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Contact: Eric Friedman  
[efriedman@nycbar.org](mailto:efriedman@nycbar.org)

Eli Cohen  
[ecohen@nycbar.org](mailto:ecohen@nycbar.org)

## **A Call to Lawyers to Protect Democracy**

### **City Bar Launches Election Protection Effort**

New York, October 03, 2022 – The New York City Bar Association has launched an election protection effort and is urging its members and lawyers everywhere to take action to protect democracy in America from the increasing threats it is facing. A page on the City Bar’s [website](#) has been set up to provide election protection opportunities for lawyers and will be updated as new opportunities and information become available.

“Our elections and thus our very democracy are being seriously threatened,” said City Bar President Susan J. Kohlmann. “I hope my fellow lawyers agree that no one is better equipped than lawyers to protect the rule of law, and that it is never partisan to defend democracy, to defend the freedoms promised in our Constitution, and to defend the electoral system by which those freedoms are realized.”

While America’s electoral systems survived the stress test of the 2020 election, upcoming elections are further threatened by the replacement of nonpartisan election officials and politicians with partisan actors in battleground states across the country.

The City Bar intends to act as an election-protection clearinghouse, directing its members and interested lawyers to programs set up by a variety of organizations. The page will be updated as new opportunities and information become available, and currently includes the following:

**Poll Work:** The National Association of Secretaries of State has a [web page](#) with information on becoming a poll worker in one’s area. “We the Action,” an organization connecting lawyers with causes, also has a [website](#) for signing up to be a poll worker and receive information updates. Further information, including which states offer CLE credit for lawyers doing poll work, can be found at the ABA’s [Poll Worker, Esq.](#) website.

**Information Hotlines:** Hotlines provide immediate voter access to information about polling places, eligibility, early and mail-in voting, provisional ballots and other questions typically asked by voters. Hotlines can be staffed by law firms or by individuals working through non-partisan

organizations like the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law's "Election Protection" hotline (1-866-ourvote). Information about the Lawyers Committee program, including sign-up procedures, is available at <https://866ourvote.org/volunteer>, which routes potential volunteers to the "We the Action" website mentioned above, where lawyers can volunteer for call centers, field work at polling places, or both.

**Pro Bono Legal Help:** A new nonpartisan organization, the "[Election Official Legal Defense Network](#)" (EOLDN), has recently been created by two prominent election lawyers – Robert Bauer and Ben Ginsburg – with extensive experience representing, respectively, Democratic and Republican candidates in previous elections. Lawyers can sign up on [EOLDN's website](#) to provide pro bono legal assistance to state and local election officials who face possible prosecution, harassment or threatened violence for performing their statutory and civic duties. (Election officials can request help on the website as well.)

The Election Protection Opportunities for Lawyers web page can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/3rohDwz>

**Read** City Bar President Kohlmann's column on election protection [here](#).

**Read the City Bar's report** "The Consent of the Governed: Enforcing Citizens' Right to Vote" [here](#).

**About the Association**

*The mission of the New York City Bar Association, which was founded in 1870 and has over 23,000 members, is to equip and mobilize a diverse legal profession to practice with excellence, promote reform of the law, and uphold the rule of law and access to justice in support of a fair society and the public interest in our community, our nation, and throughout the world. [www.nycbar.org](http://www.nycbar.org)*