

# AABANY ADVOCATE

Asian American Bar Association of New York

**Summer 2016 Volume XVII** Issue III

## 2016 Fall Conference Preview

By Amy Ngai AABANY Treasurer and 2016 Fall Conference Program Chair

n Saturday, September 24, 2016, AABANY will proudly present its 2016 Fall Conference, "Speak Up, Rise Up, Lift Up," hosted by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. In addition to a full day of CLE and non-CLE programs on cutting edge topics, presented by AABANY's committees and partners, attendees are also invited to participate in Pitch Sessions, as well as AABANY's Diversity Career Fair & Expo.

For more information and to register online, please visit <a href="https://conference2016.aabany.org">https://conference2016.aabany.org</a>.

## **Diversity Career Fair & Expo**

AABANY's Career Placement Committee is hosting its second annual Diversity Career Fair & Expo, featuring selected employers from the public sector, the corporate sector, and law firms. Attendees will have an opportunity to attend informational sessions, meet-and-greets, and in some instances, participate in on-site interviews. In addition, attendees can chat with members of AABANY's Career Placement Committee for career advice and to learn more about other job opportunities. [See "Diversity Career Fair & Expo—A Success Story," below.]

## **Pitch Sessions**

Apply for a slot in our Pitch Sessions, which provide a platform and opportunity for law firm attorneys, solo practitioners and select legal service providers to showcase their services to AA-BANY's growing network of in-house counsels and other participants interested in legal services. Visit us online for an updated list as well as FAQs. [See sidebar on page 3 for a list of participating companies at the time of press.]

## CLEs, Career Panels, and Workshops

The theme of this year's programs is to encourage attendees to "speak up" for themselves, "rise up" to face challenges, and "lift up" their peers and communities. This year's Fall Conference AABANY Membership

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# Diversity Career Fair & Expo—A Success Story

By Tiffany Tsai

VP of Communications, AABANY Career Placement Committee

n September 24, 2016 AABANY's Career Placement Committee will host its second annual Diversity Career Fair & Expo (the "DCF") at the 2016 AABANY Fall Conference. We are tremendously proud to announce that last year, the DCF led to several outstanding job placements. Below we share one particular success story. We welcome AABANY members to attend this year's DCF and look forward to sharing even more success stories with you in the near future. To register for the DCF or to see the current list of participating employers, visit our website at conference2016.aabany.org/diversity-career-fair.

Kevin Yim was born to immigrants from China who opened Chinese take-out restaurants on Long Island. Kevin became the first person in his family to attend college when he enrolled at Brandeis University, where he served as Co-Chair of the Brandeis Intercultural Center and as President of the Brandeis Asian American Students Association. After graduating from Brandeis University in 2010, Kevin decided to go to law school to become a lawyer in order to devote himself to assisting immigrant communities. In another first achievement for his family, Kevin attended Temple Law School and was the Photo courtesy of Executive Editor of the Temple Political and Civil Rights Law Review. Kevin graduated in 2014 and since that time, he has served as Kevin Yim with a very different—and a judicial law clerk to Magistrate Judge Gary ultimately successful—approach to his job R. Brown of the United States District



The Diversity Career Fair & Expo at AA-BANY's 2015 Fall Conference provided search. Congrats, Kevin!

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AABANY ADVOCATE

## Letter from the President



AABANY President Susan Shin

Dear AABANY Members, Friends, and Supporters,

n behalf of the Board and AABANY's leadership, thank you so much for your continued support of this wonderful organization. Every day I grow more impressed with the talented membership and more hon-

ored to be serving as its President.

AABANY has had an incredibly active second quarter of 2016. Here are just a handful of highlights from this summer:

- June 2, 2016, AALFNY and AABANY cohosted their annual Summer Reception at the New York offices of Baker & McKenzie LLP, honoring AABANY Board member, Manisha Sheth, for her recent appointment as Executive Deputy Attorney General for Economic Justice by New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman. AALFNY's Community Service Scholarship and the AALFNY/ SABANY (South Asian Bar Association of New York) Public Interest Scholarship were also awarded.
- June 3, 2016, AABANY participated in the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Fair at the Rotunda on 60 Centre Street, an event presented by the Cultural Diversity Committee and the Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County, and the New York County Clerk's Office.
- June 4, 2016, the AABANY Young Lawyers
   Committee held its spring community service
   project with Publicolor, at Peace and Diversity
   Academy in the Bronx, where volunteers
   were paired up with students for a day of
   painting and informal mentoring.
- June 9, 2016, the AABANY Prosecutors
  Committee celebrated its 8th Annual Reception at the New York County Lawyers Association by honoring two trailblazers in Public Service, Hon. Alexander Jeong (Justice of the New York State Court of Claims, Deputy Administrative Judge, New York City Criminal Court) and Diane Gujarati (Deputy Chief, Criminal Division, United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York). Many esteemed officials gave warm-hearted speeches on behalf of the honorees, including

