

CONTACT: Toni Valenti
Director Marketing & Membership
tvalenti@nycla.org

**New York County Lawyers Association Supreme Court Task Force Issues Memorandum
to the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States
Regarding the Issue of Term Limits and Court Expansion**

November 10, 2021 New York, New York – The Supreme Court Task Force of the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) today issued a Memorandum to President Biden’s Commission on the Supreme Court. In its Memorandum, the Task Force strongly recommends that recent testimony and submissions of Akhil Reed Amar of Yale Law School and Michael W. McConnell of Stanford Law School be considered with regard to term limits and court expansion. The entire memorandum can be read [here](#).

Under the Amar/ McConnell approach recommended in this Memorandum, Justices in the first eighteen years of their tenure would sit on panels of nine that would adjudicate most matters. After their first eighteen years, Justices would perform many essential functions (other than sitting on panels of nine) that may currently detract from the Justices’ time to hear and decided argued cases – including filing panels of nine when there is a vacancy due to illness or recusal. Currently-sitting Justices would not be subject to this system; it would apply only to the Justices appointed as those current Justices retire or pass away. Once the Court consists entirely of Justices appointed under this system, two new Justices would be appointed during each presidential term.

“We are recommending a phased in approach that would have bi-partisan appeal and would provide more balance gradually over time. This would also allow experienced Jurists with more than eighteen years on SCOTUS to hear cases on the Circuit Court of Appeal, assume important rule-making, and free

up the panel of 9 to be able to accept more cases for oral argument, benefiting the whole judicial system by giving more litigants access to Supreme Court review” said Vincent T. Chang, NYCLA President.

About the New York County Lawyers Association

The New York County Lawyers Association (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.

###