

ABA Senior Lawyers Sponsor New Diversity Plan

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The ABA Senior Lawyers Division has formally adopted Goal 12, "to increase the participation of lawyers of color, women lawyers, and lawyers with impairments or disabilities in the membership, on the Committees and in the leadership of the Division."

One of its objectives is to identify such lawyers within the Division and encourage them to take an active role so they can be advanced promptly to leadership positions. The Division recognizes the vital importance of communication, both in announcing its new Diversity Plan in publications of women's and minority bar associations, and also in informing them that all women and minority members who are age-qualified (55) are welcome to join the SLD.

The plan, proposed by the membership committee (cochaired by Harry Hathaway and Virginia Mueller), sets forth major goals, as well as detailed steps to be taken to achieve those goals. It addresses the need for preparation and training of women and minority members and those with impairments or disabilities to enable them to fill positions of leadership in committees, on the Council and in Division offices.

Goal 12 stresses the necessity of obtaining unequivocal support and participation of each existing and incoming Division officer, Council member and committee chair, as well as the need to foster the spirit of inclusiveness in all the Division's activities. This would include diversity in all CLE and committee programs and the compiling

of a list of women, minorities, and persons with impairments or disabilities willing to appear on Division programs.

This plan provides for diversity training for current and future Division leaders at the midyear meeting or at a committee chair orientation meeting. It also encourages a policy that the Division will cosponsor programs with ABA Sections and Divisions only if there is a diverse panel.

In the Division's publications, contributions by diverse lawyers are to be encouraged and recognized,

using photos of contributing authors where appropriate. Photos are to be used as well in membership materials to acknowledge diversity of membership.

The Plan states that Division members should personally invite members and leaders of minority and women's bar associations in the

host city of Division meetings to attend programs and social events, and where appropriate, the Division should waive or discount registration fees for the leaders of such associations.

The plan also provides for regular reports to be published with regard to achievements in the area of diversity.

The Division strongly supports the policies of the American Bar Association to improve diversity in the profession and the Association. The full text of the new Diversity Plan may be obtained from the Senior Lawyers Division by contacting Judith Legg, Director, at 312-988-5583 or by e-mail at leggj@staff.abanet.org.



In London with the ABA Senior Lawyers Division (l-r) NAWL Liaison Selma Moidel Smith, U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain Philip S. Lader, Chief Justice (ret.) of Maine Vincent L. McKusick and his wife, Nancy McKusick. The occasion was the Division Dinner at Lincoln's Inn on July 19, 2000.