
LAWYERS JOURNAL

ACBA adopts vaccination policy

By ACBA Staff

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 19, the Allegheny County Bar Association Board of Governors resolved an update to its COVID-19 protocol. The Board unanimously voted that effective Dec. 1, all individuals who seek to attend in-person ACBA/ACBF events or continuing legal education programs must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination status, or proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the event or CLE program. Members who attend in-person Board Meetings, as well as Committee, Division and Section Meetings must provide evidence of a COVID vaccination. Members may choose to attend Board Meetings, as well as Committee, Division and Section Meetings, virtually and will not need to provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccination.

This policy will be in effect until June 30, 2022, the end of the bar year. “This vote was unanimous, and we didn’t take this lightly,” said ACBA President Joe Williams. “Over the last few weeks, we’ve considered the various perspectives of all members of our bar association on this matter. This policy

is not meant to be exclusive. It is meant to be inclusive, so that all members can safely attend our events.”

“We acknowledge that information and data related to COVID-19 and the vaccinations continues to come to us each week and month. It’s our pledge that we will continue to track this information and the science relating to it, as we make decisions regarding this policy going forward.”

ACBA Executive Director David Blaner said that the Bar Association will be using software to help administer this new policy. Procedures on how the policy will be implemented are still being developed and will be shared soon with members in the *Sidebar* and on the ACBA website.

“It is our hope that all members will embrace and support this policy. This small ask will enable our members to meet safely in person,” Williams said. “The ACBA has been successful for decades due, in large part, to the comradery enjoyed by our members when they get together. This policy will ensure that our members can still do that while still protecting themselves, ACBA staff and our extended community.” ■