



# AABANY ADVOCATE

## Asian American Bar Association of New York

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Volume XVII  
Issue V

## Judy H. Kim Makes History as First Korean American Elected to NY State Court

By Yuqing Tian  
AABANY Intern



*Photo courtesy of Judy Kim*  
Judy H. Kim, first Korean-American elected to NY State judiciary.

**O**n November 8, 2016, Judy H. Kim became the first Korean American to be elected to a judicial position in the State of New York. AABANY is extremely proud of Judy, who has served on its Board and as Co-Chair of its Student Outreach Committee, and graciously agreed to be interviewed. We were thrilled to have the chance to learn more about her career and path to the bench.

Judy began her legal career at Kennedy Lillis Schmidt & English, a boutique maritime/admiralty law firm, after receiving her J.D. from Tulane Law School and her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. "At that time, I was the only female and minority at the firm and it was very rare that I met

other lawyers like me," said Judy.

She next worked at Snitow Kanfer Holtzer & Millus LLP, where she specialized in commercial litigation, employment discrimination litigation, and matrimonial litigation matters.

Judy then left private practice to join the Bureau & Estates Litigation Section of the Legal Division at the New York Liquidation Bureau (the "Bureau") as an associate counsel. The Bureau is part of the New York State Department of Financial Services. It oversees the liquidations of bankrupt insurance companies, handles thousands of claims eligible for payment from three insurance security funds, and distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in estate dividends and in claim payments to injured plaintiffs. At the Bureau, Judy handled all phases of litigation involving the Super-

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## 7th Annual AABANY Fall Conference Inspires and Enriches

By Yo W. Shiina  
AABANY Intern

**O**n Saturday, September 24, 2016, AABANY held its Seventh Annual Fall Conference at the New York office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, with a backdrop of a clear blue early autumn skyline. Embodying this year's theme, "Speak Up, Rise Up, Lift Up," the event was a lively meeting place for students voicing aspirations and asking questions, up-and-coming lawyers, and seasoned law professionals who could offer guidance and inspiration.

This year's event drew approximately 400 attendees, and featured 20 CLE and non-CLE programs, including two student-focused panels, hosted by the Student Outreach Committee and the Young Lawyers Committee. Among the programs were several career development panels, which covered topics such as the entrepreneurial spirit,



Clockwise from top: Attendees enjoyed the plenary lunch session on voting rights in an election year; Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award recipient Sylvia Chin with AABANY President Susan Shin; the Second Annual Diversity Career Fair & Expo attracted 19 employers and many attendees throughout the day; attendees enjoyed a joint committee dinner at the end of the conference.

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## Letter from the President



Dear AABANY Members and Friends:

Welcome to AABANY's 2016 Holiday Party! This is a day we come together to celebrate, enjoy one another's company, and have a little fun while we are at it.

AABANY President  
Susan Shin

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment and service to AABANY. We had an incredibly active third quarter, which culminated in the 2016 Fall Conference: Speak Up | Rise Up | Lift Up, held on September 24, 2016 at the New York offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

AABANY also continues to celebrate numerous individual member accomplishments and while the list is too long to enumerate here, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight a few of the recent accomplishments of some of our members and friends.

- Former Board member **Judy H. Kim** was elected to serve on the New York City Civil Court (4th Municipal Court District). Judy is the first Korean American elected to a judicial position in the State of New York.
- Justice Doris Ling-Cohan** was unanimously re-nominated by acclamation for a 14-year term to the New York State Supreme Court by delegates to Manhattan's County Democratic Judicial Convention on September 22. The Justice was successfully re-elected to her post during the election.
- Current Board member **Sonia Low** and former Board member **Steve Chung** were named CUP Catalysts by the Council of Urban Professionals and received their awards at CUP's 7th Annual Lawyers Forum on November 1.
- The *New York Law Journal* published *Ng v. King Henry Realty*, a case in which our Government Service & Public Interest Committee Co-Chair **Anita Wu** was part of a legal team that successfully moved for attorneys' fees compensating public interest attorneys like Anita and her team at the same rates as private sector attorneys.

• **Presiding Justice Randall Eng** (New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department) was named one of NAPABA's 2016 Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazers.

• Former AABANY interns **Anna Chen** and **Chris Arcitio** won the Thomas Tang Moot Court Northeast Regional and were quarterfinalists in the 2016 National Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition.

• Judiciary Committee Co-Chair **Linda Lin** and Military & Veterans Affairs Co-Chair **Brian Song** were named among NAPABA's 2016 Best Lawyers Under 40.

• Past President **Judge Denny Chin** penned a thoughtful article, "Me, My Grandfather and Citizenship Day," published by *The New York Times*.

• Current Board member **Diane Gujarati** was nominated by President Obama to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge in the Eastern District of New York.

• Founding Board member and Past President **Sylvia F. Chin** was honored with the 2016 Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award at our 2016 Fall Conference, which was covered by *The New York Law Journal*.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at our 28th Annual Dinner, "Take Charge. Lead Change," on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at Cipriani Wall Street (55 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005). Last year, our Annual Dinner was a sold-out event, attracting over 800 attorneys, judges, friends, and supporters of AABANY. Please be sure to support our Annual Dinner and register early!

