

Contact: Toni Valenti  
212.267.6646 x 210  
[tvalenti@nycla.org](mailto:tvalenti@nycla.org)

**American Bar Association Adopts New York County Lawyers Association  
Task Force Report on On-Line Legal Providers  
*Report Adopted by NYSBA in 2017 and Jointly Advanced to the ABA***

**August 13, 2019 – New York, New York** The New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) announced today that their *Report of NYCLA Task Force on On-Line Legal Providers Regarding On-Line Legal Documents* was approved in a resolution by the ABA entitled *Best Practice Guidelines for Online Legal Document Providers*. The NYCLA report was adopted by New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) on November 4, 2017 and was jointly proposed to the ABA by NYCLA and NYSBA. The ABA formed a workgroup to study the proposal, appointing 30 people across the range of ABA bar groups, consumers, academics and others, which was led by Ronald Minkoff of NYCLA and NYCLA Past President Michael Miller. Minkoff and Miller facilitated discussions among the groups which led the ABA to adopt the report this month.

Stephen C. Lessard, NYCLA President said “NYCLA is very proud to have been the genesis for this initiative and to have had the vision to take the leadership role in 2016. While on-line legal forms provide increased access to justice, the need for consumer protection of the on-line sales of these forms has received only modest attention. To protect these consumers, it is our hope that these best practice guidelines will be adopted by all on-line document providers.”

“The adoption of the Best Practice Guidelines represents a triumph for NYCLA and NYSBA in taking national leadership on this crucial topic. We showed that the organized Bar can work together with the technology industry and consumers to develop guidelines that will promote access to justice and technological innovation

while protecting the public and promoting the legal profession. We hope this will be a model for the future” stated Ronald Minkoff.

Michael Miller commented “This great achievement demonstrates the enormously important role that local bars play as incubators in efforts to improve access to justice by embracing technological tools while protecting the public. Consistent support from three consecutive NYCLA presidents, Carol Sigmond, Michael McNamara, and Stephen Lessard, and the tireless commitment of Ron Minkoff, made the difference. Without NYCLA’s initiative and advocacy efforts, these national best practice guidelines would not be a reality. “

The NYCLA Task Force on On-Line Legal Providers was authorized to analyze all relevant issues in order to make appropriate recommendations to NYCLA’s Board of Directors. The Task Force, chaired by Sarah Jo Hamilton of Scalise & Hamilton, LLP and NYCLA Past President Arthur Norman Field of Field Consulting Services LLC, conducted an exhaustive study into this issue which included a public forum as part of its investigation. Their report can be accessed [here](#).

### **About the New York County Lawyers Association**

The New York County Lawyers Association ([www.nycla.org](http://www.nycla.org)) was founded in 1908 as one of the first major bar associations in the country that admitted members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. Since its inception, it has pioneered some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence. For more information on NYCLA please visit [nycla.org](http://nycla.org)

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