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## **Tools for Keeping Meetings on Track**

### **Leading a Meeting Soon? 10 Tips to Help You Keep It on Track**

If you're in charge of a meeting, it might be tempting to think that your only role in keeping things moving effectively is to write a good agenda and then make sure everyone follows it. But in fact, your work goes far beyond that, according to Joel Schwartzberg, a communications professional at a national nonprofit as well as a presentation coach. A meeting leader should also think of some larger, strategic points that relate to the topics that are on the agenda; be an actively engaged listener; and use some transitional phrases to help attendees move through the agenda more smoothly. At [Harvard Business Review](#), Schwartzberg offers 10 tips to help keep your next meeting on track.

### **Florida Lawyer Seeking D.C. Bar Admission Says He Was Denied Because of Bar Exam Changes Due to COVID-19**

An associate at a law firm in Tampa says his admission to the D.C. Bar is in limbo because of pandemic-related changes to the Florida bar exam in 2020. The District of Columbia waives admission requirements for lawyers who pass the Florida bar, but Mitchell McBride's application was denied because he took the Multistate Bar Exam and the written portion of the Florida bar exam at two different times. In late December, McBride asked the District of Columbia Court of Appeals to suspend the rule cited as the reason his application was denied because of the unusual circumstances under which he took the bar exam. Florida delayed its July 2020 exam multiple times and then offered a stripped-down version in October 2020, without the MBE; Mitchell passed this exam and then took the February 2021 MBE separately. The D.C. Admissions Committee says his MBE score is not transferable because it was not part of his admission to practice in Florida. Learn more at [Reuters](#).

### **Nebraska State Bar Association, Other Organizations Part of Project That Assists Defendants in Omaha-Area Eviction Cases**

As in many other jurisdictions, defendants in eviction cases in Douglas County, Neb., rarely have attorneys representing them—and for about 5,000 people each year, this results in evictions that are processed with little discussion and scant time to find other housing. But a new program established in fall 2021 with funding from both the county and the city of Omaha aims to change that: Through the Tenant Assistance Project, the Nebraska State Bar Association, Legal Aid of Nebraska, and other organizations are working to provide pro bono legal representation for Douglas County residents facing eviction. [The Reader](#) takes an in-depth look at the affordable housing crisis in Omaha and interviews Laurie Heer Dale, director of the Nebraska bar's Volunteer Lawyers Project, about TAP's work to ensure that more tenants are represented in eviction cases.

### **An Intersectional Problem: Incarceration Rates Higher for People of Color and Poor People, Especially in Rural Areas**

It's long been known that people of color and poor people of all races and ethnicities are disproportionately incarcerated in the United States. Recent data suggests these trends are

especially prevalent in rural areas. According to a report from the Vera Institute of Justice, jail and state prison admission rates in major cities, which used to be among the highest, have been declining for the past few decades, while the opposite holds true for smaller cities and rural communities. The Incarceration Trends report also points out about two-thirds of people in local jails across the country have not been convicted of a crime and that data from Texas shows that in that state, Black women are imprisoned at rate 1.7 times higher than the statewide average. [The Dallas Observer](#) shares more details about this report and also about a new Legal Services Corp. task force aimed at expanding access to justice in rural areas.



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