

NYSBA Trial Lawyers Update on Diversity Challenge  
Nov. 19, 2012

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**Goals:**

1. Continue to present presentations in the law schools throughout the state. These will be modeled after the Touro program we did in early 2012 where a panel of judges and preeminent trial lawyers gave pointers on court room conduct to the students and new grads. The panel should be made of – as much as possible – of women and minorities in the profession. The thrust of the presentation is to show achievement in the profession by women and minorities. We will make sure that membership materials are available for student and new grad to join NYSBA and our section and also make them aware that where cost is a concern, there will nonetheless be opportunities to join with membership fee waivers where appropriate.
2. We are providing 5 scholarships to the Young Lawyers Section Trial Academy in order to promote diversity. All applicants for the scholarships must provide a commitment to promoting diversity in order to be considered for the scholarship.
3. We will continue to reach out to the various local bar associations and law schools to facilitate diversity internships. We believe that a model – similar to those already in place with the Monroe County Bar Association and the Albany County Bar Association/Albany Law School models will be the best way to promote diversity internship programs throughout the state. We will help to facilitate such programs by offering financial support where feasible, offering our members willing participation and involvement with their local bar associations and alumnae to begin such programs in areas of the state where they are lacking; and encouraging our members to participate in such programs where they already exist.
4. We will continue to consider the challenges that women and minorities face to actively participate in our section. Consideration will be given with respect to making our events more accessible. Cost of venue and the program, availability of mass transit, availability of programs for families to attend at a reasonable cost during the program, length of program, and other such issues will be factors our section will be mindful of with the objective of being more inclusive of members who have limited resources and family responsibilities which would present a challenge to their active participation in our programs.
5. We will continue to recruit women and minorities in our profession as presenters at our programs. Again, this promotes the achievement of women and minorities in our profession.
6. We will continue to recruit more of our section members to participate in our diversity committee in meaningful ways. The efforts of this committee will only succeed when the stalwarts of our section actively contribute to advancing our goals. Their actions in doing so bring the objectives of this committee into focus for the rest of our membership. .