

# 2021-22 Committee Year Highlights

# POLICY DEPARTMENT

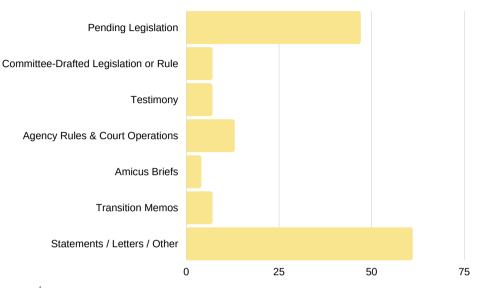
Covering the Period of Sept. 1, 2021-Aug. 31, 2022

### **NEW YORK STATE HIGHLIGHTS**

# Committees issued 64 reports on existing legislation, proposed rules or general policy issues.

Despite a series of challenges, including redistricting battles in an election year, the ongoing pandemic, and all direct advocacy work continuing to be done remotely, 10 bills supported by the City Bar passed both houses of the Legislature. Click here to learn more about the 2022 legislative session and the City Bar's policy impact.

### TYPES OF REPORTS ISSUED



Committees issued 5 proposals or recommendations for legislation and/or agency rules.
 Topics covered include: <u>amending procedures</u> the Board of Elections uses to enforce violations of NYS Election Law; <u>clarifying</u> unclear tax legislation; <u>proposing</u> an appointment process for a new NYS Ethics Commission (in collaboration with other watchdog groups); <u>requiring</u> payment of jurors by employers; and <u>amending</u> Corrections Law to clarify time spent on sex offender registry.

#### FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Committees issued **39** reports on existing legislation, proposed rules or general policy issues.
- The <u>Business and Finance Cluster</u> was particularly active, with member committees issuing
  a number of reports responding to request for public comment from Federal agencies
  (chiefly the Securities Exchange Commission). A number of those committees also
  collaborated to support the <u>Adjustable Interest Rate (LIBOR) Act</u>, which was enacted as part
  of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.
- The City Bar continued to speak on <u>rule of law issues</u>, issuing 12 related reports or statements. There was a particular focus on election integrity, voting rights and lawyers' obligations to uphold the rule of law. This included drafting nine principles every lawyer should embrace related to those topics. The City Bar <u>urged</u> lawyers and law students to endorse and act in accordance with the principles.

146

Reports issued or updated

53%

**83** committees drafted or signed on to reports

**About Us:** The Policy Department coordinates the City Bar's policy work, legislative activity and advocacy. Our committees participate in shaping public policy in a variety of ways and it is our job to facilitate these activities and ensure that the City Bar's reports are communicated to the key players at the most impactful times.



# 2021-22 Committee Year Highlights

# POLICY DEPARTMENT

Covering the Period of Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2022

### **NEW YORK CITY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Committees issued 19 new reports on existing legislation, proposed rules or general policy issues.
- Committees issued 8 "transition memos" to Mayor Eric Adams and Manhattan District
  Attorney Alvin Bragg. Topics covered included: child welfare, immigration, pro bono and legal
  services, mass incarceration, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary, sex offender
  management and a comprehensive report outlining how Mayor Adams could accomplish his
  campaign promises (i.e. administratively, legislatively, executive order, etc.).
- Four bills supported by the City Bar were enacted. These new laws: <u>clarify</u> the eligibility of runaway and homeless youth for rental assistance; <u>require</u> the NYC Department of Social Services to recognize time spent in foster care for the purpose of rental voucher eligibility; <u>establish</u> a public health access program to address gaps in care for uninsured city residents, regardless of their immigration status or ability to pay; and <u>remedy</u> fraudulent, deceptive and unconscionable business practices.

### INTERNATIONAL WORK

- The <u>Task Force on the Independence of Lawyers and Judges</u> was particularly active, issuing 7 statements (often in collaboration with other committees) about the persecution or assassination of lawyers in other countries.
- The <u>International Law Committee</u> sponsored an <u>ABA resolution</u> calling on the US government to support self-determination for the people of Western Sahara. Resolution 400 was passed in the ABA House of Delegates at their August 2022 meeting.

## COVID-19 RELATED WORK

- While 25 reports were released related to the <u>pandemic</u>, there was a general shift towards subjects dealing tangentially with the pandemic, as opposed to being directly related as the nature of the virus has continued to evolve.
- The most viewed report on the City Bar's website issued during this time was a comprehensive report published jointly with the Fund for Modern Courts on the <u>pandemic's impact on NYC Family Court</u> and recommendations to improve access to justice for all litigants.

## **JURISDICTION BREAKDOWN**

