

150 Years





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Let us trust that  
this association  
may endure,  
and that it  
may exercise  
a collective  
and permanent  
influence.

**John K. Porter**

President, New York State Bar Association  
November 20, 1877





# Become a Member

## How NYSBA Works for Our Members

Membership in the New York State Bar Association allows attorneys the opportunity to stay current on changes in New York law while expanding their professional network in New York and outside its borders.

### Expand your network

Join one or more of our 28 Sections. Get members-only access to online communities, allowing you to easily exchange ideas and advice with colleagues.

### Stay current on changes in New York law

Your trusted source for professional development, NYSBA members have access to award-winning educational programs through NYSBA CLE.

### Access exceptional content

Stay informed with NYSBA publications including the NYSBA Journal, CasePrepPlus, New York State Law Digest and State Bar News.

### Get resources for your practice

Stay current and competitive with ethics opinions, forms and reference publications.

**[NYSBA.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](https://nysba.org/membership)**

# NYSBA's Influence

On a November day in 1877, as John K. Porter assumed office as the first president of the newly created New York State Bar Association, he held out the hope that "this association may endure, and that it may exercise a collective and permanent influence." Today, nearly a century and a half later, the New York State Bar Association has not only endured, but flourished. With approximately 60,000 members and 28 sections

devoted to different areas of the law, NYSBA is the largest voluntary state bar association in the United States. With 65 chapters serving members in more than 100 countries worldwide, NYSBA is a large and growing presence on the global stage.

NYSBA's influence has been collective and permanent, as President Porter had hoped, not only in New York State but far beyond. The international court

known as the Hague, the New York Public Library, and the environmental treasure known as the Adirondack Park all owe their existence to the foresight and efforts of NYSBA members. Our membership rolls have included U.S. Presidents, New York Governors, Chief Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, Chief Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; Chief Judges of the New York Court of Appeals, and brilliant legal



minds including Benjamin Cardozo, Learned Hand and Harlan Fiske Stone.

Our history is rich, from the Boss Tweed investigations to the Bar's outpouring of assistance in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks. NYSBA has been a permanent influence on the issues of the day, on the debates, the decisions, the actions of government, and the evolution of the law and jus-

tice system. We are a positive force helping to shape a more just society.

More than anything, though, we are trailblazers. That was evident as far back as 1876, when the very legislation creating the association also removed the barriers to women practicing law in the state. It was the beginning of a progressive tradition that continues to this day under our current leadership.

Then as now, NYSBA's mission has been the same – to cultivate the science of jurisprudence; to promote reform in the law; to facilitate the administration of justice, and to elevate the standards of integrity, honor, professional skill, and courtesy in the legal profession.



# What NYSBA Does

## We are leaders.

From our earliest years, the New York State Bar Association has played a leadership role for the legal profession on the global, national and state levels. Here are just a few examples of that leadership:

### Global Leaders

- » In 1896, a border dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela prompted NYSBA to propose the first worldwide means of settling international disputes through a permanent court of arbitration – what is today known as The Hague.
- » In 1923 an arbitration law initiated by NYSBA is accepted nationally and internationally.
- » In 2013 the New York International Arbitration Center opens in Manhattan, after NYSBA's Task Force saw the need for a permanent center to maintain New York's status as one of the world's leading center for resolving international disputes.
- » Today, New York law is the choice of law for many countries seeking to resolve complex business cases. New York's Commercial Division, which hears such cases, was the brainchild of the late Chief Judge Judith Kaye, a stalwart NYSBA member.

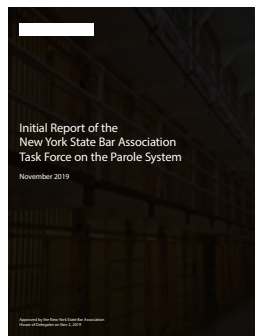
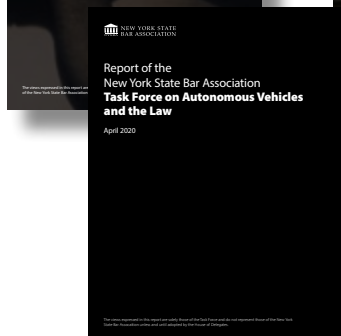
## National Leaders

- » NYSBA's ethics opinions are respected nationwide, and often looked to and cited by bar associations in other states seeking guidance on resolving ethical issues.
- » NYSBA's membership rolls have included the names of national leaders including three U.S. presidents – Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt – and U.S. Supreme Court justices, including Chief Justices Charles Evan Hughes and Harlan Fiske Stone and Associate Justices Samuel Blatchford, Rufus Peckham and Robert H. Jackson. That tradition continues today as several sitting justices of the Supreme Court are members of NYSBA, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan and Samuel Alito. NYSBA members have also served as Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, including Henry Friendly and Learned Hand.
- » NYSBA regularly challenges proposed legislation that it believes is unfair to the public. As just one example, in 1998 NYSBA went to court to challenge then-Attorney General Janet Reno's so-called "Granny's Counsel Goes to Jail" law, which would have punished attorneys for legally advising senior citizens on disposing of their assets to qualify for Medicaid. The attorney general backed down.

## State Leaders

NYSBA's committees and task forces examine the legal issues of the day and propose solutions for lawmakers and politicians to consider. Our conferences and symposiums provide forums to discuss these issues and proposed solutions. Just a few examples will show the scope of these efforts and the results they have achieved.

- » In January 2013, the Task Force on Family Court, after a two-year study, recommended more judges to handle increasing caseloads. In June 2014 the legislature passed, and the governor signed, legislation creating 25 new judgeships, ending decades of understaffing for what is known as the People's Court because of the types of cases it hears.
- » In January 2017 legal services for indigent defendants were expanded from a five-county region to the entire state – one of NYSBA's priorities. Other changes sought – and implemented – included video recordings of criminal interrogations and the opportunity for non-violent offenders to have their criminal records sealed under certain conditions.
- » NYSBA also leads by example, as we have always looked at our own house when reforms are warranted. In 1901 NYSBA became the first major bar association in the state to elect a woman, Kate Crennell of Rochester, to membership. Today, NYSBA's commitment to diversity continues in its leadership and advocacy.





# What NYSBA Offers

## To the Public and the Community

**NYSBA serves not only its members but also the general public by offering guidance on legal issues and, when warranted, legal assistance to those in need of legal advice but who are unable to afford a lawyer.**

One recent, and exemplary, moment came last year when NYSBA attorneys teamed up with law students at Albany Law School to provide free legal assistance to hundreds of Central American migrants who had crossed the border into the U.S. and were transported to the Albany County Correctional Facility while awaiting a decision on whether they might stay in this country, or face deportation. Most of the migrants spoke little or no English and had scant knowledge of U.S. law. The volunteer attorneys and students helped guide the migrants through the legal process while ensuring that their legal rights were protected.

NYSBA's Department of Public Interest partners with legal service providers, the courts, governmental organizations and law schools to provide pro bono service training, recruitment and guidance. NYSBA advocates for increased civil legal service funding and our Empire State Counsel programs highlight members who have provided 50 or more hours of pro bono work in a given year.

The New York Bar Foundation, NYSBA's charitable arm, continues to provide



assistance to citizens who are facing an array of struggles in everyday life – senior citizens, veterans, families and children. It works not only to fund access to justice programs statewide and law-related public educational initiatives but also to change individual lives. Just recently the Foundation came to the aid of a single father struggling to raise three children afflicted with autism and a young mother of two young children fleeing the horrors of domestic abuse.

