The American Bar Association (ABA) has adopted new rules for record keeping regarding client trust accounts when it met earlier this month, reflecting changing rules in banking, technology, and evolving methods of legal practice.

"The Model Rules for Client Trust Accounts (MCTA) were last revised in 2000. The new rules reflect the changing landscape of client trust accounts as lawyers have become more reliant on electronic systems to manage those accounts," said Cynthia Thomas Walker, Co-Chair of the ABA Commission on Professionalism. "The revised rules provide a framework for lawyers to meet their obligations as fiduciaries and protect their clients' interests by ensuring the maximum safeguards lawyers must use when it comes to handling trust funds. This includes the security of client funds and the allowed use of those funds."