



KALAGNY, PO Box 2152, New York, New York 10163-2152
(646) 979-9116 | kalagny@gmail.com | www.kalagny.org

February 12, 2017

John W. McConnell, Esq.
Counsel, Office of Court Administration
25 Beaver Street, 11th Fl.
New York, New York 10004

Dear Mr. McConnell:

I am the President of the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY). I write to you regarding the proposed amendment to the current mandatory continuing legal education for attorneys in the State of New York (22 N.Y.C. R.R. § 1500). I urge you to support one-credit requirement for experienced attorneys (admitted to the New York Bar more than two years) which addresses the subjects of diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of bias.

While many organizations, firms, corporations, judges, governmental bodies, etc. preach the value of diversity and inclusion, they do not practice what they preach. The statistics on diversity corroborate this statement. While some may deny the existence of bias in the legal profession, the legal bar is one of the least diverse professions in the United States. See Jacqueline Bell, *Why Law is the Least Diverse Profession*, Law 360 (2016).

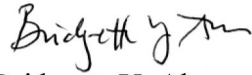
In addition, unconscious bias is a human condition which affect all (repeat, ALL) lawyers and judges alike. Those who deny or are unaware of the existence of such a condition are those especially in need of such CLE training. KALAGNY supports mandatory CLE on diversity and inclusion. Many programs on this topic are attended only by diverse attorneys and judges. Thus, non-minority attorneys need and should especially be required to attend a CLE program on diversity and inclusion. We can only address these important issues if both diverse and non-diverse members of the bar work together. To do otherwise would be a disservice to the legal bar.

If the Office of Court Administration cannot support the requirement for whatever reason, I urge the Office to consider alternatives. For example, another alternative might be to permit attorneys to opt out of the requirement only by substituting the same with a unit from the ethics and professionalism category. We are nonetheless hopeful that all members of the bar will be able to view this requirement as an opportunity to strengthen the bar and celebrate its increasing diversity.

KALAGNY is a professional membership organization of attorneys and law students concerned about issues affecting the Korean American community in greater New York. Incorporated in 1986, KALAGNY seeks to encourage the professional growth of its members as

well as provide legal support for the Korean American community.

Respectfully yours,



Bridgette Y. Ahn
President, KALAGNY

cc: KALAGNY
Andrew T. Hahn, Esq., Partner, Duane Morris LLP
Claire P. Gutekunst, Esq., President, New York State Bar Association
Mark Wilson, Manager of Bar Services, New York State Bar Association
Gabrielle Brown, Office for Diversity, New York City Bar Association