

Stride

A Communication from the NYSBA
Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

September 2013 | Volume 1, Number 2

Feature Profile

NYSBA Practice Sections—Diversity Initiatives on the Move

Also:

- 2013 Minority Law Student Conference
- Monroe Co. Diversity Law Clerk Program Recognized by ABA
- 2013 Diversity Report Card
- 2014 Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception

State Bar Practice Sections Focus on Diversity

The New York State Bar Association's 25 practice Sections comprise more than 53,000 members and offer more than 300 programs annually. As part of their program offerings, many Sections are partnering with minority bar associations statewide or developing initiatives that address the need for diversity within the profession. Here is a snapshot of this year's programs and initiatives from several Sections:

Business Law

Evening Reception in partnership with the Westchester Black Bar Association (WBBA)
June 6, 2013 | White Plains, NY



(l-r) Section Chair Jay Hack, WBBA Immediate Past President Jerrice Duckette Epps, Section Diversity Chair Anthony Fletcher

Photo Credit: Barry L. Mason

Dinner in partnership with the Metropolitan Black Bar Association

July 25, 2013
New York, NY



Photo Credit: Barry L. Mason

Commercial and Federal Litigation

2013 Smooth Moves: Enhancing Your Professional Profile Through Board Service
March 18, 2013 | New York City

The Smooth Moves program serves as the Section's premier event to attract attorneys of color to become active members in the Section. The program also (1) helps attorneys meet professional development goals, (2) helps raise student awareness about commercial litigation, and (3) fosters greater diversity among commercial and federal litigators throughout New York.

Committee Co-chairs

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Corporate Counsel

The Section's Kenneth G. Standard Internship Program focuses on identifying and supporting in-house internship opportunities for law students from a diverse range of backgrounds, providing them with the chance to experience in-house legal practice.

The Section also established a Fellowship through the NY Bar Foundation to provide an intern the opportunity to serve at a charitable or not-for-profit organization. It also added to the Section's executive committee a permanent position for an alumnus of the Kenneth G. Standard Internship Program.

Additionally, the Section established a mentor program for current and past interns and amended its bylaws to describe its diversity vision statement. The Section also sponsors and awards a scholarship to the Young Lawyers Section Trial Academy.

Criminal Justice

The Section amended its bylaws, allowing the chair to appoint one person to the Section Executive Committee as a Diversity Representative with voting rights.

Dispute Resolution

*Diversity in the Dispute Resolution Process:
The Final Frontier*
March 28, 2013 | New York, NY

Co-sponsored by: the Metropolitan Black Bar; the Asian American Bar of New York; the Dominican Bar; the Puerto Rican Bar; the Nigerian Lawyers; the New York County Lawyers Committees on Arbitration and ADR, and Minorities and the Law; and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP Diversity Committee.

Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law

360 Degrees of Sports Law: A CLE panel discussion & Pre-NFL Draft Networking Event
April 24, 2013 | New York, NY

Co-sponsored by: The Black Entertainment & Sports Lawyers Association; Metropolitan Black Bar Association; New York State Bar Association Entertainment, Arts, & Sports Law Section; and the Minority Law Student Alliance of Cardozo School of Law.

Intellectual Property Law

11th Annual Women in IP Law
June 5, 2013 | New York, NY



Panelists receive plant patent prints at the 11th Annual Women in Intellectual Property Law Program. (l-r) Kelly M. Slavitt, Section Chair; Vanessa C. Hew, Partner, Duane Morris LLP; Maria Fernandez, Senior Counsel, Technology Licensing and Alliances, IBM System Technology Group; Alyssa Harvey Dawson, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Global Intellectual Property, Harman International Industries; Dyan Finguerre-DuCharme, Partner, Pryor Cashman LLP; Joyce L. Creidy, past Section Chair.

Building Bridges—Developing Your Networks
July 9, 2013 | New York, NY

Labor and Employment Law

Further Along the Jericho Road; The Elusive Struggle for Economic Justice

February 21, 2013 | Albany, NY



Attendees at the Labor and Employment Law Section's February program in Albany

Photo Credit: Elizabeth Gould

Discussion with Chai Feldblum, EEOC Commissioner
March 4, 2013 | New York, NY

Tax Law

Women in Tax Law: A Variety of Expertise in Tax Law
September 11, 2012 | New York, NY

A panel discussion and networking breakfast for women tax lawyers

Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law (TICL)

For the past two years, TICL has embraced the Presidents' Diversity Challenges by transforming the Section's Executive Committee Fall Meeting into 1) an open meeting for current and potential Section members; 2) a continuing legal education program exploring Strength by Association, and 3) a robust networking reception.

