

**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING  
NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, NEW YORK  
JANUARY 20, 2023**

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**PRESENT:** Ahn; Aidala; Alcott; Alomar; Arenson; Baum; Beecher; Beltran; Berman; Block; Braverman; Brown; Bucki; Buholtz; Campbell; Chandrasekhar; Chang; Christian; B. Cohen; D. Cohen; O. Cohen; Cohn; Davidoff; Degnan; Doyle; Dubowski; Effman; Feal; Fernandez; Fogel; French; Gerstman; Gilmartin; Gold, Grays; Gross; Haig; Harper; Heath; Jackson; Jacobson; Jaglom; James; Jamieson; Jones; Kamins; Karson; Kenney; Kiernan; Klass; Kobak; Koch; Kohlmann; LaMancuso; Lara-Garduno; LaRose; Lathrop; Lau-Kee; Leber; Lenci; Lessard; Levin Wallach; Lewis; Lisi; Loyola; Lustbader; Lynn; Madigan; Marinaccio; Markowitz; Maroney; Martin; Matthews; May; McCann; McGinn; McKeegan; McNamara; C. Miller; M. Miller; Minkoff; Moretti; Morrissey; Muller; Mulry; Napoletano; Nowotarski; Petterchak; Quay; Riano; J. Richardson; Richter; Riedel; Rothberg; Russell; Santiago; Sargente; Seiden; Sen; Sharkey; Silkenat; Simon; Skidelsky; Sonberg; Stephenson; Sunshine; Swanson; Sweet; Tambasco; Vaughn; Wesson; Westlake; Wolff; Woodley; Yeung-Ha; Younger

Mr. Lewis presided over the meeting as Chair of the House.

The meeting was called to order.

1. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 2022, meeting. The minutes were deemed accepted as distributed.
2. Report of the Nominating Committee and election of officers and members-at-large of the Executive Committee. Sharon Stern Gerstman, in her capacity as alternate member-at-large of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee had nominated the following individuals for election to the indicated offices for the 2023-2024 Association year: President-Elect: Domenick Napoletano, Brooklyn; Secretary: Taa R. Grays, New York City; Treasurer: Susan Harper, New Jersey; and Vice Presidents: First District – Bridgette Ahn and Michael McNamara, New York City; Second – Pauline Yeung-Ha, Brooklyn; Third – Jane Bello Burke, Albany; Fourth – Nancy Sciocchetti, Saratoga Springs; Fifth – Hon. James P. Murphy, Syracuse; Sixth – Michael R. May, Ithaca; Seventh – Mark J. Moretti, Rochester; Eighth – Kathleen M. Sweet, Buffalo; Ninth – Hon. Karen T. Beltran, Yonkers; Tenth – Michael A. Markowitz, Hewlett; Eleventh – David Louis Cohen, Kew Gardens; Twelfth – Michael A. Marinaccio, White Plains; Thirteenth – Orin J. Cohen, Staten Island. Nominated as members-at-large of the Executive Committee were Thomas J. Maroney and Christopher R. Riano, New York City; LaMarr J. Jackson of Rochester (Diversity Seat); Barry D. Skidelsky, New York City (Section Seat); and Lauren E. Sharkey, Schenectady (Young Lawyers Seat).

There being no further nominations, a motion was made and unanimously carried to elect the above-named individuals as officers and members-at-large of the Executive Committee.

3. Report and recommendations of LGBTQ Law Section. Samuel W. Buchbauer, a member of the LGBTQ Law Section, reviewed the Section’s report and resolution in support of the “New York State Unified Court System’s UCS Bench Card and Best Practices for Judges ‘Using LGBTQ+ Inclusive Language and Pronouns’.” After discussion, a motion was made to adopt the resolution, after which a motion to amend the resolution to reference that “A group, or an individual who has requested otherwise, may be addressed by a gender specific pronoun.” failed. The main motion was then approved, and the following resolution was adopted by the House:

WHEREAS, judges have a duty to foster an environment free of bias, prejudice, and harassment.

WHEREAS, our profession must be vigilant in protecting the LGBTQ+ community, and especially transgender individuals, within the New York State Courts and require all judges to adhere to the Rules of Judicial conduct, the Bench Card both fosters a more welcoming, gender-inclusive space while simultaneously assisting judges in removing one form of bias from the administration of justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the New York State Bar Association supports the respectful treatment of all persons in the courtroom; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New York State Bar Association supports the Rules of the Chief Administrative Judge that judges have a duty to foster an environment free of bias, prejudice, and harassment; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New York State Bar Association supports the use of LGBTQ+ inclusive language and pronouns; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New York State Bar Association supports the adoption of the “Using LGBTQ+ Inclusive Language and Pronouns” Bench Card;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York State Bar Association approves this report and the recommendations of the LGBTQ Law Section; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers of the New York State Bar Association are hereby authorized to take such other and further action as may be necessary to implement this resolution.

4. Remarks by Deborah Enix-Ross, Esq. Deborah Enix-Ross, President of the American Bar Association, addressed the House on matters of mutual interest to the ABA and NYSBA, including the role of the New York delegation to the ABA, the integrity of the justice system, the importance of civics education, and partnership between the two associations. The report was received with thanks.
5. Presentation of the Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award. Ms. Levin Wallach presented the annual Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award to Hon. Elizabeth A. Wolford in recognition of

her contributions on behalf of women, and commitment to championing equal opportunities for all.