AABANY continues to strive to do all we can—together—to help each other to advance, be vocal to effect change in our workplaces, and devote time to mentor young Asian American lawyers. Thank you all for getting involved and working with AABANY to Speak up, Rise up, and Lift up.

Respectfully,

Susan L. Shin

The AABANY newsletter endeavors to share in a non-partisan fashion information of concern to the Asian American legal community of New York. The officers and directors of AABANY do not necessarily share or endorse any particular view expressed in articles published in this newsletter. Statements published herein are those of persons concerned about the Asian American legal community and willing to share their concerns with their colleagues. Proposed articles or letters to the editor should be sent to AABANY Newsletter, Asian American Bar Association of New York, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10111 or e-mail: [main@aabany.org](mailto:main@aabany.org); submissions may be excluded or edited by virtue of space or other reasons. Private individuals may publish notices and advertisements, which the editors feel are of interest to members on a space available basis at the following rates: 3.75" x 1" - \$40.00; 3.75" x 4.5" (quarter page) - \$70.00; half page - \$120.00; full page - \$220.00. For advertising information call AABANY at (718) 228-7206 or e-mail [main@aabany.org](mailto:main@aabany.org).

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# AABANY Trial Reenactment Team Presents: “This Land Is Our Land: *Oyama v. California*”

By Yang Chen  
AABANY Executive Director

**O**n Friday, November 4, the AABANY Trial Reenactment team presented at the NAPABA National Convention its tenth reenactment, “This Land is Our Land: *Oyama v. California*,” at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront.

Inspired by Professor Rose Cuisin Villazor’s law review article, “Rediscovering *Oyama v. California*: At the Intersection of Property, Race, and Citizenship,” 87 Wash. U. L. Rev. 979 (2010), the reenactment dealt with the California Alien Land Law which prevented “aliens ineligible from citizenship”—i.e., Japanese—from owning land. The case explored the ways in which denial of property rights also served to promote racial discrimination against the Japanese in California.

In the case, Kajiro Oyama, a Japanese immigrant who was ineligible for United States citizenship at the time, had bought a parcel of farm land which he deeded to his minor son Fred, who was born in the United States and was thus a citizen. Under the Alien Land Laws, this transaction was deemed a fraud and the State of California brought suit against Fred Oyama to escheat the property. The case went all the way up to the United States Supreme Court, where the statute’s constitutionality was placed before the Court for its review.

Using actual trial transcripts and a reconstruction of the argument before the United States Supreme Court, illustrated with photos from the time, this reenactment brought back to life an important but nearly forgotten case in the annals of the civil rights struggle in the United States and the part played by Asian Americans in that movement. The doctrines and alliances formed in litigating the *Oyama* case laid the groundwork for later cases that dealt with equal rights and equal treatment under the law, including *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In the cast for this premiere performance of “This Land is Our Land: *Oyama v. California*” were: Vincent T. Chang; Yang Chen; Theodore K. Cheng; Francis H. Chin; Andrew T. Hahn; Lauren

U.Y. Lee; Linda S. Lin; Kiyo A. Matsumoto; Concepcion A. Montoya; Clara J. Ohr; Vinoo Varghese; Ona T. Wang; and Jessica Wong.

Once again, Hon. Denny Chin, United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, and Kathy Hirata Chin, Partner, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, led the AABANY Trial Reenactment Team in pulling together the record and historical background to produce yet another compelling script to recount an all but forgotten yet no less significant episode in Asian American history that played a vital part in America’s civil rights struggle.

For more about the AABANY Trial Reenactments, visit the trial reenactments website at [reenactments.aabany.org](http://reenactments.aabany.org) where you can request to download the scripts and PowerPoint slides to produce and perform your own reenactment in your local communities.♦



The team brings the case to life by using actual trial transcripts, a reconstruction of the arguments held before the U.S. Supreme Court, and contemporaneous photos.



The AABANY Oyama v. California trial reenactment team.



