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7th Circuit Upholds State Bar of Wisconsin Mandatory Structure

7th Circuit Upholds State Bar of Wisconsin Mandatory Structure, Rejects Janus-Related Claims

Last Friday, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the mandatory structure of the State Bar of Wisconsin, rejecting claims that compulsory membership and dues violate attorneys' constitutional rights by forcing them to subsidize political speech. In line with four other appeals courts in other jurisdictions, a three-judge 7th Circuit panel unanimously ruled that the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court *Janus* decision did not expressly overrule its 1990 decision in *Keller*. The lawyer for plaintiff Schuyler File says he'll ask the U.S. Supreme Court to take up this case; recently, the court declined to hear similar cases against the Oklahoma Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas. [Reuters.com](#) has more details.

ABA Civic Literacy Survey: Wide Range of Opinions on Changes That Could Help Improve Elections

The 2020 presidential election brought to the fore some important questions about how to ensure access to voting rights and the reliability of election results. The ABA 2022 Survey of Civic Literacy found that many Americans support a wide range of election change ideas: For example, 80% of respondents said they support expanding hours at polling places, and 79% said they think voters should be required to show identification. Meanwhile, 41% of the 1,000 respondents said they didn't know if their states had enacted laws making it easier or harder to vote since the 2020 election. [ABA Journal](#) takes a closer look at the survey and at a panel discussion about the results.

From Prep Courses to Exam Fees, Some Critics Say Taking, Passing the Bar Is Too Expensive for Many

For the past several years, some law professors, lawyers, and other stakeholders have been discussing the traditional bar exam and whether it is the best way to determine whether law school graduates should be admitted to practice. Speakers at a symposium hosted late last month by Mitchell Hamline School of Law pointed to one barrier they find concerning: cost. Taking into account exam fees, character and fitness review costs, laptop fees, and commercial bar prep courses, law graduates can expect to pay between \$2,000 and \$10,000 to prepare for and take the bar exam, said Marsha Griggs, a professor at Washburn University School of Law. What are the ramifications of this hurdle, what changes would some critics like to see, and how did bar exam officials and test prep company representatives respond? Find out at [Reuters.com](#).

Data from AccessLex Reveals Big Shifts in Law School Demographics, Pricing

After six years when men and women were admitted to law school at equal rates, and many years prior when men outnumbered women, in 2021, more women than men were admitted to law school. Racial and ethnic diversity of law school applicants held steady from 2020 to 2021, but there was a big jump from 2019 to 2020: In 2020 and 2021, about half of law school applicants were white, compared with more than 60 percent in 2019. Also, the price of law school (both public and private) is the lowest it's been in five years. These stats and more were gathered by AccessLex and included in its Legal Education Data Deck;

[Above the Law](#) shares some other key findings and a link to the full report.

ABA Releases Comprehensive Bar Passage Data Reported by ABA-Accredited Law Schools

In other news regarding legal education and bar exams, the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has released its most recent set of comprehensive data on bar passage outcomes from ABA-accredited law schools. In the aggregate, 91.17% of 2019 law graduates who sat for a bar exam passed it within two years of graduation. When those who were admitted through diploma privilege are added in, this increases to 91.27%. First-time test takers in 2021 attained an aggregate 79.86% pass rate (80.28% with diploma privilege added), a decrease of about 3 percentage points from 2020. An [ABA news item](#) offers more data and a link to the spreadsheets.



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