

**MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATIONS JOIN IN AMICUS BRIEF
IN CASE SEEKING FAIR JUDICIAL COMPENSATION**

The Asian American Bar Association of New York, the Dominican Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association of New York, the National Bar Association Region II, and the South Asian Bar Association of New York (the “Minority Bar Associations”) have joined in the amicus curiae brief previously filed by the New York County Lawyers’ Association (“NYCLA”) in Larabee v. Governor of the State of New York, a case seeking fair compensation for New York state judges. Larabee is being argued in the First Department today.

New York’s 1300 state court judges have not received an increase in compensation for the last decade, with the result that their compensation lags behind that of beginning associates in law firms and the purchasing power of their salaries falls below that of judges in almost every other state. The Minority Bar Associations share NYCLA’s concern that these inadequate levels of judicial compensation threaten to erode the quality of our state judiciary and to undermine its independence, posing a threat to the rule of law. Each Minority Bar Association also shares NYCLA’s position that the effective diminution in judicial compensation over the last decade violates the provision of the New York State Constitution providing that judicial salaries shall not be diminished during a judge's term in office. Moreover, such a failure to provide adequate compensation for judges undermines the independence of the state judiciary and thereby violates principles of Separation of Powers.

The Minority Bar Associations believe they have a special interest in this matter. It is qualified minority group candidates who often cannot make the financial sacrifice

necessary to become a judge and this situation is exacerbated by a reduction in the purchasing power of judicial salaries. Accordingly, the Minority Bar Associations urge the First Department to adopt the arguments advanced by the Plaintiffs-Respondents and NYCLA in support of fair judicial compensation.

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