



# SPIRIT OF BANKING



NOVEMBER 2024



## A Post-Election Message from ABA Foundation's Executive Director

On the heels of the recent election, feelings of hope, anxiety and uncertainty are palpable across the nation. During this time, I want to remind you that the ABA

Foundation is here to help your bank make a social impact as you navigate heightened political tensions and polarization. Even in times of change, our commitment to driving community change remains steadfast. While we can't predict what tomorrow will bring, we believe banks can continue playing a critical role in projecting calm and unity, bridging divides, building trust and sparking hope for a collaborative future.

For guidance on how to continue to lead with purpose, I encourage you to read this article: [Business: An Unshakable Force in a Polarized World](#).

With hope,  
Lindsay Torrico  
Executive Director, ABA Foundation



## Upcoming Free Webinars

### [Supporting Financial Caregivers in Your Community](#)

Join the ABA Foundation and the CFPB's Office for Older Americans on November 14 to learn about new data trends on caregiving and age-friendly banking in the U.S. You'll also learn about resources to help your customers and communities support financial caregivers. [Register now.](#)

## [Help Consumers Get Banked in the 2025 Tax Season](#)

The upcoming tax season is the perfect time to offer free basic tax return preparation and increase access to banking products. The ABA Foundation will host a webinar on December 4, highlighting new FDIC research on how IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) providers can help more people get banked and guide them along the path to financial stability. Learn about the benefits and specific opportunities for your bank to partner with local VITA sites to support free tax assistance. [Register now.](#)



### **View New Guide on Suspicious Activity Reports**

Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) filed by financial institutions are critical to law enforcement efforts to fight financial crimes. SARs are especially important for identifying and combating the growing problem of elder financial exploitation (EFE). Check out our newest guide, designed to help bankers recognize the signs of EFE, respond promptly and report suspicious activities to the appropriate authorities. [Download now.](#)



### **Dec. 1 Deadline for Lights, Camera, Save!**

The 2024 Lights, Camera, Save! contest is open for student entries through Dec.1! There's still time to help teens in your community win a chance at \$5,000 by creating a 30-second video on any finance-related topic. We have everything you need to host a free local contest at your bank. [Sign up now!](#)



### **ABA Foundation Board Names New Chair**

Michelle Thornhill [has been named chair](#) of the ABA Foundation Board of Directors for 2024-2025 after a board vote. Thornhill is currently head of U.S. community relations for Citibank. "I am honored to serve as the chair of the ABA Foundation Board of Directors and represent banks of all sizes on a shared goal of furthering financial inclusion and access to banking services," she said. "I look forward to collaborating with my fellow board members to support the continued success of our existing programs, while identifying new and innovative opportunities to support all communities."



## **Banks in the Spotlight: Corporate Social Responsibility at Work**

This month, we spotlight the 2024 ABA Foundation Community Commitment Awards winner for the **Supporting Military Families** category: F&M Bank from Clarksville, Tenn. F&M Bank spearheads Operation Honor alongside several local and national nonprofit organizations to distribute resources to combat food insecurity, which affects nearly one-third of military families. The program also helps provide financial education and personalized banking services to active-duty military, veterans and their family members.