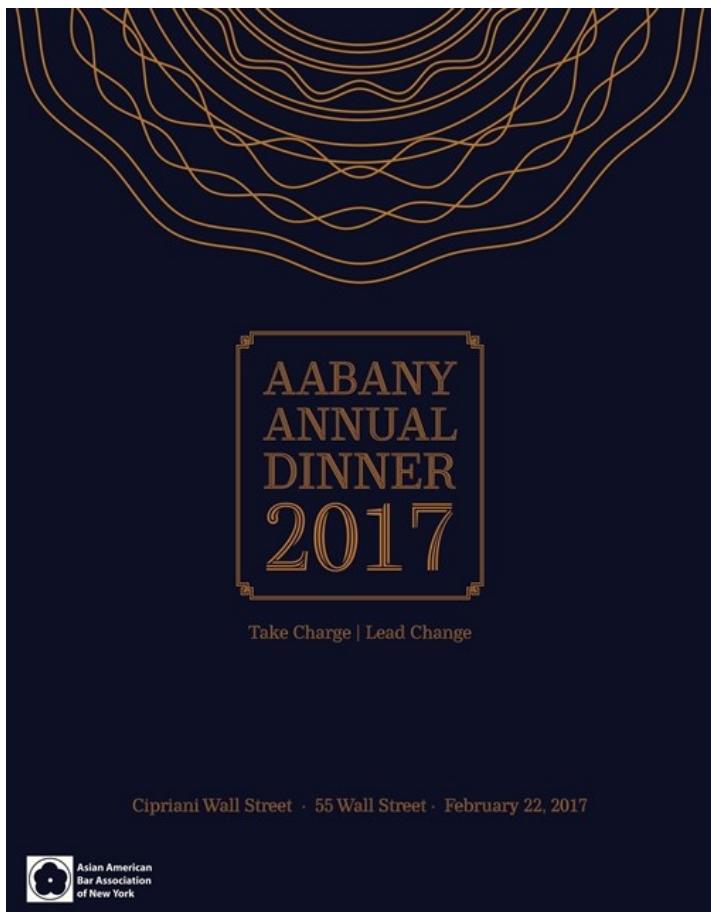
**About the Author:** Yang Chen is the Executive Director of AABANY, a position he has held since August 2009, and former President of AABANY (2008-2009). Prior to his current position, Yang was a partner in the firm of Constantine Cannon, and among the firm’s founding members.

# Spotlight on AABANY's Pro Bono Legal Clinic Volunteers

By Nicole Morikawa  
AABANY Intern

A tenant is having issues with her landlord, but her landlord is not responsive because he cannot understand the tenant, who does not speak English well. An employee loses his job because the employee is just learning English and does not understand instructions from the employer. An individual is in the U.S. on a visa and would like to apply for permanent residency, but without knowing much English, finds it difficult to navigate the process. Challenges like these and many others are what non-English speaking people of the Asian community face on a daily basis. Because these individuals are new to the country and/or do not speak English well, they may be unfamiliar with their legal rights and possess low-paying jobs that preclude them from obtaining the quality legal advice they need.

AABANY's Monthly Pro Bono Legal Clinic aims to address this problem by offering free legal aid to low income and non-English speaking Asians faced with these and similar issues. In keeping with the goal of supporting the greater Asian community through charitable outreach and *pro bono* legal work, AABANY members, consisting of attorneys and interpreters, volunteer their time once a month at a legal clinic in Chinatown where they provide free legal aid and to low-income members of the community.



I had the privilege of attending the legal clinic on November 9, 2016, and the opportunity to meet and speak with some of the volunteers. It was inspiring for me to watch the attorneys and interpreters at work.

Volunteers were presented with a wide variety of legal issues. In some cases, volunteers from different legal backgrounds worked together to help the clinic's clients. Meanwhile, volunteer interpreters assisted the attorneys who did not speak Mandarin or Cantonese. Some of the issues presented related to tenant and landlord disputes, immigration law, personal injury, employment law, and domestic violence. I interviewed the volunteers to learn more about their background, as well as their work with AABANY.



Photo by Ariana Pabalan

**Ariana Pabalan** is an attorney who specializes in public health, with a focus on women's reproductive health, through her work with Physicians for Reproductive Health. This is Ariana's first year with AABANY. She was drawn to AABANY because of her interest in giving back to her community and the excellent work AABANY has done. She says she has gained much experience in nonprofit work, as well as insight into other areas of law outside of her area of expertise.

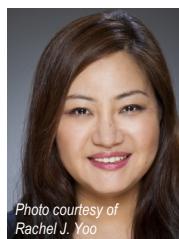


Photo courtesy of Rachel J. Yoo

**Rachel J. Yoo** is an attorney who has been a member of AABANY for five years. She has her own practice, Law Offices of Rachel J. Yoo, where she specializes in immigration law. As a Korean immigrant herself, Rachel understands first-hand the language barriers that new immigrants face and she empathizes with many of her clients. She volunteers with AABANY because she wants to give back to the Asian community and help new immigrants, as well as low income families.



Photo by Michelle Marion

**Jonathan Hernandez** specializes in housing law. He started volunteering with AABANY this year and has advised on cases concerning immigration, social security, and personal injury. Jon joined AABANY's *pro bono* clinic because "it is a good way to interact with clients directly and learn about different areas of law I do not deal with."



Photo by Dave Cross Photography

**Christie Mok**, one of the volunteer interpreters, started volunteering with AABANY this year and attended her first legal clinic this past October. She currently works as a law clerk in the Corporate Finance Group at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. However, on this occasion she assisted on a criminal assault

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# AABANY Members Stand Out at NAPABA Convention

By Yang Chen  
AABANY Executive Director

**A**ABANY made a strong showing at the NAPABA 2016 Convention in San Diego, held from Nov. 3 through 6. Thank you to everyone who represented AABANY and made the NAPABA Convention a truly great time for everyone. We were part of a record-breaking year that drew some 1,900 attendees from around the country.

