

**NEW YORK LEGAL SERVICES
STATEWIDE DIVERSITY COALITION**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Statewide Diversity Task Force's Mission is to create a representative and collaborative atmosphere within Legal Services and Legal Aid programs so that:

- Individual staff members are empowered to do their best work on behalf of clients unhindered by barriers that historically limited their participation and contribution because of their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, class and class background, health status, disability or condition, faith, childcare responsibilities and/or job category;
- An environment is created that features inclusion of, respect for, and sensitivity to, the variety of cultural backgrounds and values of the communities that we serve and the world in which we live;
- Open communication exists and differences can be freely discussed and respected;
- All categories of staff, including management, as well as governing and advisory boards significantly reflect the variety of the client communities served by our offices;
- The uniqueness and individuality of clients and staff are appreciated and valued, and people are universally treated with respect.