- US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Hon. Preet Bharara.
- June 16, 2016, the AABANY Corporate Law Committee and the In-House Counsel Committee held their 9th Annual Wine Tasting & Networking Reception for Law Firm Partners and Senior In-House Counsel, attended by approximately 140 invitees.
- June 17, 2016, AABANY co-hosted "Movie Night: Seoul Searching" with the Asian American Arts Alliance, Harvard Asian American Alumni Association, Harvard Business School Asian American Alumni Association, FF Fraternity, and Cornell Asian American Alumni Association to support APA attorney and coproducer of the movie, Brigette Noh.
- June 23, 2016, AABANY co-sponsored a trial reenactment by the National Filipino American Lawyers Association, the Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York and the Filipino American Lawyers Association of Oregon entitled, "Justice Denied: Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio" at the 16th Biennial Conference, A Pinoy State of Mind: Building Our Roots, hosted by the Filipino American National Historical Society at John Jay College.
- June 30, 2016, the AABANY Government Service & Public Interest Committee, Pro Bono & Community Service Committee, and Student Outreach Committee co-hosted a Reception for Law Student Interns Working in Government or Public Interest at Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP.

As I have noted before, we have so much to celebrate, but Asian Americans in the legal field remain dramatically underrepresented in the judiciary, high government offices, law firm partnerships, and in-house counsel boardrooms. AABANY continues to strive to do what we can—together—to help each other to advance, be vocal to affect 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.

Sincerely,

J---

Susan L. Shin AABANY President

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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 here 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; 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.

## 2016 Fall Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

offers a diverse array of CLE panels, career-oriented programs, and interactive workshops that embody this theme. CLEs include programs that address practical, substantive matters such as Tax Lawyer's Guide to M&A Tax Issues and Drafting, Ethics of ESI—What Keeps a Litigator Up At Night, and The Changing Landscape of the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program. Career-oriented programs include Speaking Up For Yourself: Salary Negotiation for APA and Women Attorneys, Pathways to Public Office, and (Re)Defining Success: Candid Advice for Law Students and Attorneys on the Rise. Interactive workshops include Bootcamp: Road to the Bench and Group Mentoring Sessions. See the sidebar for a complete list of programs at the time of press.

## **Special Programming**

This year's **Plenary Lunch Session**, "Voting Rights in an Election Year for Communities of Color," will address the challenges, issues, and barriers faced by minority voters in the context of current events leading up to the 2016 Presidential general election. Attendees will learn about the important strides that have been made to protect voting rights for communities of color, as well as the current work being done to promote those voting rights.

(Continued on page 6)



## 2016 Fall Conference Sneak Peek\*

## Pitch Session—Participating Employers\*

- · Bolla Oil Corp.
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Citizens Bank
- HICKIES
- Honeywell International Inc.
- Hubbell Inc.
- ICAP
- MetLife
- Natixis
- NBCUniversal

- OnDeck
- Prudential
- Publicis Group
- Rakuten Marketing LLC
- Rockefeller Group
- Samsung
- StoneMor Partners
- Titan Advisors
- The Travelers Companies Inc.
- William Morris Endeavor

## Diversity Career Fair & Expo

- · Bronx County District Attorney's Office
- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)
- JPMorgan Chase
- Kings County District Attorney's Office
- Manhattan Legal Services
- Nassau County District Attorney's Office
- · New York City Law Department
- New York County District Attorney's Office
- · Queens County District Attorney's Office
- Queens Legal Services
- Richmond County District Attorney's Office
- Success Academy Charter Schools
- USAA
- U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York
- Varghese & Associates, P.C.

## **CLE and non-CLE Programs**

- Speaking Up for Yourself: Salary Negotiation for APA and Women Attorneys
- GC Roundtable: Rising Up to the New Challenges
- Sexual Assault and Military Justice: Should We Reform the Military Justice System to Combat Sexual Assault in the Military?
- Uberization, but not Uber Alles: The Clash Between "Gig Economy" Business Models and Established Labor and Employment Law Doctrines
- · Voting Rights in an Election Year for Communities of Color
- Ethics of ESI—What Keeps a Litigator Up at Night?
- The Entrepreneurial Spirit
- . Keeping Up with Non-Profits
- · Pathways to Public Office
- Tax Lawyer's Guide to M&A Tax Issues and Drafting
- The Changing Landscape of the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program
- The Foreign Real Estate Investor and a Conversation about Sources of Money, Fraud, and Money Laundering
- Starting a Solo Practice in New York—Basic Skills and Strategies for Starting and Running a Successful Law Practice

## **Workshops and Career Panels**

- . Group Mentoring Sessions
- Bootcamp: Road to the Bench
- In-House Counsel Forum
- In-House Career Panel: Developing Future Leaders
- Schmoozing 101 For Law Students Who Hate the Idea of Networking
- (Re)Defining Success: Candid Advice for Law Students and Attorneys on the Rise

\*At the time of press. Final list of programs subject to change.

