

MAY 2020

2020 ABA Foundation Community Commitment Award

In the midst of the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, banks across the country are more committed than ever to seeing their communities thrive. The ABA Foundation wants to recognize banker-driven programs and initiatives that amplify the industry's dedication to giving back to consumers. Banks of all asset sizes and charters may enter in up to seven award categories, in addition to nominating a non-CEO bank employee for the George Bailey Distinguished Service Award. The Awards will be judged by a panel of experts in each category, and winners will be honored during ABA's Annual Convention this October. Tell us how your bank is strengthening the communities it serves, and you may be the next winner. [Apply now!](#)



America's Housing Month

This June, in celebration of America's Housing Month, the ABA Foundation is partnering with experts to host virtual discussions looking at the distinct housing needs of two populations: seniors and military families. Join us on June 8 for an important discussion with Harvard's Joint Center on Housing Studies and Northrim Bank to take a look at [Banks, Seniors and Housing: The Challenge and the Opportunity](#). Just two weeks later, tune in to hear from the Military Family Advisory Network and Citi (the 2019 Community Commitment Award winner spotlight this month) to learn about military and veterans housing needs on June 24, via our session on [Military Families and Affordable Housing](#). Both sessions are free, so be sure to register today!

Protecting Older Americans Resources

The ABA Foundation recently hosted two webinars to help bankers support their older customers. On April 21, bankers tuned in to hear from the Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on [Safeguarding Older Customers Amid the Pandemic](#). In honor of Older Americans Month, the Foundation highlighted [Innovative Bank Programs to Serve and Protect Older Customers](#) through a virtual presentation on May 13. Access both recordings [here](#).

Additionally, the Foundation added new resources to help bankers educate their communities about prevailing scams with new materials on tips to avoid coronavirus scams, social security scams, and tech support scams, as well as social media tools to engage consumers amid the pandemic. [Register for free](#) to access the updated Safe Banking for Seniors collection of tools.

Youth Financial Education Goes Online

Even in a pandemic, bankers across the country are still bringing personal finance skills into their community through virtual activities. [View a webinar](#) recording from ABA Foundation's Director of Financial Education Jeni Pastier, about resources and activity ideas that enable your bank to participate in 2020 Teach Children to Save efforts. Remember, it's not too late to get involved in this year's program. [Sign up here!](#)



High Number of ID Theft Reports from Active Duty Servicemembers

Active duty servicemembers file reports with the FTC about many forms of identity theft—and related problems with debt collection and credit reporting—at much higher rates than non-military consumers. Active duty servicemembers are 76% more likely than other adults to report that an identity thief misused existing accounts, such as a bank account or credit card, according to the Federal Trade Commission's latest [Consumer Protection Data Spotlight](#).

Banks in the Spotlight: Corporate Responsibility at Work

This month we spotlight the 2019 Community Commitment Awards winner for Supporting Military Families, **Citi, New York, NY** for its Bring Them HOMES initiative. This program is a collaboration with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and its affiliate, National Equity Fund (NEF), which finances, facilitates, advocates for and implements affordable housing options for formerly homeless and at-risk veterans. To date, 4,300 affordable housing units, including 3,000 specifically for veterans, have been completed or are in development.



Pictured: Rob Nichols, ABA President and CEO; Ruth Christopherson, Citi; and Laurie Stewart, Sound Community Bank CEO and ABA Chair.