



**Henry M. Greenberg**

**President**

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Dear Fellow Bar Leader:

The New York State Bar Association (“NYSBA”) is the largest voluntary bar association in the United States. With more than 70,000 members, we are a community of lawyers dedicated to the highest ideals of the legal profession and the betterment of society through the rule of law.

We are honored to share with you the new publication that accompanies this letter. *The New York State Bar Association: A Legacy of Leadership* describes our storied history and continuing commitment to do the public good. We encourage you to review our publication and learn more about us.

Leadership is the glory of the legal profession. Lawyers are leaders throughout the world. In these challenging times, it is increasingly important for lawyers everywhere to understand the worldwide legal landscape, share insights and information, and work together to protect and advance the rule of law. By supporting each other, lawyers can better serve the legal profession and public.

Indeed, never has the voice of lawyers been more needed than now. The global pandemic of COVID-19 has upended the world. This imposes a special duty on our profession. It also provides an opportunity to perform an important public service.

Our respective communities need the wisdom of lawyers. They need our expertise. They need our ability to see both sides of an issue, find common ground, and bring people together. Most of all, the world need lawyers to remind it why freedom and prosperity are dependent on the rule of law.

Thus, we are reaching out to you and other major bar associations around the world. We want to explore ways in which we can work together, support one another, and forge an enduring relationship that will help us better serve our members, clients and communities.

Indeed, as technology brings us closer together, NYSBA is committed to providing a valued professional home for attorneys throughout New York, across the country and around the

world. Over the past year, we have transformed our association into a “Virtual Bar Center,” where members anywhere can participate in training, networking, committees and almost any other program or activity that we offer — whether they are located around the corner or thousands of miles away.

NYSBA’s technological transformation has proven especially useful to address the challenges presented by COVID-19. Our digital communications platform now serves as a clearinghouse for authoritative information about the pandemic and how it is impacting lawyers and the legal community. We have launched efforts to address some of these impacts, including creating an Emergency Task Force for Solo and Small Firm Practitioners, who have been hit especially hard in New York. We are also organizing an expansive effort to recruit and train a statewide network of pro bono attorneys in anticipation of the many legal issues that are arising from the crisis.

In the coming weeks and months, we hope to work with you to develop a memorandum of understanding to share resources and expand opportunities for your members and ours. Please contact Tiffany Bardwell at [tbardwell@nysba.org](mailto:tbardwell@nysba.org) to explore such a collaboration.

All the best to you, your members and your great bar association.

With kindest regards,



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