# Prosecutors Committee Celebrates 8th Annual Reception

By Simone Nguyen AABANY Program Associate

n June 9, 2016, the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) Prosecutors Committee celebrated its 8th Annual Reception at the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) by honoring two trailblazers in Public Service: Hon. Alexander Jeong (Justice of the New York State Court of Claims, Deputy Administrative Judge, New York City Criminal Court) and Diane Gujarati (Deputy Chief, Criminal Division, United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York).

The evening featured representatives from various prosecutors' offices who spoke admirably about the important work of their esteemed colleagues in representing the people and defending the public, injecting some collegial humor and inspiring remarks along the way. What started as a casual and serendipitous dinner among Asian American prosecutors eight years ago, the AABANY Prosecutors' Committee Reception has grown to an annual event that fills the room to capacity with attendees from all across New York City.

Among the distinguished speakers were:

- Catherine Christian, past NYCLA President
- Susan L. Shin, AABANY President
- Robert L. Capers, U.S. Attorney, EDNY
- Madeline Singas, Nassau County District Attorney
- Bridget Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor, New York County District Attorney's Office
- Jesse Sligh, Executive ADA, Queens County
- Nitin Savur, Executive Assistant District Attorney for Strategic Initiatives, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, Criminal Court, New York County
- · Leroy Frazer, Chief of Staff, Kings County
- Hon. Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney, SDNY

United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Hon. Preet Bharara praised Diane for her insight and character, which he remarked was obvious from the very beginning. Diane arrived at the U.S. Attorney's Office seven months before Preet did. After having served for almost 17 years, she has tried every case imaginable and, according to Preet, she has met every challenge with intellectual rigor and grace.

Justice Alexander Jeong, a trailblazer in the court system, reminisced over his early happy and stressful days as a prosecutor. It was his first full-time position following an accident that rendered him disabled. He realized how empowering the faith of his superiors and colleagues at the District Attorney's Office was, and he went on to have a tremendously successful career as a prosecutor before joining the bench. He is now lauded as a judge with the utmost respect for the court system and victims, always keeping in mind his mission of serving the public with fairness and integrity.





TOP: AABANY's Prosecutors Committee ("Committee") held its 8th Annual Reception on June 9, 2016. From L to R: (back row) AABANY President Susan Shin, Committee Cochair Helen Ahn, Presiding Justice Randall T. Eng (2d Dept), Public Service Award recipient Diane Gujarati, Committee Co-chair Kin Ng, Committee Co-chair James Lin, AABANY Executive Director Yang Chen, former Committee Co-chair Monica Huang, and (front row) Public Service Award recipient Hon. Alexander Jeong. BOTTOM (from L to R): Hugh Mo, Justice Eng, Magistrate Judge Marilyn D. Go (EDNY), Acting Presiding Justice Peter Tom (1st Dept), and AABANY Executive Director Yang Chen.

Instilling the public with faith that the law will uphold the rights of the people, as told by each of the distinguished speakers at the Reception, a diverse population of prosecutors and judges also inspires the next generation of lawyers serving the public interest. Thank you to Co-Chairs of the Prosecutors Committee, Jim Lin, Kin Ng, and Helen Ahn for organizing this wonderful event. Congratulations to each of the extremely talented and deserving honorees. •



**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.

AABANY ADVOCATE

# APA Heritage Month with AABANY

By Simone Nguyen AABANY Program Associate

uring the month of May, APA Heritage Month, AABANY continued exploring its theme of "Speak Up, Rise Up, Lift Up" by presenting and participating in programs that revisit and reflect on important moments in APA history, examine the impact of such histories on the future of APAs in the legal community and community at large, and gather members of those communities in order to explore ways in which we can speak up, rise up and lift up one another.

## **Special Events**

May 11, 2016 The AABANY Trial Reenactment Team, led by Hon. Denny Chin and Kathy Hirata Chin, proudly presented Vietnamese Fishermen's Association v. Knights of the Ku Klux Klan at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP.

## **Panels and CLEs**

May 11, 2016 AABANY member Judge Pamela Chen (United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York) led a conversation about diversity and racial balancing in the judiciary, academia, and other environments at Debevoise & Plimpton's APA Heritage Month Luncheon.