NYSBA also provides legal help for low-income persons through its website [NY.freelegalanswers.org](http://NY.freelegalanswers.org). Individuals can log on with simple legal questions and reach attorneys who will answer them.

The Law, Youth & Citizenship Program develops and supports education programs for the people of the State of New York on the privileges as well as the duties of citizens of the United States, including programs for the education and training of students, teachers and adults, both on its own initiative and in cooperation with the Education Department of the State of New York and other public and private agencies. It conducts an annual Civics and Law-related Education Conference as well as a Mock Trial Institute for high school students and a Mock Trial Tournament held in Albany. The award-winning Law, Youth and Citizenship Program is one of the largest civic and law-related education programs in the nation.

NYSBA and the New York State Unified Court System are sponsors of a convocation titled *Teaching Our Children to Save Democracy: Improving Civic Education in New York's Schools*. The convocation explores issues involving civics education in the schools and the role of the Bar and Bench in addressing the crisis in civic knowledge.

# What NYSBA Offers

## To the State

NYSBA regularly proposes reforms to state court procedures as well as positions on issues of statewide policies, regulations and laws. Here are recent examples of how NYSBA has had an impact statewide:

- » In November 2022, NYSBA commenced a lawsuit against the State of New York seeking to compel an increase in the hourly rate paid to attorneys accepting assigned counsel (18b) cases or indigent persons. *New York State Bar Association v. State of New York* (Supreme Court, 2022). In 2023 the New York State legislative and Governor agreed to raise the rate paid for attorneys in such cases for the first time in twenty years.
- » In 2020 the Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court adopted NYSBA's proposed Updated Standards of Civility, which call for a balance between zealous advocacy and respect for courtroom decorum by all parties.
- » In 2020 NYSBA supported legalization of adult recreational use of marijuana which became legal in New York in 2021.
- » NYSBA has urged the governor and Legislature to establish a right to counsel in immigration proceedings, which would make New York the first state in the country to have such a requirement.

NYSBA's Publications Department published a new book amid the shocking reports of migrant detention centers along the Mexican border. Titled *Is America Keeping Its Promise? Safeguarding Legal Protections for Immigrants*, it draws a sharp contrast between the humane immigration policies in New York state and the harsh treatment favored by the White House.



Through its Government Relations Department, NYSBA officials regularly visit lawmakers in Albany and Washington to urge reforms. Advocacy, undertaken by NYSBA along with the state's district attorneys and the Innocence Project, resulted in New York requiring recording of interrogations of suspects in serious crimes and allowing photo arrays in enhanced identification procedures.



## To the Nation

Just as in Albany, when NYSBA leaders travel to the Capitol to meet with lawmakers, Association leaders also travel to Washington to present NYSBA's national agenda. What follows are two recent examples of NYSBA's influence that are representative of many such initiatives throughout the Association's history.

- » In 2017, NYSBA leaders traveled to Washington to oppose a White House proposal to defund the Legal Services Corporation, which would have had a devastating impact on New York's legal services, and for low-income persons nationwide.
- » In 2019, NYSBA, Legal Aid, along with pro bono partners, filed amicus briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court on two pending cases – whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex orientation and/or gender identity, and urging the Court to grant *certiorari* to a New York Court of Appeals ruling denying inmates at Rikers island expecting privacy when using phones monitored by the state Department of Corrections.

## To Our Members

### Global Reach

While based in New York, NYSBA has evolved into a virtual bar center, providing much needed resources and support to any attorney who joins our organization as a member, no matter where they are geographically. Our virtual communities provide members the ability to connect and network from anywhere, anytime.



# What NYSBA Offers

## Continuing Legal Education

Every year, NYSBA presents hundreds of live and virtual programs in a variety of formats statewide. Programs range from practice-based "how to's" introducing new lawyers to various areas of practice to institutes offering in-depth analysis for experienced attorneys.

Consistently sold out, NYSBA's popular "Bridging the Gap" two-day CLE program for newly admitted attorneys is offered multiple times a year, live with simultaneous video-conference links.

The NYSBA Digital Media Library offers hundreds of recorded topics in online video/audio streaming and DVD/CD formats. Closed captioning is available for online programs.

In addition, the Law Practice Management Committee focuses on the needs of solo and small firm practitioners. LPM produces CLE programs and publications and maintains a website resource database that provides practical tips on how to manage and apply technology in day-to-day practice.

## Publications

NYSBA has published more than 100 books, supplements, and form products, including downloadable forms, and document assembly products created by experienced attorneys for attorneys practicing in New York or relying on New York law.

The Publications Department also offers e-book versions of their titles coupled with downloadable forms as well as an online reference library on Fastcase, which allows members to electronically access virtually all NYSBA reference titles with links to the cited authorities. Other publications include *State Law Digest* and *CasePrepPlus*, a weekly e-newsletter summarizing recent and significant appellate cases.

NYSBA's document assembly products include the Estate Planning System, created by a leading New York trusts and estates practitioner, which enables users to draft customized estate-planning documents.

The New York State Bar Association *Journal* is published 10 times a year and is the Association's flagship periodical. In addition, each Section publishes a newsletter at least once a year and in most cases up to four times per year containing articles of interest on various areas of law.

## Lawyer Assistance Program

NYSBA is there to provide confidential assistance to attorneys, judges and law students who are struggling with alcohol or other substance abuse, mental health issues or other personal concerns that can potentially impact their ability to function in the legal profession. The LAP program also provides CLEs for professionals and educational programs to law school students on recognizing, preventing and dealing with addiction, suicide and other mental health issues.

## Lawyer Referral and Information Service

NYSBA's referral service that matches attorneys with those seeking legal representation has a long history of success but it is even more successful today thanks to its online referral platform that has helped to significantly increase client referrals to LIRS panel attorneys.





# Structure and Governance

## House of Delegates

The NYSBA House of Delegates, is the decision and policy-making body of the Association. The House meets four times a year (January, April, June and November). Action taken by the House of Delegates on specific issues becomes official NYSBA policy.

The House of Delegates is composed of approximately 270 in-state and out-of-state members. A simple representational formula allows many diverse bar associations of lawyers within the state to be represented in this forum.

## Executive Committee

The 30-member Executive Committee has the authority to act and speak for the NYSBA, consistent with previous action of the House of Delegates, when the House is not in session.

The Executive Committee meets quarterly and at other times as necessary. The Executive Committee is composed of the President, President-elect, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Association. In addition, there are vice-presidents from each of the 13 judicial districts (the 1st district has two vice presidents) in the state and 11 members-at-large. The immediate past president is also a member of this body. All officers are elected to serve one-year terms.

## Sections and Committees

NYSBA's Committees research and make recommendations on issues of concern to the profession. Our 28 Sections offer online communities, resources, innovative and substantive CLE programs and outreach to students, young lawyers and diverse attorneys.



# NYSBA Milestones





# NYSBA Milestones

## NOVEMBER 21, 1876

The New York State Bar Association is born after an into-the-night meeting in Albany where a constitution and bylaws are drafted.

Dues are \$5 annually.

The **Hon. John K. Porter** is the first president.



## NOVEMBER 21, 1876

The legislation creating the New York Bar Association also removes barriers to women practicing law in the state.



DECEMBER 1876

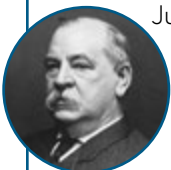
**631 Members**

73 honorary members representing every county but one in the state.