TICL sponsors and supports the Young Lawyers Trial Academy, providing scholarships to new diverse attorneys and those who support diversity within the profession. The Section also supports the Commercial and Federal Litigation's Smooth Moves program, which reaches out to new and diverse attorneys.

Trial Lawyers

Pointers on Courtroom Conduct for Students and Newly Admitted Attorneys

Touro Law School | spring 2012

Albany Law School | spring 2013

Buffalo Law School | spring 2013

This program encourages participation by women and attorneys with diverse backgrounds as panel participants.

The Section is planning two programs each in fall 2013 and spring 2014. The fall programs are tentatively scheduled for Syracuse and Pace Law Schools.



(l-r) Participants in the Courtroom Conduct Program at Touro Law School: Jeffrey P. Yong, Martyn Toher & Martyn; Valerie Cartright, Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington; Violet Samuels, Samuels & Associates, PC; Betty Lugo, Pacheco and Lugo; Hon. Michele Woodard, Supreme Court, Nassau County; and Cory Rosenbaum, Rosenbaum & Sanders, LLP.

The Section supports diverse interns at law firms and other businesses by co-sponsoring events with other bar associations or law schools. Additionally, the Section gave five scholarships in 2012 to new diverse attorneys or to attorneys who promoted diversity within the Section so those attorneys could attend the program. The Section awarded seven more scholarships in 2013.

Third Meeting of State Bar and Minority Bar Leaders

Leadership from the New York State Bar and minority bar associations met Tuesday, September 17 at the law offices of Epstein Becker in New York.

This marks the third meeting in 2013 where leaders share information on programs and events, discuss member recruitment and retention, and review programming challenges and other issues affecting bar associations.

Rochester Legal Diversity Clerk Program Recognized by the ABA

The American Bar Association awarded the Rochester Legal Diversity Clerkship Program its 2013 Partnership Award at a luncheon on August 9 during the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Click [here](#) for more information about the Rochester Legal Diversity Clerkship Program.



Photo Credit: Nora Warrens

Award winning

(l – r) C. Bruce Lawrence, Diane Cecero, Dave Schraver, Mary Loewenguth and Anthony Palermo accept the ABA's Partnership Award for the Rochester Legal Diversity Clerkship Program in San Francisco.

2013 Minority Law Student Conference Day

The Committee on Diversity and Inclusion sponsored the third annual Minority Law Student Conference Day at New York Law School on August 8, 2013.

The half-day program was free and open to current law students and recent graduates. Participants attended sessions on crafting resumes, drafting cover and thank-you letters and interview preparation—including fashion advice and tips for how to be an engaging candidate.

In addition, volunteer attorneys provided speed interviewing session for students to practice their skills. Volunteers also networked with students during lunch.

More than 20 students and 20 volunteer attorneys took part in the program. Response to the programs has been overwhelmingly positive. One participant wrote, "Best networking event I've been to all year! Extremely thorough – please continue to do these annually. Students really benefit from this."



Judge Margarita Lopez Torres (left) of the Kings County Surrogates Court and a member of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, speaks with an attendee of the 2013 Minority Law Student Conference Day at New York Law School in August.

2013 Diversity Report Card

The Committee on Diversity and Inclusion will publish its biennial Diversity Report Card by the end of the year.

The Report Card provides statistical data on membership makeup of diverse attorneys within the New York State Bar Association, as well as tracking progress of diverse leaders in the Association's practice Sections and general governance.

Event Notice

2014 Diversity Trailblazer Award Ceremony and Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception

The New York State Bar Association's Eleventh Annual Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception, sponsored by the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, will take place 6:30 p.m., Monday, January 27, 2014, at the Hilton New York Hotel during the NYSBA Annual Meeting in New York City.

Prior to the reception, at 6:00 p.m., the committee will present its 2014 Trailblazer Award during a 30-minute ceremony. The candidate will be recognized for his or her exceptional efforts to promote the full and equal participation of diverse people at all levels of the legal profession.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this long-standing and important event.

Thank you to the Law Firm and Corporate Sponsors of the 2013 Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception:

Silver Level Sponsors

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Bronze Level Sponsors

Bond Schoeneck & King • Epstein Becker Green • Hiscock & Barclay • Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.
• Seyfarth Shaw • Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna LLP

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**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

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