INTRODUCTION

At the time of this Strategic Plan Recharge, the American Bar Association is undertaking efforts designed to maintain existing members and attract new members by reducing dues, providing a free CLE library, and offering free section memberships. This structural change is likely to lead to less general revenue in the short term, and will require the LC to be able to generate both new dues and non-dues revenue in the future to be able to survive and advance our mission. Advancing our mission in this context is a challenge that will require the Lawyers Conference to constantly re-examine its goals and commit to clear, ascertainable targets in order to achieve relevant and meaningful results that benefit the Lawyers Conference, Judicial Division, the ABA, the courts, and the public.

It is time for the Lawyers Conference to recharge its efforts and refine its focus. The goals and targets included in this strategic plan, RECHARGE 2017-2018, are intended to build upon the Lawyers Conference's long-standing relationships with judges, leadership in the field of judicial administration, and advancement of the public’s understanding of the judiciary, and to use those strengths to define the identity of the Lawyers Conference through the OneABA process. The Lawyers Conference Strategic Plan begins with the Goals of the Judicial Division Strategic Plan, and is then tailored to fit the activities of the Lawyers Conference within those Goals.

This is an action plan. These initiatives have been or will be developed and implemented during the next three bar years, with evaluation and edits made by the leadership teams attending the annual Judicial Division Spring Planning Meeting and by the LC Executive Committee each bar year at both Midyear and Annual Meetings. An honest, critical assessment will determine whether the Lawyer Conference continues to adapt to a changing ABA and further define itself as a relevant membership resource for people who want to work with judges to provide a voice for the judiciary, educate the public about the Rule of Law and the importance of fair and impartial courts, and make our courts more efficient and diversely representative of the communities they serve.
THE MISSION OF THE JUDICIAL DIVISION:

The Judicial Division serves as the voice of the judiciary; supports an effective, accessible, fair and impartial justice system; and seeks to improve public trust and understanding of the role of courts in upholding the rule of law, while extending the opportunity for participation to diverse judges throughout America and by communicating effectively with them.

THE MISSION OF THE LAWYERS CONFERENCE:

The Lawyers Conference provides judges, attorneys, law students, and people who care about the administration of justice a home to work with judges to provide a voice for the judiciary, educate the public about the Rule of Law and the importance of fair and impartial courts, and make our courts more efficient and diversely representative of the communities they serve. The Lawyers Conference is currently comprised of ______ lawyer members, ______ law student members, and ____ associate members.

The current list of LC committees are:

1. Awards
2. Commemoration of Historic Legal Events
3. Court Administration
4. Court Funding
5. Courtroom Technology
6. Diversity
7. The Impact to the Judiciary of Changes in Legal Education
8. International Courts and Proceedings
9. Joint Projects with the Council of Appellate Lawyers
10. Judicial Clerkships and Resources to Help Law Students
11. Lawyers Conference Day on the Hill
12. Lawyers Conference Fellows
13. Member Engagement
14. Nominating
15. Perspectives of Young Lawyers on the Judiciary
16. Programs and Seminars
17. Promoting Specialized Courts
18. Public Outreach, Education, and Service
19. The Relationship of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches
20. The Role of In-House Counsel in Improving Our Courts
21. Special Masters
22. Tribal Courts
23. US Supreme Court Admission Ceremony
USE OF THIS STRATEGIC PLAN:

This plan will be accomplished with short, medium and long range goals. They are defined respective as: 6 months or less, between 6 and 12 months, and longer than 12 months. These durations also correspond to the 6 month intervals between the Annual and Mid-year meetings, where the status reviews are usually conducted. The plan Goals mirror the Goals of the Judicial Division Strategic Plan, but the Strategies may differ to reflect the structure of the Lawyers Conference.

Like the Judicial Division Strategic Plan, the Lawyers Conference Strategic Plan is designed to be used as a “living document” which charts the way to accomplish the individual goals which are established to further the Mission statement. The action lists of projects to be accomplished during the next six months should primarily be drawn from the current Strategic Plan.

As goals or tasks are accomplished, they are replaced with new or modified goals or tasks. This Plan is to be fully reviewed and updated every six months during Executive Committee sessions consistent with the updates to the Judicial Division Strategic Plan.

Finally, just as these stated goals are designed to further the Mission of the Judicial Division, the individual Strategic Plans of each Conference should be consistent with this JD Plan, and should be synergistic with the Plans of the other Conferences so they mutually support and reinforce each other.

GOAL I: BE AN EFFECTIVE VOICE FOR THE JUDICIARY WITHIN AND THROUGH THE ABA

Strategy 1.1: Become known as the voice of the Judiciary

Tasks:

I.1.1 Market the Lawyers Conference as a voice of the Judicial Division and for the Judiciary, both within the Judicial Division and within the ABA (short range) Deadline: Now

I.1.2 Engage the Judicial Division Conferences with our message and solicit from them advocacy issues. Create conference liaisons. (medium range) Deadline: 8/18

Strategy 1.2: Integrate our efforts with those of the individual Judicial Division Conferences.