We are very proud of **Presiding Justice Randall Eng**, one of NAPABA's *Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazers* this year. Among NAPABA's Best Under 40 were Past AABANY President and Judiciary Committee Co-Chair **Linda Lin** and Military & Veteran Affairs Committee Co-Chair **Brian Song**. Congratulations as well to former AABANY interns **Chris Arcitio** and **Anna Chen** for making it to the quarter-finals during the *Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition* at the NAPABA Convention.

Thanks to Judge Denny Chin and Kathy Hirata Chin's leadership, we also premiered our latest trial reenactment *This is Our Land: Oyama v. California*. [See page 3 for more coverage.]

Other panels including AABANY members were:

- Affiliate Leadership Summit, Ratcheting Up - Yang Chen
- How Solo & Small Firms Can Leverage Arbitration's Tools and

Flexibility to Manage Cost and Efficiency - Theodore Cheng

- The Art of the Cross - Joseph Centeno
- A Portrait of Asian Americans in the Law - Jean Lee, Don H. Liu
- General Counsel Roundtable - Dwight Yoo
- And Justice for All: Asian Pacific America LGBT Immigrants' Rights - Glenn Magpantay
- When Pride Meets Prejudice: Employment Rights for LGBTs in the Workplace - Concepcion Montoya
- Effectively Dealing with Shareholder Activists: Lessons Learned from the Trenches - Don H. Liu
- Pearls of Wisdom From Asian Pacific America 'Firsts' on the Bench - Doris Ling-Cohan
- Employment Mediations Demystified, with Christopher Kwok
- The 'It' Factor – How Impressions Make a Difference - Lawrence Wee, Susan Shin
- How to Get Clerkships - Doris Ling-Cohan
- An Informal Conversation with Asian Pacific American Federal Judges - Kiyo Matsumoto.♦

**About the Author:** Yang Chen is the Executive Director of AABANY, a position he has held since August 2009, and former President of AABANY (2008-2009). Prior to his current position, Yang was a partner in the firm of Constantine Cannon, and among the firm's founding members.



Clockwise, from top: AABANY at the 2016 NAPABA Convention; Brian Song (Veterans and Military Affairs Committee Co-Chair), and Linda Lin (Judiciary Committee Co-Chair), each received a Best Lawyers Under 40 Award; (from left) Jeff Ikejiri (Career Placement Committee Co-Chair), Jung Choi (Director), Charles Yoon, James Chou (former Director), and Will Ng (VP Finance); P.J. Randall Eng (far stage left) received a Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award; Sandra Leung (Advisory Committee), Susan Shin (President), and Larry Wee (Director) spoke on a panel called, "The IT Factor: How Impressions Make a Difference"; Yang Chen (Executive Director) and Chris Kwok (Issues Committee Co-Chair) with Linda Klein (ABA President).

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# Fall 2016 Highlights

By Simone Nguyen  
AABANY Program Associate

AABANY had an incredibly active third quarter, which culminated in the 2016 Fall Conference: Speak Up | Rise Up | Lift Up held on September 24, 2016 at the New York offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. We were proud to host many informative, productive, and interesting events and celebrate the many accomplishments of our members and friends.

## **Fall Conference**

September 24, 2016 Our **2016 Fall Conference: Speak Up | Rise Up | Lift Up**, held at the New York offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, was one of our best yet. We offered programming on a wide range of legal topics including the changing landscape of EB-5, what general counsels at top companies have to say about leadership development, voting rights in an election year and more. This year, on top of panel sessions, which included an In-House Counsel Career Track, a Judiciary Track, and a Law Student Track, we offered several other programs. For aspiring attorneys seeking guidance tailored to their personal growth and development, we offered Group Mentoring sessions with senior attorneys. Law firms and vendors seeking business introductions were able to participate in our pitch sessions. We also hosted the Diversity

Career Fair & Expo for the second year and offered Breakfast with our Career Placement Committee. During the Cocktail Reception at the end of the day, we recognized Sylvia Chin as our 2016 Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer. Several Committees also participated in our Joint Committee Dinner at Evergreen Restaurant at the day's end. [See page 1 for full write-up.]

## **AABANY Mentorship Program**

November 15, 2016

The AABANY Mentorship Program for 2016-2017 officially kicked off at Baker & McKenzie! This year, we are emphasizing the importance of connection and conversation beyond small talk. If you have any ideas or suggestions for what types of events you would like to see, reach out to us. Thank you to all who attended,



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**EXEGO® Review**  
Legaltech News® The Recorder  
**INNOVATION AWARD**  
**2016 WINNER**  
Photo by Matt Skinner

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Proud to be AABANY's 2016 exclusive eDiscovery Vendor Partner

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including participants of this year's program, Baker & McKenzie attorneys, and friends of AABANY. We would especially like to thank Harry Valetk and Baker & McKenzie for acting as the AABANY Mentorship Program Exclusive Sponsor 2016-2017.