## JANUARY 1884

At its seventh Annual Meeting, the Association suggests that the Court of Appeals "should wear gowns."

**Grover Cleveland**, who served as a vice president from the Eighth Judicial District, was the meeting chair and would be elected the 22nd President of the United States that same year.



## 1885-86

The Adirondack Forest Preserve comes into being under Gov. David B. Hill, who also served as State Bar President from 1885-87. Years later another NYSBA member, Theodore Roosevelt, would make environmental stewardship one of the hallmarks of his time in the White House.

## MAY 20, 1886

**Kate Stoneman** becomes the first woman admitted to practice in New York State, having studied law on nights and weekends and passed the bar exam. She would later become the first woman to graduate from Albany Law School in 1898, at the age of 57.



EARLY 1890s

**800 Members**

## 1895

NYSBA members John Bigelow and John Cadwalader calm a dispute over a will among relatives of **Samuel B. Tilden** by arranging to combine \$2 million in a trust with the Astor and Lenox libraries, creating what is known today as the New York Public Library.



## JANUARY 1896

NYSBA appoints a commission to investigate and submit a report on an address to the Annual Meeting by Chauncey Depew, a U.S. senator, calling for an international court of arbitration to resolve a border dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela that many feared would lead to war. NYSBA adopts the report and expands on Depew's proposal by suggesting a nine-member court composed of judges nominated by the highest courts of each of nine nations in the New World and Europe.

## JANUARY 1897



At the Annual Meeting, Walter S. Logan, soon to be president of NYSBA, congratulates the Association for influencing resolution of the border dispute and proposing a permanent tribunal to hear international disputes – the groundwork for what is today known as the **International Court of Justice at The Hague**.



JANUARY 1901

**922 Members**

## JANUARY 1901

NYSBA becomes the first major bar association in New York to elect a woman, **Kate K. Crennell** of Rochester, to membership. She had worked as a clerk in the Surrogate's office and the Court of Monroe County before being admitted to the Bar in 1897.



## JANUARY 1909

The Association adopts the Canon of Ethics, creating formal procedures for imposing professional discipline.

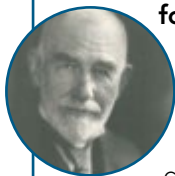
# NYSBA Milestones

## JANUARY 1909

The Consolidated Laws of New York, described at the Annual Meeting as "a child of the Association," are approved. That same year,

**former NYSBA President**

**Adelbert Moot** urges the Association to take stands on controversial issues. The raging controversy of the day was over a proposed workman's compensation law.



## JANUARY 1917

As more women continue to become members of NYSBA, a backlash develops at the Annual Meeting presided over by President Charles Evan Hughes, a former Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court who had lost the presidential election to Woodrow Wilson. While a report by the Executive Committee included the majority's approval of two women as members — Clarice Margoles Baright of New York City and Georgia Hare of Groton — other members submitted an amendment to the Association's constitution limiting membership to male attorneys. The amendment was never seen again — a sure sign that strong support for women members would have sent the proposal down to a quick defeat.

## JANUARY 1920

In keeping with Adelbert Moot's urging, the Association speaks up in support of five socialists who had been expelled from the state Assembly, as well as two more socialists who had been re-elected but were not allowed to take their seats.

## JANUARY 1922

The idea of a legislatively incorporated mandatory Bar for all lawyers in the state was first introduced in what would become a multi-year debate, until being abandoned later in the decade in favor of a voluntary Bar.

## JANUARY 1926

The Association gives it support for U.S. participation in the International Court of Justice at The Hague. NYSBA's support would continue for the next 20 years.

## JANUARY 1927

The Association accepts its first African American member, Thomas B. Dyett.

## MARCH 1928

The *Bulletin of the New York State Bar Association* makes its debut. It is the precursor to the *State Bar Journal*.



## MAY 1928

NYSBA leaves its cramped quarters in the Capitol and leases space at **112 State Street** at the corner of Lodge Street.

## JANUARY 1930

The Association approves the Canons of Judicial Ethics.



JANUARY 1930

## 5,000 Members

16 percent of the statewide total of 30,000 attorneys.

## JANUARY 1932

NYSBA endorses the concept of public defenders. It calls on the new state Commission on the Administration of Justice to study the matter.



## MAY 1, 1933

The Association moves from 112 State Street to offices at **90 State Street** at the corner of South Pearl.

## MAY 1933

Fifty-one New York attorneys sign a letter to the German government protesting the dismissal of Jewish judges and the prohibition of Jewish lawyers from practicing based on their religion.

## JANUARY 1935



NYSBA accepts its second African American member, Alan L. Dingle.



## FEBRUARY 1937

NYSBA adopts a resolution, 32-2, condemning FDR's court-packing plan and makes plans for a referendum among members on whether to protest in Washington.

## MARCH 1937

As a result of recommendations by the Committee on Automobile Accident Prevention, a statewide record system of moving traffic violations is established and the State Police force is expanded.

## 1941-1945

The Association reacts to mounting concerns that civil liberties were at risk under the pressures of wartime. A special Committee on the Bill of Rights was charged with investigating violations and providing defense to the accused, as well as countering government abuses of power.



END OF THE 1940s  
**7,500 Members**

## 1950

Work by NYSBA's Committee on the Administration of Military Justice results in important parts of a new Code of Military Justice being approved by Congress.

## SUMMER OF 1950



## THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION

NYSBA creates the New York Bar Foundation as a not-for-profit philanthropic organization serving the public through improvements in the administration of justice, legal research and education, high standards of professional ethics and public understanding of legal heritage.



## OCTOBER 1951

NYSBA purchases **99 Washington Avenue** as its new headquarters, marking its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## 1952

Amid the anti-Communist fervor sweeping Washington, where Sen. Joseph McCarthy and then-Rep. Richard Nixon were making names for themselves by conducting disloyalty hearings, NYSBA's Committee on Civil Rights defends **Paul Stryker**, who defended Alger



Hiss in a trial that ended with a divided jury.

Meanwhile, NYSBA's Executive Committee breaks with the

American Bar Association

on the question of loyalty oaths – arguing that the oath taken upon admission to the Bar was a "more effective" safeguard against Communism.



*President's Dinner, 1956.  
N. Y. State Bar Association, President  
William C. C. [unclear] June 28, 1956.*

# NYSBA Milestones

## JANUARY 1954

At the Annual Meeting, NYSBA's Civil Rights Committee proposes amending the state's ban on those connected to a criminal case from making any statement that might interfere with a fair trial and result in "trial by newspapers." The resolution is tabled and a lengthy debate ensues.

## JANUARY 1956

NYSBA establishes the New York State Bar Association Press Award, an outgrowth of over the continuing debate on press coverage of criminal trials.

## SUMMER 1957

At the Summer Meeting a debate breaks out over a proposed public defender system. Orison S. Marden, president of the National Legal Aid and Defender Society, argues persuasively in favor of public defenders in face of opponents who fear such an office would give the state too much power over the defense of those it accused. The debate would be resolved in March 1963 when the U.S. Supreme Court, in an 8-1 vote, held in *Gideon v. Wainwright* that states must assign counsel to indigent defendants in felony cases.



1959

**11,000 Members**

The Association again rejects the idea of mandatory membership.

## 1960

NYSBA includes nine Sections and more than 40 committees. Staffing now includes an executive director, a public relations assistant, a counsel, a director of information and a law professor serving as legislative reporter.

## 1961

The *Bulletin* is renamed the *New York State Bar Journal*.

