

**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolutions adopted by House of Delegates
November 1, 2014**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND
COMMENT [2] OF RULE 6.1 OF THE
NEW YORK RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

WHEREAS, the Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court amended Rule 6.1(a)(1) of the New York Rules of Professional Conduct by increasing the aspirational number of pro bono hours to be provided annually by all lawyers from 20 to 50, effective May 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Standards of Attorney Conduct has proposed an amendment to Comment [2] of Rule 6.1 to change the aspirational number of hours of pro bono service from 20 to 50, thereby conforming the language of the Comment to that of the Rule;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS

RESOLVED, that the New York State Bar Association approves the recommendation of the Committee on Standards of Attorney Conduct to amend Comment [2] to Rule 6.1 to change the aspirational number of hours of pro bono service from 20 to 50 in order to conform to the amendment adopted by the Appellate Division.

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

**RESOLUTION REGARDING
RULE ON MANDATORY PRO BONO REPORTING**

WHEREAS, the New York State Bar Association strongly supports and encourages voluntary pro bono services by its members and adequate public funding of organizations engaged in providing legal services; and

WHEREAS, section 118.1(e)(14) of the Rules of the Chief Administrator was enacted, effective May 1, 2013, requiring lawyers to report the following information on their biennial registration forms: (a) the number of hours that the lawyer voluntarily spent providing unpaid legal services to poor and underserved clients during the previous biennial registration period; and (b) the amount of voluntary financial contributions the lawyer made to organizations primarily or substantially engaged in providing legal services to the poor and underserved during the previous biennial registration period; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Bar Association, which was not consulted in advance about such rule, seeks to amend the rule (a) to maintain the truly voluntary nature of pro bono service, (b) to protect the privacy of attorneys, and (c) to recognize the breadth and scope of ways in which attorneys voluntarily contribute to society and to their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS

RESOLVED, that the President of the Association is hereby authorized and directed to request that the Administrative Board of the Courts amend section 118.1 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator to (a) provide for reporting of pro bono hours and financial contributions to the Office of Court Administration by attorneys on an anonymous basis only; (b) provide for reporting of pro bono hours and financial contributions by attorneys to the public on an aggregate basis only; and (c) provide for additional categories of reportable hours and financial contributions given by attorneys towards pro bono work and other public service; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the President of the Association is hereby authorized and directed to request that the Office of Court Administration (a) designate any information regarding pro bono hours and financial contributions by attorneys submitted since May 1, 2013, in connection with attorney registration forms as confidential, and (b) not release any such information to the public except on an aggregate basis only.