

City Bar Working Group on Racial Equity in NY State Courts

MISSION STATEMENT

The City Bar has created an inter-committee Working Group, housed within its Council on Judicial Administration (Michael Regan, Chair) to address racial (in)equality in the New York State courts. The formation of this Working Group is a direct follow up to the City Bar's comment [letter](#) providing the City Bar's input and recommendations to Secretary Johnson in September 2020, and his Equal Justice in the State Court's [report](#) published on October 1, 2020. City Bar members are dedicated to working towards improving our Court System and eliminating racial bias at all levels by:

1. Allowing for continued discussions with, and feedback to, officials tasked with implementing the recommendations of Secretary Johnson's report;
2. Advocating for transparency, collaboration, and accountability on the part of all stakeholders involved with implementing Secretary Johnson's recommendations;
3. Listening and responding to the experiences and concerns of litigants during conversations and correspondence with stakeholders;
4. Coordinating and facilitating discussions amongst City Bar members about racial injustice and bias, and engaging the City Bar as an active stakeholder in ensuring that Secretary Johnson's recommendations are implemented; and
5. Providing the courts with access to resources and possible Pro Bono services to help achieve our shared interest of eliminating systemic racism and inequality from the New York Court System.

The formation of this group is an important and necessary next step to ensure progress towards implementing meaningful changes that will lead to tangible improvement in our courts. City Bar members have a diverse set of perspectives and experiences that will provide valuable input towards achieving the goals outlined in the Equal Justice report. We welcome the opportunity for transparent, honest, and respectful conversations and will offer resources, potential solutions, and continued feedback and support in this collaborative effort.