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New York City Bar Association Salutes Lifting of Transgender Ban in Military

The New York City Bar Association salutes President Biden and his administration for lifting the previous administration’s ban on transgender individuals serving openly in the military. As we noted in 2017, transgender people have served in the U.S. military since the nation’s inception, and transgender people are more likely than the U.S. population as a whole to have served in the armed forces. Following the American Psychiatric Association’s 2013 removal of “Gender Identity Disorder” from the “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,” the American Medical Association’s 2015 conclusion that there is no medical basis to exclude transgender individuals from military service, and a 2016 RAND study concluding that allowing transgender people to serve openly would have a “minimal impact” on readiness and health care costs, the Department of Defense (DOD) was right to change its policy. We believe implementation of the policy, at long last, will strengthen the military by increasing its diversity, and will bring the DOD in line with constitutional and civil legal standards for sex discrimination.

About the Association

The mission of the New York City Bar Association, which was founded in 1870 and has 25,000 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