



American Bar Association
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654

Notice of Data Breach

Dear Steven Schuster,

This letter is to inform you of a data security incident that impacted the username and salted and hashed password you may have used to access your American Bar Association ("ABA") online account prior to 2018 on the old ABA website, or the ABA Career Center since 2018. The ABA takes the security of your information very seriously and sincerely apologizes for any concern this incident may cause. While the ABA has no indication that your personal information has been misused, this letter contains information about what occurred, actions that have been taken to prevent a recurrence, and steps you can take to protect your information.

What happened?

On March 17, 2023, the ABA observed unusual activity on its network. The incident response plan was immediately activated response, and cybersecurity experts were retained to assist with the investigation. The investigation determined that an unauthorized third party gained access to the ABA network beginning on or about March 6, 2023 and may have acquired certain information. On March 23, 2023, the investigation identified that an unauthorized third party acquired usernames and hashed and salted passwords that you may have used to access online accounts on the old ABA website prior to 2018 or the ABA Career Center since 2018.

What information was involved?

The personal information involved the username and hashed and salted password you may have used to log into the old ABA website before 2018 or the ABA Career Center since 2018. To be clear, the passwords were not exposed in plain text. They were instead both hashed and salted, which is a process by which random characters are added to the plain text password, which is then converted on the ABA systems into cybertext. In addition, in many instances, the password may have been the default password assigned to you by the ABA, if you never changed that password on the old ABA site. The ABA is notifying all affected individuals in an abundance of caution.

Although the ABA changed its website log-in platform in 2018 and asked each user to create new credentials, if you utilized the same credentials to access the new ABA website, www.americanbar.org, please update your password at your earliest convenience.

What we are doing.

The ABA takes the security of your information seriously and has taken measures to reduce the likelihood of a future cyber-attack, including removing the unauthorized third party from the ABA network and reviewing network security configurations to address continually evolving cyber threats.

What you can do.

Although the ABA has received no reports of misuse of your or anyone's information, you are encouraged to change any passwords which may be the same as or similar to the password at issue in this incident and remain vigilant against any unauthorized attempts to access your online accounts. If you would like to continue to use the ABA Career Center, you should consider changing your password in an abundance of caution. Your state law may require the ABA to provide additional information about identity theft, which is provided for you [here](#).

For more information.

If you have any questions, please call 1-888-411-8698, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Eastern Time. The ABA appreciates your patience and understanding and sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annaliese Fleming".

Annaliese Fleming
Sr. Associate Executive Director and General Counsel