## 1966

NYSBA works to liberalize New York's divorce laws by creating additional grounds for divorce, changes in alimony rules, and a complex conciliation program.

## 1968

NYSBA takes a leading role in establishing the New York Fair Trial-Free Press Conference.

## LATE 1968

NYSBA is once again cramped for space. It decides to relocate to nearby **1 Elk Street** and purchase four townhouses with historical significance to be renovated into a new headquarters. Two more adjoining row houses would be purchased at a later date. Rather than demolish the buildings, the Association heeds the concerns of preservationists and charges New York City architect **James Polshek** to create an award-winning bar center that maintains the 19th Century facades while housing a modern, spacious headquarters within. The new center wins accolades and design awards.



1968

**19,000 Members**

## 1969

The ABA's Model Code of Professional Responsibility replaces the Canons of Ethics.

## MAY 1970

Many NYSBA members join the 1,000 New York lawyers who travel to Washington to lobby for legislative proposals to end the Vietnam war.



## SEPTEMBER 24, 1971

The new State Bar Center is dedicated, with Gov. Rockefeller as guest speaker.

## SEPTEMBER 1972

In response to investigations into the causes of the Attica prison riots, NYSBA takes the lead in forming Prisoners' Legal Services of New York, which provides civil representation to prisoners.

## JANUARY 1972

NYSBA's 79-member Executive Committee is modified and a House of Delegates is created to broaden representation.

## MAY 1973

NYSBA's Criminal Justice Section unanimously recommends all criminal sanctions be removed from a variety of "victimless crimes," including possession or private use of small quantities of marijuana. Their pleas fail to dissuade Governor Rockefeller from imposing some of the harshest drug laws in the nation.

## JUNE 7, 1972

The Watergate scandal erupts and exposes illegal and unethical conduct of lawyers in high government positions. **Whitney North Seymour**, president of



NYSBA in 1974-75, spends much of his time trying to restore public confidence in the legal profession in the wake of the scandal.



NOVEMBER 1976

**26,000 Members**

NYSBA marks its centennial.

## JANUARY 1979

Debate over cameras in the courtroom comes to a head at the Annual Meeting, with both sides dug in. A year later the House of Delegates proposes an experimental period to assess whether cameras would harm defendants' right to a fair trial.

## MARCH 1981

The Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) is established statewide to supplement local referral programs.

## 1983

NYSBA takes issue with some of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, which replaced the Model Code of 1969. The Association subsequently decides to keep the structure of the Code while incorporating select provisions of the Model Rules.

## SEPTEMBER 12, 1983

**Judith Kaye**, an active participant in NYSBA, becomes the



first woman appointed to the Court of Appeals. Ten years later she would be named Chief Judge.



JANUARY 1986

**43,000 Members**

About 60% of lawyers practicing in New York State.

## JUNE 1987

**Maryann Saccomando Freedman**



of Buffalo takes office as the first woman president of NYSBA.

## JANUARY 1989

The Association begins a long-term debate on mandatory CLE after a committee chaired by Robert B. McKay recommends 24-hours of CLE in a two-year period. The debate rages until 1999 when mandatory CLE takes effect.

## JANUARY 1990

NYSBA establishes the Lawyer Assistance Fund Program to help attorneys struggling with substance abuse and other wellness concerns.



JANUARY 1990

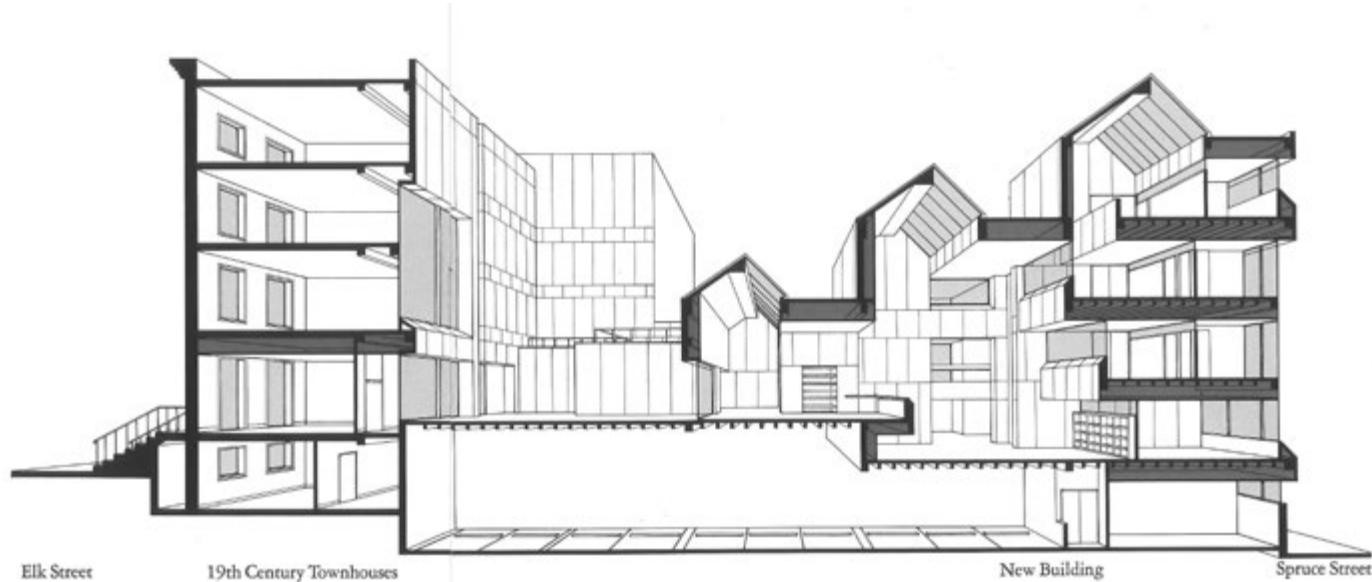
**56,000 Members**



# NYSBA Milestones

## NOVEMBER 10, 1990

The Bar Center is rededicated as part of a \$6.8 million expansion program that includes the renovation and period restoration of townhouses at 5 and 6 Elk Street and an added 17,000 square feet of usable space in the form of public/member meeting rooms, the Gallery of the Bill of Rights, staff offices for new member programs, and increased working and storage space. A walkway bridge was built to link the second floor rear office wing with the second, third and fourth floors of the Elk Street townhouses.



## JUNE 1993

**Archibald R. Murray** of New York City takes office as the first African American president of NYSBA.



## DECEMBER 1997

The Association initiates its first lawsuit in the so-called "Granny's Counsel Goes to Jail" controversy. At issue is a federal provision that threatens attorneys with jail if they advise senior clients on how to spend down their assets legally to qualify for Medicaid. Ultimately, Attorney General Janet Reno backs down.



## JANUARY 2001 70,000 Members

Membership is bolstered in part by the new mandatory CLE requirements.



## SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

NYSBA organizes a Mass Disaster Response Committee in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. It teams with other NYSBA committees and Sections to provide help to survivors, victims' families, small businesses and even displaced attorneys struggling with myriad legal issues.

## JANUARY 2002



NYSBA President-elect **Lorraine Power Tharp**, addressing the Annual Meeting, recalls the outpouring of help provided by lawyers to the victims of 9/11, stating:

"In my mind are indelibly etched scenes of long lines of lawyers waiting for pro bono training. These same lawyers then assisted, often through their own tears, families and victims."

## 2008

NYSBA creates the New York State Consortium for Civic Learning, a website designed to instill civic values and the participation by younger children.

