



NEW YORK REGION LAWYERS DIVISION

Legal Policy & Issues Committee

Mission

The mission of the Legal Policy & Issues Committee (LPI) is to provide Lawyers Division members the opportunity to research, debate, and make recommendations on civil rights and legal policies and issues of interest or concern to the New York Region.

The LPI Committee aims to achieve this mission through the following avenues:

- Policy Taskforce
- Lawyers Division Blog

Policy Taskforce

The Policy Taskforce addresses topics and issues that are relevant to the New York Region. The Taskforce will present on a quarterly basis on these issues and may make recommendations about ADL policy.

- Policy Taskforce Structure

Each year, the Legal Policy & Issues Committee Co-Chairs and Policy Taskforce, in consultation with ADL staff, will select four topics for research, debate, and recommendation. Members will be asked to sign up for one topic per quarter.

Taskforce members will draft a policy backgrounder on each topic. The backgrounder should include information about the topic and flesh out reasons why ADL should or should not have a policy on the topic and considerations as to what the policy should be.

For each topic group, there should be a:

1. Facilitator: Leader of the group; will help to shape the question(s) and manage the flow of work; coordinates preparation of backgrounder; and leads preparation for and coordination of the debate.
2. Pro-Debater: Presents and argues why ADL *should* have policy on this topic.
3. Con-Debater: Presents and argues why ADL *should not* have policy on this topic.
4. Recommendation/Memo Writer: Summarizes the discussion and decision of the Policy Taskforce to be presented to the Lawyers Division and ADL.

Each presentation should consist of the overview of the topic, arguments in favor of and in opposition to ADL adopting that particular policy, and a facilitated discussion with the group, followed by a vote.

Presentations will be 30 – 45 minutes, with 15 minutes for questions and a vote.

In preparation for each presentation, the following timeline is encouraged:

- Months Before: Group meetings, discussions and assignments
- Two Weeks Before: Backgrounder to ADL staff for review and approval
- One – Two Days Before: Presentation material(s) sent to ADL staff for presentation

Lawyers Division Blog

The Lawyers Division Blog will be hosted on the ADL NYRO web page and will allow Lawyers Division members to share information and thoughts on relevant ADL civil rights, legal, and legislative issues that are of interest to the New York Region.

Members have the opportunity to sign up for the “LD Blog Team” and write blog posts about relevant legal news, judicial opinions, and other pertinent issues.

- Lawyers Division Blog Structure
 - Members can sign up for the “LD Blog Team,” which will put them on a listserv where they will be notified of relevant legal news.
 - Team members will have the opportunity to volunteer to write blog posts as issues arise.
 - Members are encouraged to collaborate on these pieces and will be recognized as authors/co-authors on the blog.
 - Blog posts will be reviewed consistent with ADL web site policy and procedures.