

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
International Section**

and

COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS Y ABOGADAS DE PUERTO RICO

WHEREAS

- A. The New York State Bar Association (“NYSBA”) was established in 1876 with the objective of cultivating the science of jurisprudence, promoting reform in the law, facilitating the administration of justice and elevating the standards of integrity, honor, professional skill and courtesy in the legal profession. NYSBA has a number of sections, including the International Section (“NYSBA International”), which is responsible for, *inter alia*, representing NYSBA’s interests internationally, handling Memorandums of Understanding with bar associations outside of New York and internationally.
- B. The Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico is the oldest professional association in Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States. In 1911, the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico became a voluntary association and then in 1932, it became a mandatory association. With a population of more than 3 million people, Puerto Rico has more than 14,000 active and resident lawyers.
- C. Each association caters for the specialized interest of its members through the establishment of sections, committees or groups.
- D. The ability of each association to advance the interests of its members would be enhanced through close cooperation with the equivalent sections or groups of prominent law associations in both Puerto Rico and New York State.
- E. There is a longstanding mutual respect between members of the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico and members of the legal profession in New York State.
- F. With a considerable number of members of the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico also admitted to the State of New York Bar, there is a

longstanding mutual respect between members of the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico and members of the legal profession in New York State.

- G. The NYSBA and the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico both work to advance access to justice, equal protection under the constitution and adherence to the rule of law which affects the membership and legal practice of members of both organizations.
- H. The above shows that there are opportunities between the respective areas of Puerto Rico and New York and underscores the need for closer relations between the legal professionals of the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico and NYSBA.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS Y ABOGADAS DE PUERTO RICO AND NYSBA, DESIROUS OF MEMORIALIZING AN AGREEMENT RECOGNIZING THEIR COMMON INTERESTS AND GOALS AND TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE COOPERATION, RESOLVE AND STATE:

NYSBA and the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico:

- recognizing their mutual interests in the law,
- desiring to strengthen their co-operation in promoting the mutual respect and exchange between lawyers in both Puerto Rico and New York State and the exchange of legal information and materials,
- recognizing their mutual support for the Rule of Law and the development of legal research work throughout the United States and the world,
- recognizing the growing importance of trade around the world and the need for closer ties between people in the legal profession and the vital part played by the law in these relationships,
- recognizing the potential for more effectively addressing national and international legal issues through programs, seminars, congresses, community outreach projects and the exchange of publications; and
- recognizing the advantages inherent in developing and improving understanding within each jurisdiction of the laws of the other jurisdictions relevant to business transactions, commercial disputes, human rights, and the transnational delivery of legal services,

hereby agree that they will seek to enhance the honor of the law and the profession of law and to develop and maintain a relationship based on mutual respect and co-operation, and that through exchanges based on mutual respect and co-operation, and specifically through exchanges as appropriate of legal publications, materials and information, as well as visits of lawyers, and possibly through the conduct of educational events, they will endeavor to strengthen the bonds which join them as members of the international legal profession, and

hereby further agree that each will provide the deliverables, post-signing, that are listed in the Addendum to this agreement and will discuss with each other offering beneficial membership terms to those seeking to join. The Addendum may be amended or modified by written agreement of both parties, which agreement may be accomplished by an exchange of e-mail communications, without the need to amend or modify this agreement.

New York State Bar Association

Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico

SHERRY LEVIN WALLACH
President

MANUEL QUILICHINI
President

Dated

Dated

**New York State Bar Association
International Section**

GONZALO S. ZEBALLOS
Executive Vice-Chair

Signed

Dated

Dated

ADDENDUM TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The following are the deliverables referenced in the MOU:

1. The Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico will provide an e-mail contact list or send an e-mail, to be created by NYSBA, on NYSBA's behalf inviting members to consider joining the NYSBA, or to receive ongoing communications within 60 days of MOU signing.

2. NYSBA may partner with the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico to deliver a minimum of one (1) CLE program within 6 months of the MOU signing.

3. Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico may opt to provide additional e-mail communications to its members throughout the year, highlighting key NYSBA activities that may be relevant to its members.

4. NYSBA may provide a membership discount to the Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico members, inviting them to join.

5. NYSBA's International Section may provide a section membership discount to Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico members, inviting them to join upon joining NYSBA.

6. The Colegio De Abogados y Abogadas De Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Chapter of the International Section of NYSBA shall together consider future opportunities for collaboration through education and networking opportunities.

The Addendum may be amended or modified by written agreement of both parties, which agreement may be accomplished by an exchange of e-mail communications, without the need to amend or modify the Memorandum of Understanding.