



Learning
and
Practicing
Law



Protecting
Rights,
Accessing
Justice



Making
and
Implementing
Law



Research that Advances Justice

Did You Know...?

Founded over 65 years ago, the American Bar Foundation (ABF) seeks to expand knowledge and advance justice through innovative, interdisciplinary, and rigorous empirical research on law, legal processes, and legal institutions. To further this mission, the ABF produces timely, cutting-edge research of the highest quality to inform and guide the legal profession, the academy, and public in the United States and internationally.

Research at the ABF is conducted by a residential research faculty and over 50 affiliated scholars across the nation and the world from many disciplines. Our research program is organized around **three inter-connected pillars of activity.**

The ABF research is recognized internationally as a source of research that informs policy. Read on to expand your knowledge of our recent findings.



Learning and Practicing Law

Did you know...?

- Research has shown that most lawyers who passed the bar in 2000 are satisfied with their decision to become a lawyer
- Full-time women attorneys still earn only 80 percent of what their male counterparts earn
- People of color, especially women of color, are far less likely to have made partner in private law firms
- Most law schools are heavily tuition dependent for operating revenue. For one-quarter of them, over 80 percent comes from tuition

Did you know...?

- Nearly 39 percent of U.S. tenured law professors teach in the 50 top-ranked law school in the country, as compared to the remaining three tiers (comprising 129 additional schools)
- Educational levels of the mothers of professors of color and white women tend to be higher than white men
- Despite the fact that most tenured law professors expressed overall satisfaction with their work lives, female professors and professors of color reported differentially negative experiences.



Protecting Rights, Accessing Justice

Did you know...?

- Approximately half of all imprisoned persons in the U.S. are parents
- In high schools where parental incarceration is high, students whose fathers are in prison have just a 13 percent chance of graduating college
- A high school student whose mother is in prison has only a 2 percent chance of graduating college
—ABF researchers delivered these findings to a White House Briefing in 2013

Did you know...?

- Research shows there is a link between increased gun violence in U.S. schools and periods of heightened unemployment
—Research suggests the difficulties in the school-to-work transition contribute to an increase in gun violence in U.S. schools
- In neighborhoods with high rates of incarceration, there is a link to lower voter turnout in these neighborhoods by those eligible to vote

Did you know...?

- People are least likely to consult attorneys about problems involving personal finances, housing, healthcare, employment, and community needs
- Most Americans do not take their civil justice problems to lawyers or court because they do not understand these problems to be legal ones
- Where someone lives plays a huge part in whether they can get access to civil legal services
 - ABF researchers have delivered these findings to the U.S. Department of Justice
- Scholarship conducted in the ABF's New Legal Realism program has led to policy reform that protects low income people from predatory real estate speculators by a law called the Uniform Partition of Heirship Property Act. Eight states have adopted a form of this legislation
- ABF research reveals workplace discrimination law reinforces the very harms it aims to redress
 - This research has resulted in changes to the 2017–2020 EEOC Strategic Enforcement Plan
- That sitting jurors who are allowed to discuss a case as the trial progresses show better accuracy of recall, and report greater comprehension of expert testimony



Making and Implementing Law

Did you know...?

- ABF research has shown that early childhood interventions (ages 0–5) with disadvantaged children can:
 - Lower the crime rate
 - Reduce the achievement gap
 - Reduce teen pregnancy
 - Reduce the need for special education
- Early investments in children yield 7–13 percent annual return via better outcomes in education, health, economic productivity, and reduced crime.
 - Washington state's King County passed a binding policy measure, ("Best Starts for Kids") using this research
 - Former President Barack Obama referred to this research in two consecutive States of the Union addresses? (2013 and 2014)

Did you know...?

- Research has shown that medical advance directives are often ignored by decision-makers and physicians because:
 - The directive is not in the patient's chart
 - The directive is deemed too abstract
 - The actual decision-makers do not follow the directive
 - The directive does not accurately reflect the patient's wishes



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EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE • ADVANCING JUSTICE

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