Tasks:

I.2.1 Identify and Align our existing committees that fulfill this goal and market the committee resources to the Judicial Division conferences (medium range) Deadline: 8/18

I.2.2 Reorganize the LC committees (creating and sun-setting committees where necessary) and establish dedicated committees for each JD conference to support each conference’s work. (medium range or long range) Deadline: 8/18-8/19
In advance of the Annual Meeting, ask newly appointed Committee Chairs to set specific goals for the year regarding meetings, communications, reports, liaisons, and programs. Use LC communication channels to populate the committees based on their stated goals. Request participation from committee chairs and reports in Executive Committee Meetings.

**Strategy 1.3:** Disseminate, communicate, and publicize the projects, programs, and messages of the LC and JD to members and non-members.

Tasks:

I.3.1 Maintain an organized process to promote the JD’s positions in the House of Delegates and Board of Governors. (short range) Deadline: Now

I.3.2 Align our website, emails, social media, publications, newsletters, and committee communications to produce consistent, proactive, and responsive messaging and content. (medium range) Deadline: 8/18

I.3.3 Establish and maintain a list of individuals and organizations that can help collaborate, organize, facilitate, and implement programs of or convey messaging for the Judicial Division, and regularly apprise them of the work of the Judicial Division. (medium range) Deadline: 2/19

**Strategy 1.4:** Be the voice of authority for the judiciary to political leaders.

Tasks:

1.4.1 Develop working relationships with the House and Senate Judiciary committees. (long range) Deadline: 8/19

1.4.2 Develop a working relationship with state house and senate judiciary committees where judicial improvement or increased funding are needed. (long range) Deadline: 2/20

1.4.3 Continue to lobby Congress at LC Day on the Hill. (short range) Deadline: 8/18

1.4.4 Continue to educate and communicate with Congressional leaders year round. (medium range) Deadline: 2/19

**GOAL II. IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCESSIBILITY OF JUSTICE**

**GOAL III. ACHIEVE A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**
Strategy III.1: Recognize individuals and organizations that strive for and achieve excellence in their work in the administration of justice and educating the public about fair and impartial courts.

Tasks:

III.1.1 Increase the visibility of the Yegge Award and Hod Greeley Award and broaden the pool of nominees. Promote the awards and the recipients in Lawyers Conference, JD and ABA activities and communications. (short range) Deadline 8/18

GOAL IV. ADVANCE THE PUBLIC’S TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF THE COURTS IN UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW

Strategy IV.1: Participate with the Judicial Outreach Network

Tasks

IV.1.1 Assist the Judicial Outreach Network with constant updates to the JD Resource Center and help the JON promote the education materials year round. (medium range) Deadline: 8/18

IV.1.2 Promote and Implement National Judicial Outreach Week. Use the LC Public Outreach and Education Committee to organize and implement educational programs year round. Participate in the Inter-Conference Competition for the Russell Carparelli Judicial Outreach Honor. (short range) Deadline 2/18.

IV.1.3 See III.1.1 and consider additional awards or honors for LC members, JD members, or liaison members who assist the JD in implementation of NJOW or other programming.

GOAL V. ACHIEVE A JUDICIARY THAT REFLECTS OUR NATION’S DIVERSITY

Strategy V.1: Nominate, recruit, and encourage diverse members to join the Lawyers Conference.

Tasks

V.1.1 Update the LC Diversity Plan at Midyear and Annual Meetings.

V.1.2 Incorporate the LC Diversity Plan into this Strategic Plan. (short range) Deadline: 08/18

V.1.3 Participate in the Diversity and Strategic Planning of the JD. (Historically, this person has been the Chair Elect of the LC)
V.1.4 Continue to recruit diverse law students and young lawyers to liaison positions in the LC Executive Committee.

V.1.5 Continue to include the LC Diversity Committee on the LC Nominating Committee, and continue to make diversity a factor for candidates considered by the LC Nominating Committee.

GOAL VI. EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH AND PROVIDE VALUABLE BENEFITS TO LC AND JD MEMBERS

Strategy VI.1: Increase and enhance our communications to LC and JD members.

Tasks:

VI.1.1 Align our website, emails, social media, publications, newsletters, and committee communications to produce consistent, proactive, and responsive messaging and content. (medium range) Deadline: 8/18

VI.1.2 Develop a “how do I participate?” video/information webpage.

VI.1.3 Call for LC volunteers to leadership positions each year in May.

VI.1.4 Hold a pre-annual meeting orientation for new volunteers each year in June.

Strategy VI.2: Develop programming that provides value to our members and generate revenue or content for the LC.

VI.2.1 Produce at least 1 webinar per quarter.

VI.2.2 Collaborate with other JD entities for Midyear and Annual programs.

VI.2.3 Continue to offer and update the clerkship materials for law student members.

VI.2.4 Continue our law student and YLD liaison program.

VI.2.5 Continue to collaborate with YLD on programming for their Fall or Spring Meetings. Find ways to enhance the YLD pipeline to LC membership.
VI.2.6 Offer at least 1 in-person reception for LC members per year. Use the event to gather existing member information and new member contacts.

VI.2.7 Continue to offer a reduced cost opportunity to be sworn in the Supreme Court of the United States.

**EVALUATION:** Agility is a must for a functional strategic plan. The LC Executive Committee will make necessary modifications as necessary to carry out the overall intent of the plan and to keep the Lawyers Conference moving forward. Outcomes generated by RECHARGE 2017-2018 will be evaluated annually by the leadership during the Judicial Division Spring Planning meeting and at both the Midyear and Annual Meetings.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Mark O’Halloran, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE LAWYERS CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AUGUST ___th 2018