## Panels and CLEs

**November 30, 2016** The AABANY IP Committee co-sponsored "Is This the Real Life? Virtual and Augmented Reality" with NYSBA's Entertainment Law Section at Cardozo Law School. The program addressed legal issues in virtual and augmented reality. Attendees came away with various legal perspectives as well as a Google Virtual Reality Cardboard Viewer, which all thoroughly enjoyed.



**November 29, 2016** On a rainy Tuesday night, the Real Estate, Solo and Small Firm Practice, and Asia Practice Committees co-sponsored a CLE program on the **Basics of 1031 Exchange and Updates to Title Insurance Clearance** at Capital One Bank's beautiful offices. Todd R. Pajonas, Esq. of Legal 1031 Exchange Services, Inc., gave a presentation on IRC 1031 tax deferred exchanges in real estate transactions, followed by Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of the Real Estate Committee, who gave an update on title insurance clearance issues at closings, and highlighted issues to watch out for in transactions involving foreign investors. Special thanks to Hudson One Title Agency for providing attendees with a gavel.



**November 17, 2016** Morrison and Foerster graciously hosted our **AABANY Leadership Panel: What It Takes to Serve on Our Board** event. During an intimate roundtable dinner discussion, board members described their roles and outlined the responsibilities their successors would have to take on. President Susan Shin and Executive Director Yang Chen also shared their personal journeys to becoming AABANY's commander-in-chief at one point in time. The event covered the strategic and working demands of running the largest minority bar association in New York and the larg-



est affiliate of NAPABA.

**October 27, 2016** Our Women's Committee held **Sharpening Your Self-Marketing Skills**, a career workshop geared towards women attorneys. Hosted at Paul, Weiss, the session featured advice on self-marketing, shared strategies on how to better leverage social media, updating your resume, and creating a marketing plan with your goals in mind.



**October 19, 2016** Our Real Estate and Asia Practice Committees hosted **Tracking the NYC Skyline and Latest Real Estate Developments**, a panel and networking event at Chase Bank.

**September 20, 2016** We co-sponsored the *Cardozo Journal of Comparative and International Law*'s CLE program on **Cross-Border Privacy Issues** at Cardozo Law School. The distinguished panel addressed the data privacy issues that companies face in cross-border transactions and other burgeoning issues in the hot topic that is data privacy. 2 CLE credits were offered in Areas of Professional Practice.

**September 19, 2016** Our Real Estate and Asia Practice Committees hosted **How Asian Banks Uniquely Serve the Asian Community**, a panel and networking event at Herrick Feinstein. The event was co-sponsored with the Chinese Business Lawyers Association and the Asian Real Estate Professionals Association and was attended by over 50 Attorneys and Real Estate Professionals. The Panel focused on the unique nuances and challenges of the Asian Bank within the Asian Community.



**September 12, 2016** At the Global Pound Conference Series: New York 2016, held at Cardozo Law School, Theodore Cheng, Chair of the ADR Subcommittee of the Litigation Committee, spoke on a panel entitled, "How is the Market Currently Addressing these Party/User Needs and Expectations?" while Issues Committee Co-Chair Chris M. Kwok spoke on the panel, "How Can Dispute



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## Fall 2016 Highlights, cont'd

Resolution be Improved? (Overcoming Obstacles and Challenges)."

**September 8, 2016** Our Government Service & Public Interest Committee, Pro Bono & Community Service Committee, and Student Outreach Committee teamed up with the Cardozo Law School APALSA to present **How to Get Your Foot in the Door: Careers in Government Service & Public Interest.**

**September 7, 2016** In advance of Pitch Sessions held at the AA-BANY Fall Conference, we hosted a **How to Pitch to In-House Counsel** program at Paul, Weiss.

### Student & Community Outreach

**October 2016** AABANY co-sponsored and provided CLE accreditation for AALDEF's **Poll Monitoring Trainings to Defend Asian American Voting Rights** in New York.

Our Pro Bono & Community Service Committee and Government Service & Public Interest Committee continue their **Pro Bono Monthly Clinic** in Chinatown and their **Know Your Rights Program** series in Queens.

AABANY successfully supported and advocated for **Justice Doris Ling-Cohan**, along with a coalition of other organizations, to get her name on the ballot after the Manhattan Democratic Party's Judicial Screening Panel failed to report her as qualified for her current seat in the New York Supreme Court.



### Networking

**November 16, 2016** The Membership Committee, together with the Solo and Small Firm Practice, Immigration, and LGBT Committees, hosted a **Get-to-Know AABANY Happy Hour** at District Social. As new folks were getting to know AABANY, old friends welcomed each other as we filled up the mezzanine with food, drinks, conversations, and laughs.

**October 25, 2016** Our Tax Committee hosted the next installment of their **Tax Club Dinner Discussions** at Tang Pavilion, where attendees enjoyed delicious Chinese food along with a ro-



bust discussion of proposed regulations under sections 707 and 752 of the tax code.