## 2009

NYSBA's efforts to reform the harsh Rockefeller drug laws bear fruit as the statutes are modified to remove mandatory minimum sentences while giving judges more flexibility in sentencing.

## 2010

New York becomes the last state to adopt no-fault divorce, a position long advocated by NYSBA.



## 2013

**NYIAC** | New York International Arbitration Center

The New York International Arbitration Center opens in Manhattan, a realization of recommendations made by a NYSBA Task Force in 2011. The Task Force stressed in its report that a permanent facility was needed to maintain New York's status as a leading world venue for international arbitration.

## 2018

NYSBA launches its first podcast *MIRANDA Warnings*, hosted by NYSBA past president, David P. Miranda, Esq. (2015-2016). The podcast, discussing legal issues impacting the legal profession in New York, has produced over 100 episodes.

## 2019

The House of Delegates approves a resolution urging the Governor and Legislature to establish a right to counsel in immigration proceedings as a statutory requirement under New York law.

## 2021

The 2021 New York State Constitutional Amendment that guarantees "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment" was proposed by NYSBA's Committee on the State Constitution.

## 2023

In anticipation of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina* and the *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard University*. President, Richard C. Lewis, Esq. (2023-2024) formed the Task Force on Advancing Diversity, co-chaired by the former Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh C. Johnson, Former U.S. Attorney General, Loretta E. Lynch, and Brad Karp, Esq. The report provides guidance to institutions and the legal community for the continuing diversity efforts following the decision. The report was adopted by NYSBA's House of Delegates in November 2023, and became policy of the American Bar Association in 2024.

# Sections



## Antitrust Law Section

"Antitrust law is the fundamental law of commerce, . . . a strong law, strongly enforced and one that is certain to become stronger. . . . The Section can render a large professional service by constructively studying the antitrust law and by making constructive recommendations for its appropriate operation and development." — *Charles Wesley Dunn, organizer and First Section Chair, referencing President Harry Truman's January 5, 1949, message to Congress to reinvigorate forces of competition, assure small business the opportunity to grow, and, for this purpose, strengthen antitrust laws.*



## Business Law Section

In 1947, as the Banking Law Section; 1965 as the Banking, Corporation, and Business Law Section (BCBL); and in 1989 as the Business Law Section.

The Section initially was administered by officers and district advisory counsel and maintained committees on laws and practices, programs, and membership, adding committees as new elements of practice and issues emerged. For example, reflecting the new legal concerns arising in the late 1970s and early 1980s from the rapid increase in use of computers, the BCBL Section created a subcommittee of its Business Law Committee in 1978 to focus on issues in computer law, including protection of software. The Section has expanded limitation of today by an Executive Committee, the Section has expanded to nine standing committees: Banking; Bankruptcy; Consumer Financial Services; Corporations and Other Business Entities; Franchise, Distribution and Licensing Law; Futures and Derivatives; Insurance Law; Internet and Technology Law; and Securities Regulation — and numerous subcommittees.



## Cannabis Law Section

The Cannabis Law Section is charged with serving as the New York State Bar Association's focal point for the evolving legal status of cannabis at both the state and federal level. Cannabis law is one of the fastest growing yet complex areas of the law that poses a broad spectrum of challenges. The Section assists NYSBA lawyers with giving their clients better advice through sharing educational resources, and otherwise helping New York set the highest possible legal and business and medical standards for legalized cannabis products.



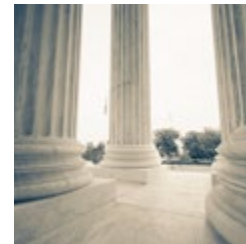


# Sections

## Commercial and Federal Litigation Section

The purpose of the Section is to improve the quality of representation of clients, provide a forum for the improvement of law and procedure in the areas of commercial and federal litigation, and enhance the administration of justice.

The Section serves its mission by developing relationships and sharing practice experiences with fellow commercial and federal litigators, with state and federal judges, and with regulatory and administrative bodies; establishing committees for the purpose of promoting research and discussion on current issues affecting our practice; influencing and proposing legislation affecting our practice; developing continuing legal education programs on topics relevant to our practice, and providing networking opportunities for its members.



## Corporate Counsel Section

As the roles of inside counsel expanded, the Association recognized the value of creating a Section to better serve the constituency of corporate counsel, foster their initiatives to implement preventive and voluntary corporate compliance, and provide a forum for corporate counsel to focus on the unique corporate management issues and discuss how best to advise this client on a regular basis.



## Criminal Justice Section

The purpose of this Section is to anticipate, recognize and address such issues of crime, criminology, criminal procedure, correction and the administration of criminal justice as properly come before or should come before the New York State Bar Association.



## Dispute Resolution Section

Section status recognizes the critical importance of negotiation, collaboration, mediation, neutral evaluation, arbitration and new and hybrid forms of dispute resolution in all areas of legal practice. The Section is a forum for improving these processes and the understanding of dispute resolution alternatives, for enhancing the proficiency of practitioners and neutrals and increasing the knowledge and availability of party-selected solutions.

The Section will serve this mission by creating committees to explore and research developments in ethics, substantive law, and legislative initiatives relating to our shared interests; sponsoring publication of analysis and opinion on dispute resolution processes; providing continuing legal education and training to practitioners and neutrals; promoting relevant legislation; providing commentary on ethical issues affecting dispute resolution, and providing a venue for practitioners, law school faculty and students, and dispute resolution providers to network, exchange ideas, and to interact with other members of the Bar and to the public on issues relating to dispute resolution.





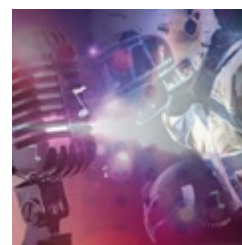
## Elder Law and Special Needs Section

The Elder Law and Special Needs Section provides services and opportunities for involvement on issues relating to Elder Law and Special Needs Law, for members of the New York State Bar Association. Among activities, the Section presents educational programs and publishes materials on practice, procedure and developments to enhance the competence and skill of lawyers who practice in this field and improve their ability to deliver the most efficient and highest quality of services to their clients; prepare studies, analyses and recommendations to seek improvement in the law and procedure relating to elder law; and undertake projects to increase the understanding of senior citizens, their families and the general public concerning legal issues affecting the elderly.



## Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section

The purpose of this Section is to provide its members with a variety of resources and benefits designed to keep practitioners updated on the latest developments in the entertainment, arts, and sports law fields.



## Environmental and Energy Law Section

The purpose of this Section is to bring together such members of the New York State Bar Association as are interested in environmental, land use, energy, health and safety and related issues and topics, to further the education of the legal community, the public and governmental and elected officials on legal, administrative and policy matters relating to such issues, to facilitate the making of public policy, and to provide networking opportunities between and among attorneys in private practice, government, corporations and consulting firms.

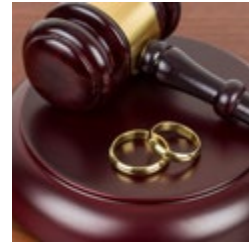


# Sections

## Family Law Section

The purpose of this Section is to bring together, for the furtherance of their mutual interests, and the public interest, members of the New York State Bar Association who are concerned about matrimonial and family law.

