

The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York Amicus Committee and Amicus Brief Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Amicus Committee (“Committee”) of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (“LGBT Bar of NY”) is to add the voice of the LGBT Bar of NY to significant cases, especially at the appellate level, which impact the rights, status, and overall welfare of the LGBT community. By submitting an amicus curiae brief to a court, the Committee endeavors to further the LGBT Bar of NY’s mission of improving the administration of the law, ensuring full equality for members of the LGBT community, promoting the expertise and advancement of LGBT legal professionals, and serving the larger community.

II. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

1. **Membership:** The Committee shall be a Membership Committee of the Association and shall comprise 5-7 members of the Association in good standing, who are approved by the LGBT Bar of NY’s Board of Directors.
2. **Chair:** The Board will select a Chair from Committee members, and the Chair will be responsible for coordinating meetings and leading the committee’s work.

III. GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERATION

1. The Committee will prioritize filing amicus briefs in cases in the following situations:
 - a. The case directly affects the rights and protections of LGBT individuals;
 - b. Our participation would add an LGBT voice to broader issues of civil rights or civil liberties, particularly those disproportionately impacting the LGBT community;
 - c. The case is otherwise relevant to the LGBT Bar of NY’s mission;
 - d. The case fits the other factors listed above and has the potential to create positive impact in the law.
2. The Committee will not join amicus briefs that:
 - a. Misalign with LGBT Bar of NY’s mission, objectives, or bylaws;
 - b. Would overly strain the LGBT Bar of NY’s financial and operational resources.
 - c. Are not professionally completed, both in terms of legal argument and presentation.

IV. PROCEDURES

1. **Requests:** Amicus involvement requests can originate from:
 - a. LGBT Bar of NY members;
 - b. Litigants in involved disputes;
 - c. Other civil rights organizations;
 - d. Other bar associations;
 - e. Anyone else.
2. **Initial Review:** On receiving a request or identifying a case of potential interest, the Committee will conduct a preliminary analysis to assess whether it meets our guidelines, above.
3. **Decision:** Following deliberation with the Amicus Committee, the Executive Director will decide whether the LGBT Bar of NY will sign an amicus brief. This could involve the LGBT Bar of NY joining a brief drafted by other organizations or law firms, or the LGBT Bar of NY engaging lawyers (Committee members, LGBT

Bar of NY members, or an outside law firm) to draft a brief specifically for our organization to sign.

V. TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION

1. The Committee will provide periodic reports detailing its actions and decisions to the Board.
2. The LGBT Bar of NY's website will feature a section updating members and the general public about cases supported and making accessible submitted briefs.

VI. REVIEW

1. The Association Board will periodically evaluate this policy to ensure its continued alignment with the LGBT Bar of NY's evolving objectives and the broader community's needs.