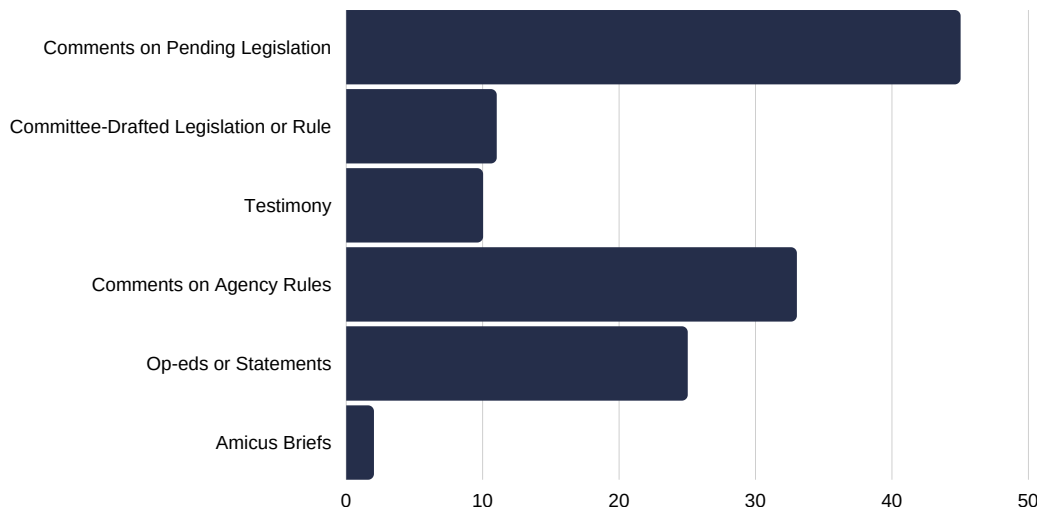
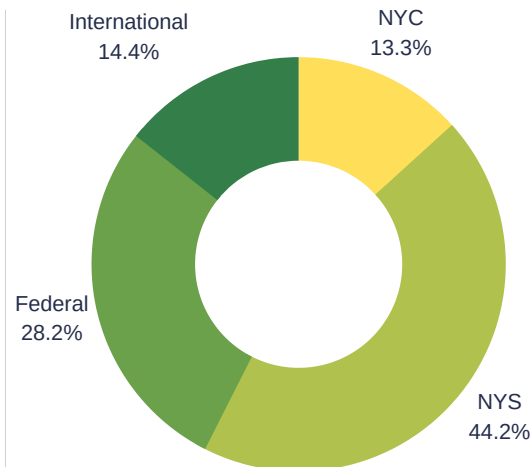


TYPES OF REPORTS



JURISDICTION BREAKDOWN



COVID-19 RELATED WORK

- The City Bar issued **40** reports during this period related to the [coronavirus pandemic](#).
- These reports were directed at all levels of government, covering topics such as the [2020 bar exam](#), resuming court operations, immigration, [insurance law](#), tax-related issues, addressing COVID in prisons and jails, and recommending a [moratorium on debt collection](#) during the pandemic.
- The Professional Ethics, Professional Responsibility, and Professional Discipline Committees proposed an urgent amendment to the "[humanitarian exception](#)" of the NY Rules of Professional Conduct, which was adopted by OCA. The amendment allows lawyers to provide basic financial assistance to indigent clients, which was argued as particularly necessary given the financial impact of the pandemic.

FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The [Immigration & Nationality Law Committee](#) provided comments on **11** different proposed agency rule changes related to asylum claims, treatment of minors at the border and administrative burdens on individuals seeking to lawfully enter the country.
- The [Task Force on the Rule of Law](#) and [Task Force on the Independence of Lawyers & Judges](#) issued **12** reports directed at actions taken by the Trump Administration and law enforcement that argued a violation of the rule of law.
- Our [Business & Finance](#) cluster committees issued a number of comments on proposed rules put out by various agencies, including the SEC and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

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Reports issued or updated

53%

80 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.

NEW YORK STATE HIGHLIGHTS

- With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the shutdown of almost all legislative activity, committees shifted their focus to addressing imminent policy decisions being made by the Governor, the Court System and state agencies.
- During this period, **7** bills supported by the City Bar passed both houses of the Legislature (5 signed into law to date). Issues include legalizing gestational surrogacy, repealing Civil Rights Law 50-a, eliminating court fees for juvenile offenders, civil legal services funding, reforming power of attorney and foster care.
- The City Bar provided testimony for 5 hearings conducted by the NYS Legislature. Topics covered include: court restructuring, judicial pay, veterans legal services, civil legal services funding and needed Election Law reforms following the findings of the Moreland Commission.

NEW YORK CITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Committees provided testimony at 3 hearings before the City Council. Topics covered include: implementation of Right to Counsel in Housing Court, the Fair Fares program, and the impact of the new 'public charge' rule.
- The NYC Charter Revision Task Force issued comments on the Charter Revision Commission's 2019 ballot questions, which covered land use, elections, ethics, city budgeting and police accountability. While they did not oppose any of the proposals (which were all ultimately approved by voters), they did raise concerns about how they were presented to voters.
- In collaboration with a broad coalition of supporters, the City Bar launched a #wifi4homeless campaign to urge the City to ensure that homeless shelters are equipped with reliable Wi-Fi access and related technology.

PREVIEW OF THE 2020-21 COMMITTEE YEAR

- Our committees wrote letters at the start of the 2020 committee year supporting additional State bills that passed both houses of the Legislature. A bill amending New York's anti-SLAPP law to bolster protections for individuals and news organizations from "strategic lawsuits against public participation," has been signed into law. Another that would require that incarcerated parents be placed in facilities close to their children awaits delivery to the Governor.
- A number of committees issued a report focusing on next steps in police reform, examining how the City and State can expand on reforms adopted over the summer.
- The New York City Affairs Committee will be developing, in conjunction with other other committees, policy recommendations in anticipation of the 2021 NYC Mayoral election.
- Committees are planning to issue "transition memos" with policy recommendations for the incoming Biden Administration