**October 18, 2016**

Our LGBT Committee co-hosted an **LGBT Asian American/South Asian Attorney Reception** with the National Queen Asian Pacific Islander Alliance at Baker & McKenzie. More than 70



guests attended from law firms, in-house, public interest and government practices. Justice Doris Ling-Cohan, Appellate Term, First Department, Supreme Court of the State of New York, a trailblazer who ruled on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage before it was legalized in New York, provided moving keynote remarks. A short film was also shown featuring Asian and South Asian American parents expressing their support for their LGBT children.♦



**About the Author:** *Simone Nguyen* is AABANY's Program Associate. She is a graduate of Columbia University, where she studied English and Comparative Literature and East Asian Languages and Cultures.

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intendent of Financial Services as receiver of bankrupt insurance companies and on behalf of defendant insureds in Supreme Court, Civil Court, and in hearings before a court-appointed referee.

A few years after she started working for the Bureau, Judy found that she really enjoyed working in the public sector and making a difference for a broader community of New Yorkers.

"I decided to run for the bench because I had a desire to be someone who was going to make a difference in society by ensuring that everyone is treated fairly and has the opportunity to receive a just resolution to their problems. I learned the importance of helping those who can't help themselves at a young age and I have always personally felt that community service is something that is important," said Judy in a recent interview.!

"I believe that serving as a judge is the highest form of public service that one can do as an attorney." Also, "by bringing awareness to the community and to young lawyers that being a judge is important for Asians and a great public service, we increase the number of qualified candidates and the diversity of the judiciary."

She found the campaign process to be daunting at first, and credits the support and guidance she received from her parents, sister, and mentors with helping her through it. "Everyone I met along the way has helped shape who I am to-

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day. There is no one particular person [or experience]. Really, the process and my evolving into the person I am now [took] a village of family, friends, supporters, mentors, and colleagues."

Judy is also thankful for the AABANY network and the support she received from several judges who had helped her navigate the process. "I feel very lucky that it was through an AABANY friend's introductions that I met amazing judge mentors. It is pretty incredible that a few introductions made such a huge impact on my career. It really serves as a perfect example of how AABANY provides support and a networking base for young lawyers organically."

To young lawyers who are considering pursuing a career in the judiciary, Judy offered a few words of advice:

First, know yourself. Although Judy was prepared for the hard work involved in running a campaign, she was "surprised at how going through the process caused me to have to really 'find myself' and helped me to understand who I am. A common question that voters asked was, 'Why do you want to be a judge?' and you can't really answer that question without self-reflection."

Second, "as an attorney, I think it is extremely important to give back to the community—whether it is volunteering at a pro bono clinic or soup kitchen or in civic or community organizations. Often you will find that you don't only help those who need it but they help you to be a more well-rounded, satisfied, and compassionate person."

Third, Judy recommends getting involved in bar associations. "I think the Asian American legal community in New York is very collegial and welcoming," Judy observed. "I found that there is a willingness among Asian American lawyers to help each other succeed and that friendships are easily made because of our similar upbringings and experiences."

Indeed, Judy holds or has held various positions with a number of non-profit organizations. Currently, she serves as a Board member of Stonewall Community Development Corporation; a Board member of Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert; a Board member of the Korean American League for Civic Action; a member of the Diversity Committee at The Spence School; and a member of the Young Survival Coalition.

In addition, Judy has served as Northeast Regional Governor and Board member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and Recording Secretary and Board member of Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY).

Judy also has a long and impressive history with AABANY. She joined AABANY in 1999 and has been an active member ever since. She has held various leadership roles within AABANY, including: Membership Secretary (2012-2014); Co-Chair of the Student Outreach Committee (2006-2007); and Treasurer

(2002-2006). When asked about her experience at AABANY, Judy said, "During these periods of time I saw tremendous growth in the AABANY membership and saw the organization's reputation as a strong bar association develop not only among Asian Americans and other minority bar associations but with the mainstream bar associations as well. AABANY, through its leadership over the years, has achieved a 'seat at the proverbial table' with respect to selection of judges and I think that is a huge accomplishment."

*"[I]t was through an AABANY friend's introductions that I met amazing judge mentors . . . [who] made such a huge impact on my career. It really serves as a perfect example of how AABANY provides support and a networking base for young lawyers organically."*

Judy has found her experience in the Asian American legal community in New York to be very rewarding, particularly her experience mentoring young attorneys. "One of the best roles I had in AABANY was Co-Chair of the Student Outreach Committee. In that role, we brought back AABANY's signature career and resume workshops and other networking events that re-engaged law students not just with AABANY members but among students at different law schools. To this day, many years later, I am often approached by lawyers who remember me from the programs that were organized. I'm so happy to hear that they are doing well and found that AABANY was helpful to them on a personal and professional level."

*"I found that there is a willingness among Asian American lawyers to help each other succeed."*

Finally, Judy counsels aspiring jurists to "stay the course even when they may feel like quitting. Develop yourself to be the best lawyer/litigator you can be and then commit to the process because there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Don't underestimate yourself or what you are capable of achieving with hard work, commitment, passion, and determination. Believe in yourself and follow your dreams. Find your own path and trail-blaze it if you need to. Also, develop your EQ as well as your IQ."