May 16, 2016 The Judiciary Committee held Part IV of its Bootcamp Series, Roadmap to the Bench: Endorsements inside the 308at156 Art Gallery at the offices of Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP.

May 18, 2016 Part II of Group Mentoring, a workshop series dedicated to developing the leadership potential of young attorneys, was led by Steve Chung, VP



of News for NBCUniversal Media, LLC and former AABANY Board member, and held at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.

## **Student & Community Outreach**

May 11, 2016 The AABANY Pro Bono & Community Service Committee and Government Service & Public Interest Commit-

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## APA Heritage Month Recap, cont'd

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tee held its **Monthly Pro Bono Clinic** at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. (Please note that, as of June 8, 2016, the monthly clinic is located at Asian Americans for Equality's offices at 111 Division Street.)

May 15, 2016 AABANY joined the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) 2016 Festival and reached out to the Asian American community about AABANY's pro bono initiatives.

## **Networking**

May 20, 2016 AABANY and SABANY hosted **Get to Know AABANY & SABANY Happy Hour** at the Rubin Museum.

## **Committee Meetings**

May 16, 2016 The Corporate Law Committee Kick-Off Meeting was held at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.

May 17, 2016 The AABANY Young Lawyers Committee held its Kick-Off Meeting at the 308at156 Art Gallery at the offices of Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP.



## **Co-Sponsored Events**

May 5, 2016 AABANY co-sponsored Intro to Islamophobia and Xenophobia: Deepa Iyer, Yalini Dream, Hina Shamsi at the Asian American Writers' Workshop.

May 19, 2016 AABANY co-sponsored SABANY's Perspectives from Federal, State, and Local Government Attorneys at the New York City Law Department.

May 24, 2016
AABANY and
S A B A N Y
hosted another installment
of the Public
I n t e r e s t
Roundtable:



An Evening with South Asian Judges at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP.

May 31, 2016 AABANY co-sponsored SABANY's Diversity-Focused Conversation with South Asian Actress Reshma Shetty in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at Paul Hastings LLP. •



**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.

## Diversity Career Fair, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Before attending the DCF, Kevin looked for his next job as he had looked for many prior internships and jobs, *i.e.*, primarily through online job postings. The DCF provided Kevin with a very different approach—the opportunity to meet with prospective employers face-to-face, to participate in interviews, and to connect with AABANY mentors who gave him advice regarding the job search process and his future career development. This new approach proved to be a huge success.

After interviewing with employers at the 2015 Diversity Career Fair, Kevin will proudly be joining the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office this fall as an Assistant District Attorney. Kevin deeply appreciates the help and support of AABANY in setting up the next stage of his legal career. Today Kevin is actively involved with the Career Placement Committee as its Co-Vice President of Programs.

## **About the DCF**

The DCF at the Fall Conference features selected public sector, corporate, and law firm employers who host informational sessions, meet and greet interested applicants, and in some instances, conduct first round on-site interviews. In addition, DCF attendees will have an opportunity to meet members of the Career Placement Committee, receive career advice, and learn more about other job openings. For questions about the DCF, please email <a href="mailto:fall.conference@aabany.org">fall.conference@aabany.org</a>. To learn more about the Career Placement Committee, contact <a href="mailto:ca-reers@aabany.org">ca-reers@aabany.org</a>. \*



**About the Author:** Tiffany Tsai is Vice President of Communications of AABANY's Career Placement Committee. She is a graduate of Columbia Law School, and is licensed in Taiwan and New York.

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Finally, join us for a **Cocktail Reception**, where we will announce the recipient of this year's **Norman Lau Kee Trail-blazer Award**, which honors an accomplished APA leader in the legal profession who has carved a path for others to follow, served the community as a mentor and role model, and has made a lasting impact on the APA community through his or her dedication and commitment.

## **Register Today!**

To register for the Fall Conference, please visit <a href="https://conference2016.aabany.org/registration">https://conference2016.aabany.org/registration</a>. A discounted rate is available for AABANY members. For a limited time, non-members who attend the Fall Conference will receive a one-year membership in AABANY. All participants who register on or before September 9, 2016 will receive a further discount on the registration fee. Please contact <a href="mailto:fall.conference@aabany.org">fall.conference@aabany.org</a> with any questions regarding the Fall Conference.



**About the Author: Amy Ngai** is AABANY's Treasurer and 2016 Fall Conference Program Chair. She is an associate at Gurfein Douglas LLP, a boutique litigation firm exclusively devoted to representing plaintiffs in a wide variety of personal injury matters.

## **AABANY** • MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



## 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

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

Annual Fee: \$30

**AABANY** 

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Membership Type							
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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  Associate Member - \$50  Law Student Member - \$15  D Affinity Member - \$30							
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