The Family Law Section, alone or in cooperation with other sections and committees of the New York State Bar Association, or in conjunction with other bar associations or organizations, shall plan, coordinate and conduct continuing legal education programs; publish a *Family Law Review* and distribute it to Section members; provide a forum through which matrimonial and family law practitioners may cooperate with, encourage and assist each other in the resolution of problems and practice issues; enhance the skills and competency of New York attorneys practicing matrimonial and family law; formulate professional opinion in the areas of matrimonial and family law; review legislative and administrative proposals, rules and statutory changes and, where appropriate, initiate legislation and legal reforms in the areas of matrimonial and family law; serve as a resource to civic, governmental and public organizations in matters affecting matrimonial and family law, and undertake all such other activities as may be authorized from time to time, by the Executive Committee of the Section for the purpose of accomplishing the foregoing goals.



## Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law Section

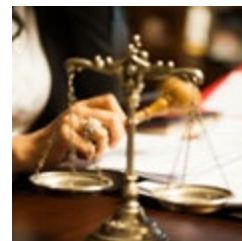
The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law Section was formed in 1945 following enactment of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938 ("the Act"). This NYSBA section was the first of its kind in the nation, serving as the forum for those experts in this field in the private and public sectors. The Chair cited the importance of the increasing the bar's knowledge of the Act, the work of the Food and Drug Administration, the intended consumer benefits, and the enhancement of technical and ethical standards of industries involved.

"The action of the Association, setting up a Section on Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law, is worthy of special notice not only as this is the first Section of its kind, but also because it will tend to give this branch of law the prestige, the dignity, and the attention which it so clearly merits." — *Charles Wesley Dunn, first Chair, on the creation of the Section.*



## General Practice Section

This Section, alone or in coordination with other Sections and committees of the New York State Bar Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association) shall plan and conduct such continuing legal education programs, collect, publish and distribute such educational and professional materials, and undertake such other and diverse activities authorized from time by the Association and the officers and Executive Committee of the Section as shall enhance the competence and skills of lawyers engaged in the general practice of law and improve their ability to deliver the most efficient and highest quality legal services to their clients. Its activities shall be designed also to enhance the role of general practitioners as contributing members and leaders of their communities, the legal profession and the Association, and to provide a medium through which general practitioners may cooperate with, encourage and assist each other in the resolution of problems common to them and to the legal profession, all to their mutual benefit and that of the membership of the Association and the legal profession at large, and to the benefit of the substantive body of law in New York and of the general administration of justice throughout the state.



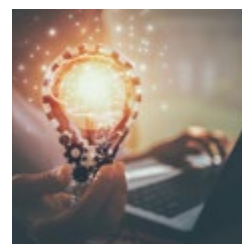
## Health Law Section

The purpose of the Section is to bring together those members of the New York State Bar Association interested in health law and related issues for the advancement of their mutual interests; to examine the possibilities of, and pursue improvement in, the law, regulations and procedures pertaining to health law and related issues; to disseminate information and exchange ideas relating to the development and practice in these fields, both substantive and procedural; to advance the interdisciplinary work of the bar with other disciplines involved in health care; to further the education of the Bar; and to facilitate service to the public with respect to health law and related issues. Areas of focus will include, but not be limited to, legal issues relating to biotechnology, consumer/patient rights, health care providers, HIV and AIDS, insurance and other payment methods for health care, managed care, and the structure and design of the health care system.



## Intellectual Property Law Section

The Section was formed in 1992, . . . patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets were relegated to the large multinational corporations, technologically sensitive domestic corporations, and start-up ventures in key technology-dependent industries. Today, we are moving from this traditional use of intellectual property to a more expansive use, where intellectual property is a weapon in deciding the trade balance between nations and where intellectual property fuels the growth of countries in their desire to maintain global "trade market share."



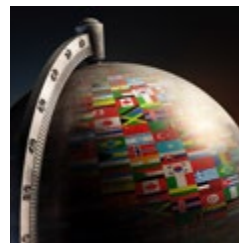


# Sections

## International Section

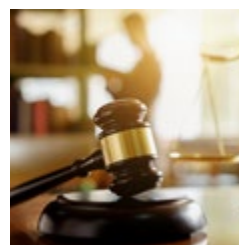
The mission of the International Law and Practice Section (ILPS) is to provide a forum for international law practitioners in New York State and foreign countries for the exchange of legal developments, knowledge and experience that will enable those lawyers to practice law more effectively in an ever-changing global environment.

The International Section is a global community of dynamic and diverse attorneys. Founded over 25 years ago, this Section has approximately 1,800 members worldwide. Membership in the International Section provides opportunities to network with fellow practitioners while staying current with New York law and international law. This Section is dedicated to the promotion of the international practice of law on all plans of international life - whether commercially, for the public good, or in the support of the rule of law throughout the world.



## Judicial Section

The mission of the New York State Bar Association Judicial Section is to promote dialogue, interaction, collaboration and collegiality among all the judges and justices of New York State; to improve to promote the efficiency, effectiveness and standing of the judiciary and the administration of justice.



## Labor and Employment Law

The purpose of this Section shall be to bring together for furtherance of their mutual interests those members of the New York State Bar Association as are interested in labor and employment law; to examine the possibilities of improvement and reform in labor and employment law through legislation; to disseminate information and exchange ideas relating to the development and practice of labor and employment law, both substantive and procedural; and to further the education of the Bar and the public in labor and employment law.



## LGBTQ+ Law Section

The LGBTQ+ Law Section promotes equality in the law for LGBTQ+ people; eliminates discrimination against LGBTQ+ attorneys and litigants; promotes equality of opportunity for, and increases the visibility of, contributions made by LGBTQ+ attorneys; and promotes diversity in the bench by inclusion of all minorities, including LGBTQ+ people. The Section assists the Association in developing policies and preparing amicus briefs on issues related to LGBTQ+ people.



## Local and State Government Law Section

The purpose of the Local and State Government Law Section is to serve, educate and provide a common meeting ground and impartial forum for those attorneys, whether in the public or private sector engaged in dealing in any capacity with issues in local or state government law. The Section shall carry forward the work of the New York State Bar Association by providing a common meeting ground and impartial forum for those members of the Bar who are engaged in dealing with problems in local and state government law in any capacity; furthering a better understanding of local and state government law through the holding of meetings and seminars, the making of studies, surveys and analysis and the dissemination of current information concerning judicial decisions, legislation and other matters of interest to attorneys practicing local and state government law; formulating and submitting to the members of the Section and the Association, such reports and recommendations as may be deemed useful to the profession and advisable in the public interest; reviewing pending legislation and promoting or opposing the same in the name of the Section (or one of its committees) and, whenever in its judgment necessary or appropriate, initiating legislation; furthering the public interest through the practice of local and state government law, and furthering access to justice through the promotion of voluntary participation in regional and local pro bono programs.



## Real Property Law Section

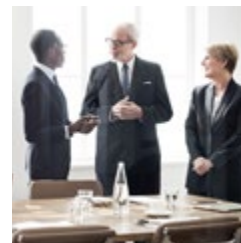
The Real Property Law Section serves New York real property lawyers and the public, promotes the successful transaction of real estate business in New York State, and contributes to the sound development of real property law in New York State. Toward that end, the Section identifies and draws attention to problems, abuses, and issues affecting real property, recommending improvements in real property law, procedure, and practice as appropriate; publishes a high-quality journal to keep Section members informed of developments and the latest thinking in real property law; provides a Section website and give Section members a variety of forums to discuss the state of the law and possibilities for improvement; offers high quality continuing legal education programs to Section members sufficient to meet all their CLE requirements; acts as a resource for legislators and government officials and comment on and, where appropriate, initiate legislation; establishes and operates committees and task forces that seek to achieve the Section's goals within numerous areas of real property law; educates the public about real estate law and the benefits of using lawyers in real property transactions, particularly residential transactions; and works with the real estate finance, brokerage, title insurance, surveying, and other related industries, to improve practices, communications, and working relationships.