6. Report and recommendations of Committee on the New York State Constitution. Christopher Bopst, chair of the Committee on the New York State Constitution, and Alan Rothstein, chair of the Committee's Subcommittee on the Lieutenant Governor, presented the Committee's report entitled "Gubernatorial Selection in New York: Constitutional and Statutory Recommendations Regarding Gubernatorial Succession and Inability." After discussion, a motion was adopted to approve the report and recommendations.
7. Report of Task Force on Mental Health and Trauma Informed Representation. Joseph A. Glazer, co-chair of the Task Force on Mental Health and Trauma Informed Representation, reported on the mission, composition, and goals of the Task Force. The report was received with thanks.
8. Report and recommendations of Task Force on Racism, Social Equity, and the Law. Taa R. Grays and Lillian M. Moy, co-chairs of the Task Force on Racism, Social Equity, and the Law, outlined the Task Force's report and recommendations addressing legal, regulatory, and societal structures currently affecting people of color in New York State. After discussion, a motion was unanimously adopted to approve the report and recommendations.
9. Administrative items. Mr. Lewis reported that at the April 1, 2023, meeting, the House will be requested to elect five of the Association's eleven delegates to the American Bar Association House of Delegates. The Nominating Committee had nominated the following individuals for the 2023-2025 term: Claire P. Gutekunst, Yonkers; Michael Miller, New York City; Scott M. Karson, Stony Brook; Sherry Levin Wallach, White Plains; and Domenick Napoletano, Brooklyn.

Mr. Lewis announced the names of the members designated by Article VIII of the Bylaws to serve as members-at-large of the Nominating Committee for the 2023-2024 Association year. The members-at-large will be as follows: Scott M. Karson, chair, of Stony Brook; Henry M. Greenberg of Albany; T. Andrew Brown of Rochester; and Michael Miller, alternate, of New York City.

10. New Business. Mr. Lewis read the following statement:

Yesterday, the New York State Bar Association Executive Committee approved the appointment of a Special Committee on the Selection of Judges for the Court of Appeals in response to concerns raised in recent weeks over the appointment of a chief judge. The committee will examine the selection process, including its history, and make recommendations to the association.

The Executive Committee reaffirms that the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary are crucial to the administration of justice. It is of the utmost importance to public confidence that there is a fair process that allows the judiciary to operate independently and effectively.

11. Report of Task Force on Emerging Digital Finance and Currency. Dana Syracuse, co-chair of the Task Force on Emerging Digital Finance and Currency, presented on the Task Force's ongoing work and programming. The report was received with thanks.
12. Date and place of next meeting. Mr. Lewis announced that the next meeting of the House of Delegates would take place on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at the Bar Center in Albany, New York, with an option for remote participation.
13. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the House of Delegates, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Taa R. Grays', written in black ink.

Taa R. Grays  
Secretary

**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

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*In Memoriam*

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**JOHN J. YANAS, SR.**

**JOHN J. YANAS, SR.**

**MEMORIAL  
To**

**JOHN J. YANAS, SR.**

*Presented by  
Justin L. Vigdor*

*New York State Bar Association*

*at the  
House of Delegates Meeting  
January 20, 2023  
New York, New York*

***John J. Yanas, Sr.***  
**1929-2023**

*Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am moved and honored to have been asked to say a few words and tribute in honor of the Honorable John J. Yanas, Sr., who passed away early in this month.*

*Although regrettably I had too little contact with him in the last several years, I had known John for almost 50 years, as we devoted that time and such talent as we had to this Bar Association and the Foundation. We served together over many years on many Association committees, and we both had the honor to serve as President of the Association.*

*As we mourn his death in sadness, we must also celebrate his long life, and the lessons that we learn from it.*

*John was devoted to the profession. He was a highly esteemed trusts and estates lawyer and real estate lawyer. He was also very active in the American Bar Association and the College of Real Estate lawyers.*

*John's life is an example of how life ought to be lived with modesty, and as a role model husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. In this example, he is a role model for us all.*



*John's leadership in the Bar was matched by his leadership in the Albany community. He served as City Court judge and chair of the Mayor's Selection Committee, and as a member of the board of the Home and City Savings Bank, the Monroe Abstract and Title Corporation, and the Fort Orange Club, among others.*

*As a person of very deep faith, John gave much of himself to the Christian Brothers of New York, from which he received Letters of Benefaction and the Distinguished Lasallian Trustee Award from the Christian Brothers of the New York Province.*

*Nor did he neglect his alma mater, Albany Law School, on whose board he served as chair. The Law School awarded him an honorary doctoral degree and made him a Trustee Emeritus of the Board of Trustees.*

*For all this John was recognized with a listing in Who's Who in American Law.*

*And with all this activity devoted to law and his community, John still made time for his love of jazz, the American musical theatre, and the great game of golf.*

*In short, John clearly met Mark Twain's test of a good man – one who so lives that when he dies, even the undertaker is sorry.*

*Our profession, and indeed, our society, is poorer for his loss.*