



Staff Memorandum

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Agenda Item #7

REQUESTED ACTION: Status report on reports and projects suggested by Executive Committee members.

At the June 23-24, 2011 meeting, Executive Committee members were asked to outline potential reports and projects that might be undertaken by Association sections and committees. A number of recommendations were made at that time. The attached chart provides a list of those recommendations and action that is being taken with respect to those recommendations.

President Doyle will lead the discussion of this item at the November 4 meeting.

**Projects and reports suggested by Executive Committee members
June 23, 2011**

Substantive topics:

Number	Project	Members suggesting	Notes
1	Re-visit Administrative Adjudication	James	This was the topic of reports in 1988 and 2000. Consult with SWJ and Governmental Relations re possible updates.
2	Involvement in developing Office of Indigent Services	Lesk	Already being reviewed by Committee to Ensure Quality of Mandated Representation. In addition, we have met with and communicated several times with office and OCA, pledging our support and offering our resources.
3	CLE to acquaint lawyers at local bar associations with the Rules of Professional Conduct	Lesk	CLE ran a program on the new rules in a number of locations last year. Will consult with NYSCBL and COSAC.
4	Greater emphasis on the good lawyers do	Makofsky	Work with Media Services, LAK to develop publicity.
5	Creative thinking about the court system and its budget (e.g., technology and e-filing)	Younger	Committee on Court Structure and Operations asked to prepare recommendations; topic of Annual Meeting Summit; Vice Presidents are working on reports from judicial districts.
6	Additional resources for unemployed and underemployed lawyers	Franchina	Lawyers in Transition's new chair is planning several projects to provide resources.
7	"Pipeline" for minority and disadvantaged youths	Edmunds	This was one of the suggested projects for Section Diversity Challenge and several Section have indicated they will undertake pipeline projects. In addition,

			tion, Committee on Diversity & Inclusion continues to work on pipeline issues.
8	Promote the Lawyer Assistance Program	Edmunds	LAP has been topic of several press releases, a presidential message & HOD presentation; EC members to be invited to Silver Bay conference; LAP provides introductory information at CLE meetings.
9	Study the need for a constitutional convention	Fennell	To be assigned to Comm. on Court Structure and Operations with respect to court system; staff to provide further analysis.
10	Diversity in the judiciary	Finerty	Chairs of Judicial Section, CWIL and Diversity and Inclusion to be asked to confer. We added Executive Director of Franklin H. Williams Commission on Minorities to our Diversity Committee and they added one of our members to the Commission.
11	Civics education	Cohen, Abernethy, Wallach	Topic of several press releases, radio PSA and presidential addresses. Federal legislative priority.
12	Political contributions to judges	Myers	Will investigate further; EC members to be asked to report on issues in their districts.
13	Town and village courts follow-up	Wallach	Refer to CJS and Comm. on Court Structure and Operations.
14	Skills for new lawyers - mentoring	Lau-Kee	Several sections have developed mentoring programs, including T&E, Commercial and Federal, and Young Lawyers as well as the Comm. on Diversity and Inclusion. Will monitor, consider increased exposure.

Association-specific topics:

15	Improved outreach to local, minority and specialty bars	Miranda, Slezak, Cohen, Myers, Abernethy	See attached.
16	Improve section and committee websites	Gutekunst	Currently making an effort to ensure that all committees have websites. Strategic Planning report contains focus on section websites.
17	Make website more user-friendly	Makofsky, Safer	Recommind has addressed concerns; website redesign completed; content management system has been budgeted.
18	Develop listserves for House and Executive Committee	Millon, Moy	To be discussed further with EC to gauge interest.
19	Outreach to law students and colleges	Young, Fennell, Safer	Doing through membership committee and department. Good opportunity for EC members to participate.
20	Networking events	Romero	Encourage sections to hold networking on regional basis; several are being planned.
21	Connect with law firm leaders to show our value	Gorgos	Refer to Membership; ask Membership Department to develop action plan.
22	Improved coordination among sections in developing reports	Cohen	Assess effect of Reports Website.
23	Mentoring programs for leadership opportunities	?	Referred to Committee on Leadership Development
24	Enhance relationship with Legislature	Abernethy	See attached

25	Daily news briefings	Gordon-Oliver	Studying way to disseminate information on legal concerns.
26	Improved use of technology	Wallach	Addressing in several ways, including Strategic Plan.
27	Improved relationship with sections, publicity for what sections do	Safer	Addressing in several ways. Individual meetings held with section chairs. Continued work with Dept. of Section Services and Dept. of Media Services.

Attachment to
16 & 24

Several members suggest improving our outreach to local, minority and specialty bars. We directly support the New York State Council of Bar Leaders (NYSCBL), which brings together local, minority and specialty bar leaders from across the state. With the addition of staff liaison Mark Wilson, and the leadership of Earamica Brown, NYSCBL has been particularly active in the past year. In addition, we participate in the Network of Bar Leaders, a similar organization bringing together mostly New York City centered bar associations. The NYBA representative, Taa Grays, serves as President of the Network. We will continue to support these organizations, and look for way to expand our utilization of them to consider various ways to partner with other bar associations.

In particular, we will look to expand our collaborations with other bar associations on legislative issues. Building on our success in doing so last year on the Marriage Equality Act, our legislative staff is already planning strategies to partner with local bar associations to lobby key members of the legislature. We think this will have the added benefit of helping strengthen our relationship with key legislators.

Of course, one of the best ways to reach out to these bar associations is through personal contact by the bar leadership. Our officers, and in particular the President and President-Elect, have long tried to attend every local bar function possible. Certainly, we will continue to do so, but there are limits imposed by time and travel constraints. To facilitate even more consistent and continual communication between State Bar Leadership and local bars, I am suggesting that we add to our regular agenda reports from EC members on contacts with local bars within their geographic area. In advance of each meeting, one-fourth of the EC members could be asked to contact at least one local bar, discuss current issues of interest to that bar and the State Bar, and look specifically for potential areas of collaboration. At the next EC meeting, these members could give a short oral report, suggesting productive ways to follow up. After a few meetings, we will be able to judge whether this suggestion is productive, and how we can maximize its benefits.

Outreach to the various minority bars remains a high priority of the Association. Our Committee on Diversity & Inclusion has held meetings at Patterson Belknap with local minority bar leaders as well as a program focused on solo and small firm practice.

