NYSBA ELDER LAW SECTION DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED TO: NYSBA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTE
DIVERSITY CHALLEGNE

FROM: ELIZABETH VALENTIN, KERRY ARCHER and TANYA HOBSON-WILLIAMS, CO-CHAIRS

2011-2012 INITIATIVES

1. To develop a Diversity Statement and post it on the NYSBA Elder Law Section's website

2. Sponsor Meet and Greet events for law students and newly admitted attorneys to introduce them to attorneys of diverse backgrounds…we will accomplish this by:

   - Contacting the minority groups at various law schools
   - Enlisting law school professors with diverse backgrounds to participate
   - Enlisting our District Delegates to assist in coordinating the events at various law schools
   - First event to take place in late October

3. Sponsor Panel Discussions possibly with CLE credit addressing elder law issues which specifically affect those with diverse backgrounds…we will accomplish this by:

   - Enlisting attorneys, Guardianship Judges and Surrogates of diverse backgrounds to be speakers
   - Enlisting District Delegates to assist coordinating the events throughout NYC
   - Contacting the minority bar associations to co-sponsor an event
   - Contacting the Diversity Committees of the Trust & Estates Section and Young Lawyers Section to co-sponsor an event
   - First event to take place in early January

4. Create a section in the Elder Law/Special Needs Newsletter which would profile or highlight an event or activity of an attorney of diverse background

5. Create feedback and Questionnaire forms to be distributed at our events. These forms will help us confirm who the attendees are; what NYSBA committees/sections they participate in; and what their interests are.

LONG TERM INITATIVES

1. Have links to various minority organizations on the NYBSA Elder Law Section website under the Diversity Committee.

2. Cross promote our events and meetings by sending e-blasts and materials to the minority bar associations and minority groups of the law schools

3. Increase the number of members with diverse backgrounds holding committee positions by working with the Membership Committee to:

    - Research how many NYSBA members of diverse backgrounds are already section members
    - Contact those section members of diverse backgrounds to encourage them to join section committees (write emails, prepare a flyer on the benefits of joining section committees)

4. Increase the number of speakers with diverse backgrounds at the Annual, Summer and Fall meetings as well as other programs

5. Create a LinkedIn page for the NYSBA Elder Law Section Diversity Committee and develop a list of Top 5 reasons to join our section on our website.