**New York State Bar Association**

**Presidential Summit**

**Thursday, January 20, 2022**

**2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

3.0 MCLE Credits: 1.5 Ethics; 1.5 Diversity, Inclusion, and Elimination of Bias**

The twin crises of the coronavirus pandemic and police brutality brought social justice to the forefront of the national debate. This was long overdue, but true equality cannot be realized until all vulnerable populations are protected and supported under the law. The Presidential Summit is the marquee event of the New York State Bar Association’s (“NYSBA”) Annual Meeting, and the 2022 Summit, under the leadership of NYSBA President T. Andrew Brown, will focus on two of the leading social justice and civil rights matters of the day: a reevaluation of the #MeToo Movement, and the intersection of transgender rights and sports.

**Welcome and Introduction of Attorney General James** 2:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

T. Andrew Brown, Esq.
President, New York State Bar Association

**Keynote Address** 2:10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Hon. Letitia James
Attorney General of New York

**Panel One** **–** **A Reassessment Of #MeToo: At A Critical Juncture in State & National History, Where Do We Truly Stand?**

1.5 MCLE Credits in Ethics 2:20 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.

Moderator:

Susan L. Harper, Esq.
Bates Group LLC

Panelists:

Kathryn Barcroft, Esq.
Solomon Law Firm, PLLC

Carrie Goldberg, Esq.
C.A. Goldberg, PLLC

Taa R. Grays, Esq
MetLife, Inc.

Debra S. Katz, Esq.
Katz, Marshall & Banks

Among the topics of the 2019 New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Presidential Summit was a review of how the #MeToo movement was spurring much-needed reforms to sexual harassment laws, as women across the nation spoke out in greater numbers about their harrowing and degrading experiences at all levels of the professional world. Three years later, America has its first woman vice president and New York has its first woman governor, who ascended as a result of her male predecessor’s sexual harassment scandal. A 2018 New York Times [report found](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2Finteractive%2F2018%2F10%2F23%2Fus%2Fmetoo-replacements.html&data=04%7C01%7CTRICHARDS%40NYSBA.ORG%7C5954a3c37e3f4d78a72508d9a8492cc0%7Ca865c650f59a418680e8ca03133ad958%7C0%7C0%7C637725854505196546%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=FT2WiEnSlIiZvyBDfiNx0kUeGhTm%2FByEFFV7omiAqQ8%3D&reserved=0) at least 201 prominent male business leaders lost their jobs after the fall of disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein broke open the #MeToo floodgates, but less than half of their replacements were women. This panel will re-examine whether changes to the law have, in fact, been successful in protecting and advancing women in the workplace and whether the movement itself needs a reset, including a review of the impact of the #MeToo movement on communities of color.

 **Panel Two – Transgender Rights and Sports: Civil Rights Now and Into the Future**

1.5 MCLE Credits in Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias 3:35 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Moderator:

Jacqueline J. Drohan, Esq.
Drohan Lee LLP

Panelists:

Prof. Erin Buzuvis
Western New England School of Law

Sasha Buchert, Esq.
Lambda Legal

Jennifer L. Levi, Esq.
GLAD

Dr. Emma Forbes-Jones, PhD
Clinical Psychologist

The fight for transgender rights is arguably the newest front in the modern civil rights debate. And yet, instead of widespread efforts to extend legal safeguards for the trans community, many states across the nation are headed in the opposite direction – especially when it comes to youth sports. An unprecedented number of bills have been introduced over the past two years to ban or severely limit transgender youth from participating in school sports. These measures primarily target K-12 students, and many are now before state, district and U.S. appellate courts.

New York, along with local school districts and athletic associations in many states, have policies that seek to protect the civil rights of transgender persons – especially children – while also ensuring a level playing field for all athletes. However, positions that may be taken by higher courts at the federal level could potentially limit or reverse these important safeguards altogether. This panel will provide education and the opportunity for mutually respectful, objective, fact-based dialogue on the constitutional, scientific, and social justice implications of these laws. In addition, the panel will address broader issues surrounding the competitive impact of existing guidelines intended to afford inclusion of athletes with Differences of Sexual Development (“DSD”) at the collegiate, Olympic, and other elite levels while ensuring fair competition.

**Closing Remarks**  4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

T. Andrew Brown, Esq.
President, New York State Bar Association