# Sections

## 50+ Section

The Senior Lawyers Section has been created and charged with the mission of providing opportunities to senior lawyers to continue and maintain their legal careers as well as to utilize their expertise in such activities as delivering pro bono and civic service, mentoring younger lawyers, serving on boards of directors for business and charitable organizations, and lecturing and writing. The Section also provides programs and services in matters such as job opportunities; CLE programs; seminars and lectures; career transition counseling; pro bono training; networking and social activities; recreational, travel and other programs designed to improve the quality of life of senior lawyers; and professional, financial and retirement planning. It also acts as a voice of senior lawyers within the Association and the community.



## Tax Law Section

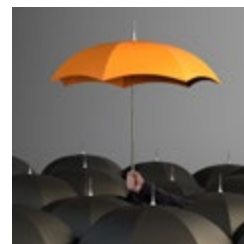
The purpose of this Section is to bring together for the furtherance of the public interest in a fair and equitable tax system and for their mutual interest such members of the New York State Bar Association as are professionally concerned with the development of sound tax policy and administration; to further the education of the Bar and public in tax matters; to disseminate information relating to taxation; to study the existing tax laws and their administration and pending tax legislation and regulations and to report thereon to the Association, and when appropriate, to the Bar, to the public, and to federal, state and municipal authorities; subject to the limitations, if any, imposed pursuant to Article XIII C of the Bylaws of the New York State Bar Association by the Executive Committee of the Association or the House of Delegates, to support, promote and initiate desirable tax reforms, and to oppose changes in the tax laws and administration which would not be in the public interest; and to study the relationship between the tax laws of this country and other countries and to make recommendations for the improved integration of such laws.



## Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section

In 1945, as the Insurance Law Section; 1963, renamed Insurance, Negligence and Compensation Law Section "to more correctly describe [its] membership and activities"; 1995, became known as Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section (TICL).

Since its inception, TICL has had four priorities: to address the practical needs of the practicing lawyer; to study and carefully assess insurance law and related statutes and their revisions, and to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the same; to educate the bar and the public on the issues, and to preserve the rights of citizens, and to maintain balance between the often diametrically opposed interest of the business and trial bars, and to encourage their cooperation.





## Trial Lawyers Section

The Section Bylaws, adopted in 1956, described the purpose of the Section as bringing together Association members interested in the problems of the trial lawyer and other branches of the law relating to trial practice and procedure. The Section is composed of attorneys representing plaintiffs and defendants in civil litigation in state and federal courts. In recent years, it has experienced an increase in counsel whose practice includes counsel to both.



## Trusts and Estates Law Section

The Section is designed to bring together members of the Association interested in trusts and estates law, and in improvements and reforms, through legislation or otherwise; to examine, promote, or oppose pending legislation; and to propose legislation, and to promote the interests and welfare of the public and members of the bar in this field.



## Women in Law Section

"We would like to include our members' voices in addressing the many critical issues impacting women attorneys today. WILS is the fastest growing Section in NYSBA history. We are excited to launch the WILS Connect e-newsletter – one of our many initiatives – which will discuss current issues facing women lawyers, the work of our committees, legislative and policy matters." — *Terri A. Mazur, Chair, 2020*



## Young Lawyers Section

The purpose of this Section is to provide for newer members of the legal profession a means through which they may discuss and exchange ideas and cooperate, encourage, and assist each other concerning issues common to them; enhance their professional competence, skills, and ethical development; and aid, promote, and encourage their interest and participation in the New York State Bar Association (hereinafter referred to as the "Association"), the legal profession, and their communities. In furtherance of the foregoing, this Section, alone or in cooperation with other sections and committees of the Association, plans and conducts pro bono and continuing legal education programs; collects, publishes and distributes educational and professional materials; and undertakes such other and diverse activities as may be authorized from time to time by the Association and the Executive Committee of this Section.



# Committees



## Committee on Animals and the Law

The Committee on Animals and the Law is a resource for Members and the Public about non-human, animal related legal matters and associated humane considerations.

The Committee invites participation by professionals in animal health care, animal welfare, wildlife conservation, animal behavior, and other related fields in animal-law and humane-related work, such as veterinarians, biologists, educators, humane law enforcement officers and non-attorney government officials.



## Committee on Attorney Professionalism

The mission of the Committee is to encourage civility to adversaries, officials, colleagues, clients and others, and to foster integrity, decency and client service - always with an eye towards advancing the ethical code of the profession.



## Committee on Children and the Law

The Committee on Children and the Law renders information and guidance to the Executive Committee, the legal community and the public on the effect of existing laws and pending legislation impacting children, and the administration of juvenile justice and child welfare.

In furthering its mission, the Committee examines, studies and provides comment and reports on legal issues related to the rights and interests of children, in particular those involved in court proceedings; formulates and, with the approval of the Executive Committee, publishes practice standards for attorneys representing children in New York and periodically revises these standards so as to keep them current with the development of the law; drafts and promotes original legislation which it believes is necessary or useful to the rights and interests of children; develops, coordinates and conducts continuing educational programs; and recognizes contributions to the areas of juvenile justice and child welfare.



## Committee on Civil Practice Laws and Rules (CPLR)

The Committee on Civil Practice Law and Rules is charged with the authority to study and make recommendations and to consider and act upon legislation or rules concerning civil practice in our State courts. We also develop original legislation which we believe is necessary or useful to the practice of law in New York.





# Committees

## Committee on Civil Rights

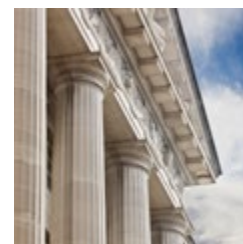
The Committee on Civil Rights shall observe and consider matters relating to civil rights protected by the State of New York and United States Constitutions, including the Bill of Rights of each.

It is tasked with promoting awareness of civil rights issues through programs and reports that address specific concerns, and, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may make public what it believes to be the facts in any given matter, together with a statement of its recommendation or position with respect thereto.



## Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction

The Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction shall be charged with the duty to observe and consider the administration of justice in the courts of appellate jurisdiction and it shall make recommendations to the Committee on judicial administration for the improvement thereof.



## Committee on Continuing Legal Education

The CLE Committee and staff are charged with creating and promoting high quality, reasonably priced legal education on a fiscally sound basis. This includes programs, publications, productions in various electronic and other media, and other products and activities for use by the legal profession in New York State. The CLE Committee is also charged with helping to coordinate NYSBA activities in this area for the Association; maintain and improve competence and professionalism of the bar, in the public interest and in the best interest of the NYSBA members, and make optimum, financially prudent use of NYSBA resources dedicated to this purpose.



## Committee on Disability Rights

The Committee on Disability Rights shall consider any and all matters pertaining to legal issues affecting people with disabilities, including but not limited to (a) development, promotion, analysis and/or comment on proposed, pending or existing legislation, regulations, or governmental policies or procedures, (b) education of the legal community, government and the general public, (c) provision of forum for discussion of important public issues, and (d) involvement in law reform activities.



