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## Group Seeks to Open Disciplinary Process

THE WASHINGTON Legal Foundation has petitioned the New York Court of Appeals and each of the state's four judicial departments to support amendment of the New York lawyer disciplinary rules to allow greater access and participation by the public.

The petition urges New York authorities to open the disciplinary process from the time a complaint is lodged against an attorney with a court or bar organization. Currently, New York law requires that all records and proceedings be kept secret unless charges against an attorney have been sustained by the Appellate Division.

The effort is a part of the WLF's SCALES (Stop the Collapse of America's Legal Ethics) project, which is aimed at eliminating abuse in the civil justice system and improving the professional standards of the nation's lawyers.