

New Jersey State Bar Association

Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

The purpose of this Diversity Action Plan is to set forth realistic goals, metrics and reporting mechanisms to ensure that the NJSBA fulfills its commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion internally as set forth in its Statement of Diversity and Inclusion as well as in the Bylaws.¹ NJSBA leaders are expected to promote diversity and inclusion within the Association as well as in the profession.

The NJSBA Executive Committee shall distribute this Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan to the NJSBA leadership and make it available on the NJSBA website. The NJSBA shall annually review and evaluate its progress in achieving increasing diversity by monitoring and tracking the participation of diverse attorneys in its leadership, the selection of CLE speakers and collaboration with the New Jersey diversity bar organizations. This includes reviewing the number of articles published in the New Jersey Law Journal and other NJSBA newsletters/publications by individuals of diverse backgrounds and/or addressing diversity and inclusion subject matters. The NJSBA shall also encourage the active participation of Bar Leadership in its efforts to promote diversity and inclusion.

Board of Trustees

- Each Board member is encouraged, on an annual basis, to complete an Individual Diversity Action Plan Checklist.
- The NJSBA Board of Trustees President or her/his designee shall monitor and track the number of Board Resolutions whose purpose and/or effect is related to advancing diversity in the legal profession.
- The NJSBA Board of Trustees President shall monitor and track the number of Divisions, Sections and Committees that have diversity action plans and/or other developed diversity initiatives.

Division, Sections and Committees

Each Division, Section and Committee is encouraged to:

- Adopt a diversity and inclusion plan that is consistent with the objectives of this Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan
- Complete a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Checklist.
- Monitor and track the number of diverse individuals that participate in its respective programs and events as speakers, moderators and panelists.

¹ See Association Bylaws Art. III, Section 8(f) designating that every At-Large Trustee shall be elected from, among and by the general members of the Association to represent segments of the membership not adequately represented on the Board of Trustees.

- Monitor and track the number of its training and education programs that address diversity and inclusion issues, whether as a sole focus or as an integrated part of their meeting agenda and/or CLE programs.
- Seek out diverse presenters in the Division/Sections/Committee to participating in CLE programs or other bar-related event including Mid-Year and Annual Meetings.

NJSBA Goals and Reporting

The NJSBA Director of Diversity Initiatives shall be responsible for the following actions:

- Develop and implement a diversity and inclusion action plan for the NJSBA staff that is consistent with the NJSBA Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.
- Develop a quarterly newsletter on topics relating to diversity and inclusion and encourage article submissions from the entire bar.
- Monitor and track the number of columns and articles with a diversity and inclusion focus in the NJSBA's publications including on the NJSBA website.
- Monitor, track and report the number of diverse individuals who participate in NJSBA programs and events as speakers, moderators and panelists.

External Diversity Initiatives

- The NJSBA shall publicize diversity events, programs and announcements relating to Diversity Bars in the New Jersey Lawyer magazine and newspapers (including social media) to the greatest extent possible.
- The NJSBA shall continue to outreach, collaborate, support and partner with specialty bar associations on programs and events.
- The NJSBA shall maintain visibility at diversity and inclusion conferences by having members and Bar Leaders of diverse backgrounds attend and serve as speakers at such conferences, and by sponsoring or supporting such conferences to the greatest extent possible.
- The NJSBA shall consider diversity and inclusion in assembling speakers and discussion topics for programs and conferences sponsored by the NJSBA, including CLE presentations and other member events.

- The NJSBA shall seek to increase the recruitment, hiring and retention of diverse attorneys of diverse backgrounds at New Jersey law firms, state government and corporations.
- The NJSBA shall include in the NJSBA's Internet presence an emphasis on diversity and inclusion.
- The NJSBA shall continue to provide assistance to the membership, including law firms, corporate law departments, governmental and public interest entities, who seek to promote diversity and inclusion in their recruitment, retention and promotion processes.
- The NJSBA shall support pipeline programs which serve to mentor and encourage students of diverse backgrounds to consider entering the legal profession.
- Maintain a non-exhaustive list of diverse vendors including but not limited to catering, awards, travel, entertainment, videographers etc.