

BarLeader

WEEKLY

ABA

FROM THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION FOR THE LEADERS OF BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Issue 346 | July 19, 2023

SAY HELLO TO THE ABA CENTER FOR BAR LEADERSHIP

SAY HELLO TO THE ABA CENTER FOR BAR LEADERSHIP

We're delighted to announce that the Division for Bar Services has changed its name to the ABA Center for Bar Leadership. While **service** is still in our DNA, we hope the name change better reflects our commitment to promote strategic leadership and governance in the bar community – among state, local, and special-focus bars, as well as throughout the ABA. How do we plan to do that? We're evolving and expanding our suite of publications, services and programs to make them more accessible to bars of all sizes. We're exploring new ways to collaborate and leverage our knowledge and collective resources. And, we're building our research and consulting capacity to support innovation and transformative thinking. To learn more about our priorities, take a look at our [strategic framework](#), and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

MANDATORY BAR COURT CHALLENGE IN LOUISIANA, STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN DENIED CLE CREDIT APPROVAL, AND OTHER DEI-RELATED NEWS STORIES

Diversity, equity and inclusion is on everyone's minds of late, and last week we saw it appear in two bar-related issues. A lawyer representing Andy Boudreaux in *Boudreaux v Louisiana State Bar Association* argued before the Fifth Circuit that the bar is continuing to engage in nongermane activities, [citing content on the bar's website highlighting diversity initiatives](#). Also last week, the Wisconsin Supreme Court [denied the State Bar of Wisconsin's request to allow diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility courses to count toward the 30 hours of CLE credit](#) required of attorneys. In addition, Harvard Law School took the opportunity to devote much of its [July 2023 issue of *The Practice*](#) to DEI-related issues. And researchers at the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) reflected on the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision and how the organization's [Foundations for Practice work](#) can help to inform equity in law school admissions and in hiring in the future.

NEW ABA FORMAL OPINION SETS GUIDELINES FOR OFFICE SHARING

Formal Opinion 507, released July 12 by the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, addresses the possible confidentiality when independently practicing attorneys share offices. Lawyers who have this office arrangement should undertake, "appropriate measures to comply with their ethical duties concerning the confidentiality of information, conflicts of interest, supervision of nonlawyers and communications about their services." [Consult the *ABA Journal*](#) for additional information and analysis.

AMENDED BILL WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FOR STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

A California Assembly policy committee advanced legislation that maintains the State Bar of California's base 2024 licensing fees for active lawyers at \$390 and adds amendments that would require Senate approval of any future state bar executive director and general counsel. The bill's author, Sen. Tom Umberg, D-Santa Ana, rejected the bar's request for a fee increase and suggested the additional legislative oversight in response to the lingering fallout from the bar's handling of complaints against attorney Tom Girardi. [The Recorder](#) (subscription required) has additional details of the pending bill.



[Learn more about the ABA Center for Bar Leadership](#)



This message was sent to ani.lugo@americanbar.org.
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](#)