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**ABA Looks at State Bar Involvement in the ABA House of Delegates**

## **ABA HOD Seats Shift in North Carolina and California, Working Group to Study State Bar Concerns**

At its 2020 Midyear Meeting last week, the ABA House of Delegates approved Resolution 200, which moved two more seats to the voluntary California Lawyers Association from the integrated State Bar of California and gave the voluntary North Carolina Bar Association five of the six seats that the integrated North Carolina State Bar relinquished last year via a letter to the ABA. The State Bar of California, which previously ceded five seats to the CLA as part of shedding its nonregulatory functions, retains one seat. The North Carolina State Bar has no delegate to the ABA House, which has now formed a working group to examine issues that some state bars have raised regarding their participation in this policymaking body. [ABA Journal](#) has more information about the recent transfers, and about the new working group.

## **APRL Report on Regulation, Access to Justice Could Be Released This August**

At the same time that the ABA held its 2020 Midyear Meeting in Austin, Texas, the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers also met there, in part to work on its access to justice report, which could be released as soon as August 2020. According to [Bloomberg Law Big Law Business](#), the report will likely include some concrete suggestions for regulatory changes, including ones that would open law firm ownership to nonlawyers, redefine who can practice law, and make representation across state borders easier. How does this relate to work being done by the ABA and the Conference of Chief Justices, and how much sway do APRL's recommendations typically have?

## **Checking in with Utah's First Group of Licensed Legal Practitioners**

In October 2019, the first group of four licensed legal practitioners in Utah began assisting clients, primarily in divorce and family law cases, landlord-tenant issues, and debt collection up to \$11,000. The practitioners' entry into the legal marketplace made Utah the second state in the nation (after Washington, with its limited license legal technicians) with this type of designation. Now that some time has passed, [Deseret News](#) takes an in-depth look at the program, including the requirements involved, the scope of the work that's allowed, and how the practitioners have helped clients who might otherwise forego legal assistance.

## **New ABA Data: Bar Passage Rate Increases by Nearly 5 Percentage Points**

Things were looking up for first-time bar exam takers who graduated from ABA-accredited law schools in 2019: Their aggregate bar passage rate was 79.64%, compared with 74.83% in 2018. Another group saw a smaller increase: Among 2017 graduates who had until 2019 to pass a bar exam, 89.5% did so, compared with 88.64% of 2016 grads. The ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar notes that this information does not constitute a compliance report for the revised Standard 316; at [ABA Journal](#), learn what the next steps will be in determining compliance and communicating with schools with class

of 2017 pass rates below 75%.



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