

BarLeader

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**Challenge to Montana's Lawyer Regulation System, Judicial Elections**

## **Constitutional Amendments in Montana Would Remove Lawyer Regulation from the Purview of the Montana Supreme Court, Eliminate Supreme Court Elections**

Proposed constitutional amendments impacting lawyer regulation and state supreme court elections appear to be unsuccessful in achieving the necessary supermajority support in Montana's state legislature to advance to a general election vote. [HB 965](#) removes the constitutional provision empowering the Montana Supreme Court to make rules on admission to the state bar and conduct for practicing attorneys. [Another of the proposed constitutional amendments](#) seeks to end Montana Supreme Court elections. Justices would be appointed by the governor for a single eight-year term. This [opinion piece from the Billings Gazette](#) from last week took a broad look at the various proposed amendments and reflected on their collective impact on the separation and balance of power.

## **Colorado Approves New Rule to Allow Licensed Paraprofessionals**

Colorado is the newest state to allow paraprofessionals to perform limited legal work. Last week, the Colorado Supreme Court approved the new rule which will take effect on July 1 and that will allow paraprofessionals to handle certain domestic relations matters. Learn more about the licensing requirements and what functions these paraprofessionals will be allowed to perform in [this ABA Journal article](#).

## **California Supreme Court Asks State Bar to Expedite New Procedures to Identify Conflicts**

In last week's issue, we highlighted several reports released by the State Bar of California that detailed unethical conduct by former state bar employees relating to the investigation of now-disbarred lawyer Thomas Girardi. Two weeks following the issue of those reports, the California Supreme Court has asked the bar to expedite rule changes that would require candidates for its board of trustees and its state bar court to disclose financial and nonfinancial interests and potential conflicts with lawyers they oversee. Learn more about the court's request in [this Reuters article](#).

## **Legal Professionals Meet with Representatives In Person and Virtually During 2023 ABA Day**

Last week, nearly 400 bar leaders met with their congressional representatives to advocate on issues important to the profession and the justice system. Leaders participated in discussions both in person and virtually, focusing on issues such as funding for the Legal Services Corporation and preservation of the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Learn more about the event and how you can continue to participate in [this issue of the ABA Washington Letter](#).



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