

SEPTEMBER 2022

Infographic Offers Tips for Avoiding Scholarship and Student Loan Scams



As part of its annual **Get Smart About Credit** campaign, the ABA Foundation released **a new infographic** providing consumers with information on common scholarship and student loan scams and tips to avoid becoming a victim. The infographic is the first in a suite of four infographics the Foundation will release in the coming weeks highlighting scams

targeting college-aged students. Banks of all sizes participating in the **Get Smart About Credit** campaign are encouraged to share the infographics with their customers and communities.

Free Webinar on Combating Elder Financial Exploitation

An estimated 1 in 5 seniors is a victim of financial exploitation. Between 2019 and 2020, suspicious activity reports involving elder financial exploitation increased from \$2.6 billion to \$3.4 billion — the largest increase since 2013. Join the ABA Foundation and the Department of Justice on Oct. 27 for a **free webinar** on detecting key red flags to help stem abuse. Attendees will learn strategies to protect older customers from scams and ways to tackle this growing problem that costs seniors billions annually. **Register now.**

Can't-Miss Session: Driving Community Change Through Impactful Bank-Community Partnerships



The pandemic caused a surge in housing costs and a rise in unemployment, leaving nearly 600,000 Americans unhoused. Inflation and rising rental costs are compounding the problem. Join us Monday, October 3 at ABA's Annual Convention in Austin, Texas, for a session on how banks are leading community revitalization efforts to address homelessness in the Lone Star State. Learn how partnerships between banks and nonprofit

organizations are strengthening communities, and how targeted bank-community investments are creating permanent housing for homeless women and single-parent families—and discover how to lead similar efforts in your neighborhood. **Register now for Annual Convention.**

Stop Scammers from Exploiting Confusion Around Student Debt Relief

An [article in the September/October issue](#) of the ABA Banking Journal discusses three student debt scams your student consumers need to know about. Oakland, Md.-based First United Bank and Trust also shares how it helped a student who was scammed and offers tips for students to avoid becoming a scam victim. Learn how you can help your community make better financial decisions and develop a savvy army of scam spotters through free participation in the ABA Foundation's [Get Smart About Credit](#) program. [Read the article.](#)

And the Winners of the Community Commitment Awards Are...



Congratulations to **Bremer Bank, Republic Bank & Trust, Wintrust Bank N.A., First Commonwealth Bank, Simmons Bank, F&M Bank and Pathward N.A.** — winners of the **2022 ABA Foundation Community Commitment Awards**. The banks will be honored next month at the ABA Annual Convention in Austin, Texas, for their outstanding commitment to their communities through creative and replicable programs that embody corporate social responsibility and demonstrate success in measurable terms.



This year's winner of the ABA Foundation's **George Bailey Distinguished Service Award** is **Lola Pol**. Lola, Community Lending Manager at Capital Bank Home Loans' Washington, D.C., office, is a national leader in bringing first-time, low-income buyers into homeownership. With her comprehensive and hands-on approach to assisting low- to moderate-income borrowers, Lola has helped thousands of D.C.-area residents purchase a home. Lola is a top producer with both the federal and Washington, D.C., affordable housing lending assistance programs, and consistently ranks as one of the top three loan originators for sales volume at Capital Bank Home Loans (a division of Capital Bank N.A.)

Born in Bay Village, Ohio, to parents who fled communist rule in Cuba, Lola is the first Cuban-American in her family and has a strong sense of patriotism and belief that anything is possible in this country. Lola's desire to help and support others through lending began after working for the Mary Center, a Washington, D.C. nonprofit that provided health care, education, and social services to the city's neediest families. Taking on the job while pregnant, she learned the strategic and long-term importance of homeownership in helping families break the cycle of poverty. Lola's solution was to create ways for families to purchase homes.