AABANY is very proud to see one of its prominent members elected to the bench, and congratulates Judy Kim on her historic election. As AABANY President Susan L. Shin put it, Judy's election "brings us one step closer to a bench that reflects the diversity of New York City."♦

<sup>1</sup> Rebecca Baker, *First Korean American Elected to Bench in NY*, NYLJ, Nov. 10, 2016, available at <http://www.newyorklawjournal.com/id=1202772138294/First-Korean-American-Elected-to-Bench-in-NY?slreturn=20161106221826>



**About the Author:** *Yueling Tian* is a recent graduate of University at Buffalo Law School, where she currently interns with the NYC Program on Finance and Law. She is also currently an AABANY Legal Intern for Fall 2016.

## Monthly Pro Bono Legal Clinic, cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

case. She began volunteering with AABANY because she "wanted to find a way to contribute and give back to the Asian American community."



Photo courtesy of  
Beatrice Leong

**Beatrice Leong** has been volunteering since the beginning of the year. She regularly attends the legal clinics each month and specializes in family law cases dealing with child custody or divorce. Beatrice believes that, as an attorney, if you have the knowledge and skill set, you should go out and help the Asian American community even if it is just for a couple of hours once a month, because some families do not have the money to hire an attorney.

Without the support of such AABANY members, many people who would not be able to afford proper legal advice or guidance would not be able to find a resolution for their issues. The Pro Bono and Community Service Committee and its Co-Chairs, June Lee, of Queens Legal Services, and Samuel Lui, of Manhattan Legal Services, provide a valuable service to the Asian community through the monthly *pro bono* legal clinic.♦



**About the Author:** *Nicole Morikawa*, daughter of In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair Duane Morikawa, attends Washington Montessori School in New Preston, CT. She is a member of the soccer team and plays with the Kent School orchestra. Nicole volunteered at the AABANY Legal Clinic as part of her school's internship program.

(Continued from page 1)

non-profit law updates, and salary negotiation, as well as career choices in public office, leadership advice from senior in-house counsel, and going solo. Notably, this year's conference also featured for the first time a three-part boot camp series, hosted by the Judiciary Committee, which offered insight to attendees interested in becoming a judge. Five practicing attorneys also met with attendees who had pre-registered for group mentoring sessions, offering individualized career advice and recommendations. In addition, the second annual Diversity Career Fair & Expo was held at the conference and featured 19 public and corporate sector employers, drawing many conference participants throughout the day. Eight of the employers, including the New York Law Department, Success Academy Charter Schools and the District Attorney's Offices from all of the counties in the five boroughs and Nassau County, participated in on-site interviews.

The panels covered a diverse array of topics. For example, some panels concerned contemporary issues such as EB-5, ESI ethics, and employment in Uber-style business models. Panels focusing on sexual assault and military justice, fraud and money laundering, and tax issues in mergers and acquisitions also drew much attention. During the plenary lunch session, three organizations—AALDEF, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and LatinoJustice—presented a historical perspective for voting rights for minority groups, the recent Supreme Court decision *Shelby County v. Holder*, and the challenges in defending voting rights in the context of the 2016 election.

## Fall Conference 2016, cont'd

This year, AABANY proudly presented Sylvia Fung Chin with the Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award, which honors an accomplished leader in the legal profession who is either of Asian Pacific American ("APA") descent or has demonstrated a dedication to APA issues. A past president and founding member of AABANY, Sylvia exemplifies the word *trailblazer*. She was elected a Partner at White & Case LLP in 1986, when the number of minority and female partners in the profession could be counted on one hand. Rather than achieving success for only herself, she created a pipeline of leadership at her firm and in the legal profession for female and minority attorneys to follow her.

During the award ceremony, which took place during the Cocktail Reception, Executive Director Yang Chen read aloud from a letter from Glenn Lau Kee, the former president of the New York State Bar Association. The award is named after Glenn's father, who tirelessly served the Chinatown community for decades. Glenn expressed that the award could find no more deserving of a recipient than Sylvia. Sylvia believes that she inherited her spirit of community and leadership from her mother, who was gracious enough to join us for the award ceremony. During her acceptance speech, Sylvia thanked her mother for making the trails that she blazed possible and tearfully presented the Norman Lau Kee award to her mother.

After the Cocktail Reception, we held a Joint Committee Dinner at Evergreen Shanghai Restaurant in midtown. Attendees included members from our Corporate Law Committee, In-House Counsel Committee, Intellectual Property Committee, Judiciary Committee, Labor & Employment Law Committee, Litigation Committee, Membership Committee, Real Estate Committee, Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee, Student Outreach Committee, Tax Committee, Women's Committee, and Young Lawyers Committee. We thank Hudson Court Reporting, Cohen & Frankel, Ten-X, Littler Mendelson, and United Wealth Group for sponsoring our Joint Committee Dinner.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our generous Fall Conference sponsors, including Arnold & Porter LLP, Planet Data, Manion Gaynor & Manning LLP, Perkins Coie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Counsel Press and Hudson Court Reporting.