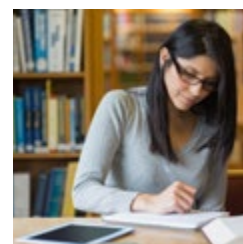
## Committee on Law, Youth & Citizenship

The Committee on Law, Youth and Citizenship is charged with the duty of developing, supporting and participating in education programs for the people of the State of New York on the privileges as well as the duties of citizens of the United States, including programs for the education and training of students, teachers and adults, both on its own initiative and in cooperation with the Education Department of the State of New York and other public and private agencies.



## Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar

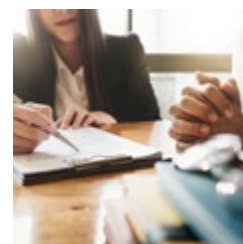
The Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar is charged with the duty of studying the various aspects of and developments in legal education and admission to the bar, in the maintenance of adequate standards of legal education and in the prevention of admission to the bar of unworthy candidates.



## Committee on Mandated Representation

The Committee on Mandated Representation is charged with the duty of studying issues, and making recommendations to the Executive Committee, relevant to methods of providing mandated representation. The Committee shall undertake other activities, such as sponsoring CLE programs and conferences, proposing and commenting on legislation, and proposing and commenting on court rules, that will further the goal of ensuring quality mandated representation. In addition, the Committee will identify ways that indigent defense provider offices in the state can share resources with each other, particularly on a regional basis.

The intention of these efforts is to ensure that the State of New York and local governments charged by the State with providing such representation, do so in a manner which ensures quality representation to clients, while taking into account the financial requirements imposed upon the State of New York and local governments.



## Committee on Mass Disaster Response

The New York State Bar Association's ("NYSBA") mass disaster response plan ("Response Plan") sets forth guidelines to respond in an appropriate manner to the victims, the public, and the media, immediately following a mass disaster. The plan outlines procedures to be followed in determining the nature of the crisis and the NYSBA's response. The goals of the Response Plan are to inform victims of a disaster and their families how the legal system functions to resolve disputes which arise out of mass disaster; monitor conduct of attorneys as a disaster site; make victims of a disaster, their families, and the public aware that personal solicitation of clients by attorneys, at the site of a disaster, is unethical, and advise those who require legal assistance how to make an informed selection of an attorney.



# Committees

## Committee on Media Law

The Committee on Media Law shall consider all questions of public importance pertaining to First Amendment rights, access, freedom of information, government open meetings laws, media ownership, libel and privacy, privilege, confidentiality, advertising, fair trial/free press, and others.

In addition, the Committee on Media Law is charged with monitoring and evaluating developments applicable to the broad spectrum of matters encompassed by the electronic media industry and the rapidly developing technologies in the field of electronic communications. This includes discussion of current regulatory and other legal positions, policies and trends in the areas of conventional and subscription television broadcasting, radio broadcasting, telecasting via satellite communications, multi-point distribution or cable television, as well as other related programs or informational delivery systems.



## Committee on New York State Constitution

The Committee on the New York State Constitution consists of leaders from all branches of state government. It studies and reports on matters relating to the State Constitution, makes recommendations regarding potential constitutional amendments and promotes initiatives designed to educate the legal community and the public about the State Constitution.



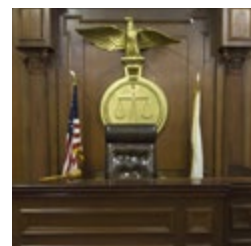
## Committee on Professional Ethics

The Committee on Professional Ethics, in its discretion, shall answer inquiries as to whether conduct of a member of the legal profession complies with the applicable New York rules of legal or judicial ethics and may issue sua sponte opinions on issues of ethics if it believes guidance on such issues would benefit the profession. The committee normally shall answer questions only from members of the legal profession about their own proposed conduct, but it also may answer inquiries from members of the judiciary about lawyer conduct. Each response must be approved at a meeting of the committee and concurred in by a majority of the committee; provided that, between meetings of the committee, any such response may be approved if it is concurred in by a majority of the committee, and no non-concurring member has requested discussion of the proposed response at a meeting of the committee.



## Committee to Review Judicial Nominations

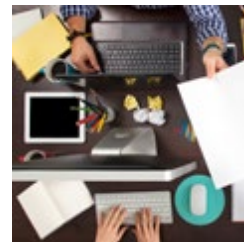
The committee shall endeavor, within guidelines established by the House of Delegates, to secure the nomination, election or appointment of competent and properly qualified candidates for judicial office, and to prevent the nomination, election or appointment of unfit candidates. It may confer on these subjects with other bar associations and federations, nominating conventions or committees, and political organizations, and in case of candidates for appointment, with the public officer in whom the power of appointment is vested.





## Law Practice Management Committee

The Mission of the NYSBA Law Practice Management Committee is to investigate, evaluate, develop, and disseminate information, techniques and best practices designed to assist law firms, lawyers and legal staff in delivering more effective, efficient, competent, ethical and responsive services in furtherance of the needs of clients the public and the legal profession.



## President's Committee on Access to Justice

The President's Committee on Access to Justice is charged to consider and implement methods for enhancing access by the indigent to the civil legal system. Among other things, this Committee shall encourage lawyers to provide more legal services to the poor, pro bono publico, and shall work to obtain adequate funding for programs designed to assure that the poor have access to civil justice, as outlined in the State Bar Plan, adopted October 26, 1989 by the NYSBA House of Delegates. The Committee shall accomplish these objectives through all necessary and appropriate means, including cooperation with local bar associations and other public and private associations and agencies.



## NYSBA Global

Building a global legal community of culturally diverse attorneys increases the New York State Bar Association's strengths, capabilities and adaptability. Varied member perspectives allow the association to address societal and member needs while connecting members geographically through dozens of NYSBA's chapter locations.

With over 4,000 members located outside the United States, NYSBA is your trusted source for New York professional development and exceptional content. NYSBA offers more New York-specific legal resources than any other legal professional organization. In addition, we provide members with a platform to connect with like-minded attorneys through Section affiliation. Connect with members across continents using NYSBA's online Section Communities. Have a pressing question about your practice area? NYSBA's Communities help keep members connected with immediate peer-to-peer advice and tips.

### Memorandums of Understanding

As part of NYSBA's commitment to strengthen bonds and create networks between attorneys across the globe to promote the importance of the rule of law, we have partnered with a number of organizations over the years.

California Lawyers	Florida Bar Association International Law Section	Nigeria Bar Association Women Forum
Bar Association of Puerto Rico	Georgian Bar Association	Osaka Bar Association
Bar Association of Serbia	Global Accountability Network	Panama Bar Association
Bar Association of the City of Buenos Aires	Guam Bar Association	Philippine Bar Association
The Bar Council of England and Wales	International Association of Young Lawyers	Polish Bar Council
BARBRI Global, Inc.	Israel Bar Association	Rome Bar Association
Barcelona Bar Association	The International Law Section of the Law Council of Australia	São Paulo Bar Association
Bucharest Bar Association	The Law Society of England and Wales	Seoul Bar Association
The Chief Justice of New South Wales & The Chief Judge of NY	The Law Society of Scotland	Singapore Management University
Dai-Ichi Tokyo Bar Association	Madrid Bar Association	UIA - International Association of Lawyers
Daini Tokyo Bar Association	Mexican Bar Association	Ukrainian Bar Association
European Association of Lawyers	Milan Bar Association (Ordine Degli Avvocati Di Milano)	US Virgin Islands Bar Association
Federal Council of the Brazilian Bar Association	National Bar of Legal Advisers	Warsaw Bar Association





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