomination and to see a list of past

winners. Please share this opportunity widely with your bar colleagues!



---

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

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

{{AA\_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}