

Jena M. Valdetero
Tel 312.456.1025
jena.valdetero@gtlaw.com

April 20, 2023

Attorney General Anthony G. Brown

200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
Idtheft@oag.state.md.us

VIA EMAIL

Dear Attorney General Brown:

We are writing to inform you that our client, the American Bar Association, ("ABA"), is notifying at least 33,839 individuals who are known to reside in Maryland of a data security incident that may have impacted some of their personal information.

On March 17, 2023, the ABA observed unusual activity on its network. The ABA immediately activated its incident response plan and retained cybersecurity experts to assist with its investigation. The investigation determined that an unauthorized third party gained access to the ABA's network beginning on or about March 6, 2023 and may have acquired certain information. On March 23, 2023, our investigation identified that an unauthorized third party acquired usernames and hashed and salted passwords that may have been used to access online accounts on the old ABA website prior to 2018 or the ABA Career Center since 2018. The passwords were not exposed in plain text and, in many instances, consisted of a default password assigned to the user by the ABA, not a password selected by the user. We have no indication that any personal information has been misused.

The ABA has posted a conspicuous notice on its website, notified statewide media, and sent email notifications to the last known email address of affected individuals on April 20th, 2023. An example of the notifications is attached.

Please contact me for any additional information.

Best regards,



Jena Valdetero
Shareholder

Greenberg Traurig, LLP | Attorneys at Law

77 West Wacker Drive | Suite 3100 | Chicago, Illinois 60601 | T +1 312.456.8400 | F +1 312.456.8435

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Notice of Data Breach

Dear <<FirstName>> <<LastName>>,

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 reoccurrence, 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,



Annaliese Fleming
Sr. Associate Executive Director and General Counsel

THIS IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE HYPERLINKED TO NOTIFICATION EMAIL

For residents of Iowa: You are advised to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.
For residents of Oregon: You are advised to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, including the Attorney General, and the Federal Trade Commission.

For residents of New Mexico: You are advised to review personal account statements and credit reports, as applicable, to detect errors resulting from the security incident. You have rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). These include, among others, the right to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; and to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. For more information about the FCRA, please visit https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf or see the contact information for the Federal Trade Commission listed below.

For residents of District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island:

You can obtain information from the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, and Rhode Island Offices of the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft. There were 4,856 Rhode Island residents notified in this incident.

DC Attorney General	Maryland Office of Attorney General	New York Attorney General	North Carolina Attorney General	Rhode Island Office of Attorney General
441 4th St NW Washington, DC 20001 1-202-727-3400 www.oag.dc.gov	200 St. Paul Pl Baltimore, MD 21202 1-888-743-0023 www.oag.state.md.us	120 Broadway, 3rd Fl New York, NY 10271 1-800-771-7755 www.ag.ny.gov	9001 Mail Service Ctr Raleigh, NC 27699 1-877-566-7226 www.ncdoj.com	150 South Main St Providence RI 02903 1-401-274-4400 www.riag.ri.gov

Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20580
1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338) www.identitytheft.gov

Massachusetts and Rhode Island residents: You have the right to obtain a police report if you are a victim of identity theft.

For residents of all states:

You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, whether or not you suspect any unauthorized activity on your account. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com, or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

Fraud Alerts: You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus by phone and online with Equifax (https://assets.equifax.com/assets/personal/Fraud_Alert_Request_Form.pdf), Experian (www.experian.com/fraud/center.html) or Transunion (www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert). A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. Initial fraud alerts last for one year. Victims of identity theft can also get an extended fraud alert for seven years. The phone numbers for all three credit bureaus are at the bottom of this page.

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing payment card account statements and monitoring your credit reports for suspicious or unusual activity.

Security Freeze: You also have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency by visiting their websites below or by mail. In order to place the security freeze for yourself, your spouse, or a minor under the age of 16, you will need to provide your name, address for the past two years, date of birth, Social Security number, proof of identity and proof of address as requested by the credit reporting company. After receiving your freeze request, each credit reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password, which will be required to lift the freeze, which you can do either temporarily or permanently. It is free to place, lift, or remove a security freeze.

Equifax Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
www.experian.com/freeze/center.html
1-800-525-6285

Experian Security Freeze
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013-9544
www.experian.com/freeze/center.html
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion Security Freeze
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000
www.transunion.com/credit-freeze
1-800-680-7289