

Statement of NJSBA President Jeralyn L. Lawrence:

The New Jersey State Bar Association stands for diversity, equity and inclusion, and will seek leave to appeal. Our goal is to ensure we continue to have diverse leadership in the organization. The Association will not relent on this core principle.

Indeed, this decision does nothing to deter our steadfast conviction that our governing structures must reflect the rich diversity of the legal profession in the state. Ours is a better organization when there is diversity and a broad representation of the New Jersey legal community at the highest levels of the NJSBA. Since 1989 when the first at-large seats were created we have demonstrated meaningful and significant progress in increasing leadership opportunities for underrepresented segments of the profession

We will continue to fight to guard this foundational belief.