We are also grateful for our sister bar partners who helped to promote the Fall Conference to their members: Association of Black Women Attorneys, Chinese Business Lawyers Association, Dominican Bar Association, Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York, Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York, LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, Muslim Bar Association of New York, Puerto Rican Bar Association, and South Asian Bar Association of New York. Last but not least, the great success in this year's conference could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and Fall Conference Planning Committee members.

All of us in the AABANY community are truly thankful for your participation, contribution and inspiration you shared with all.♦



**About the Author:** *Yo W. Shiina* is a Discovery Attorney at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. She earned her B.A. from Keio University in Tokyo and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. Yo was AABANY's Legal Intern in summer 2016.



## Asian American Bar Association of New York

The Asian American Bar Association of New York was formed in 1989 as a not-for-profit corporation to represent the interests of New York Asian American attorneys, judges, law professors, legal professionals, legal assistants, paralegals and law students. Today AABANY has over 1100 members.

The mission of AABANY is to improve the study and practice of law, and the fair administration of justice for all by ensuring the meaningful participation of Asian Americans in the legal profession.

## Member Benefits and Activities

- **LEARN**

Attend interesting and relevant Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) accredited programs on a wide range of topics for free or at discounted rates.

- **NETWORK**

Connect with a diverse network of attorneys in every type and size of practice in a variety of networking settings, including social, community service, and physical wellness events.

- **COLLABORATE**

Get involved in the organization by joining one of AABANY’s 30 different committees, participating in AABANY’s Mentorship Program, or volunteering at one of our signature events.

- **ACCESS**

Access AABANY’s members-only career center database for legal job openings and consult with AABANY’s Career Placement Committee for targeted job advice/guidance.

- **CONNECT**

As an Active Member, get a free membership in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association “NAPABA” and connect with a vast network of APA attorneys in North America, from coast to coast and in Canada.

- **GROW**

Take on a leadership role within a committee, highlight your practice by speaking on a panel, and raise your profile in the legal community.

- **SAVE**

Get discounted memberships at other bar associations and discounts on entertainment, travel, and shopping with the Working Advantage Program.

## Membership Types

**A Active Member** – Any attorney admitted in any state, territory or possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or foreign country jurisdiction who works and/or resides in New York State.

Annual Fees: Private Sector (10 or less years since admission) - \$75

Private Sector (More than 10 years since admission) - \$125

Public Sector - \$40

**B Associate Member** – Any attorney admitted in any state, territory or possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or foreign country jurisdiction who does not work or reside in New York State.

Annual Fee: \$50

**C Law Student Member** – Any individual enrolled at an American Bar Association accredited law school who resides or attends a law school in New York State or intends to sit for the New York State Bar Examination, or any graduate of an ABA-accredited law school who is pending admission to the New York State bar and works or resides in New York State.

Annual Fee: \$15

**D Affinity Member** – Any individual supporting the legal community who is not a licensed attorney, law school graduate, or law student.

Annual Fee: \$30

# APPLICANT INFORMATION

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Asian American  
Bar Association  
of New York

MR.  MS.  DR.  HON.

NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST
HOME ADDRESS		PHONE	FAX
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL

### Employment Information

FIRM OR ORGANIZATION NAME	PHONE	FAX	
BUSINESS ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	EMAIL

### Membership Type

I WOULD LIKE TO:  JOIN  RENEW

**A** Active Member Please select one of the following categories:

- Private Sector (10 or less years since admission) - \$75
- Private Sector (More than 10 years since admission) - \$125
- Public Sector - \$40

**B**  Associate Member - \$50

**C**  Law Student Member - \$15

**D**  Affinity Member - \$30

### Contact Preferences

SEND EMAIL TO:  HOME  WORK  DON'T SEND EMAIL

SEND POSTAL MAIL TO:  HOME  WORK

AABANY IS THE NEW YORK AFFILIATE OF NAPABA. SHARE INFO WITH NAPABA?  YES  NO

PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION IN THE DIRECTORY? (Check all that apply)  HOME  WORK  DO NOT LIST

### Profile

LAW SCHOOL: GRADUATION YEAR:

PROGRAM:  JD  LLM  SJD/PH.D. STATE BARS ADMITTED:  NY  NJ  CT  OTHER  PENDING YEAR FIRST ADMITTED:

FIRM/SOLO PRACTICE  IN-HOUSE  GOVERNMENT  JUDICIARY  STUDENT  EDUCATOR  NON-PROFIT/PUBLIC INTEREST  OTHER  
PRACTICE AREA(S):

NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES:

Committee Participation - I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICPATE IN (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ACADEMIC
- AUDIT
- AWARDS
- CAREER PLACEMENT
- COMMERCIAL BANKRUPTCY & RESTRUCTURING
- COMPENSATION
- CORPORATE LAW

- FINANCE
- GOVERNMENT SERVICE & PUBLIC INTEREST
- IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW
- IN-HOUSE COUNSEL
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
- ISSUES
- JUDICIARY

- LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW
- LGBT
- LITIGATION
- MEMBERSHIP
- MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS
- NEWSLETTER
- NOMINATIONS
- PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE

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- REAL ESTATE
- SOLO & SMALL FIRM PRACTICE
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