



AABANY ADVOCATE

Asian American Bar Association of New York

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Fireside Chat with Joon Kim, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York

By: Albert W. Suh, Esq.
Co-Chair, Young Lawyers Committee

Tucked away between the Beaux-Arts grandeur of the Manhattan Municipal Building and the imposing brutalist cube of One Police Plaza is a neat and unassuming gray office building. Yet within that building sit some of the brightest legal minds and one of the most powerful law enforcement offices in the United States – the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Southern District of New York – and at the top sits a man who, similarly, betrays little of his expansive influence and accomplishments behind his clean lines and unassuming demeanor.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Attorney’s Office, SDNY
Joon Kim, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York

He may be one of the most powerful attorneys in America, leading an office of more than 200 federal prosecutors, but Joon Kim, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York doesn’t let that faze him. With humility, grace, and candor, Joon continues the outstanding work and tradition of the federal prosecution office of the Southern District of New York.

Joon Kim has served in various capacities at the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Southern District of New York for roughly a decade. He began his legal journey at Harvard Law where he first took interest in the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices during a Federal Criminal Prosecution class. From there, he went on to clerk for the Honorable Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum in the Southern District of New York. It was there, as a law clerk, that Joon

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With its remarkable evolution from a two-person boutique to a global law firm with over 250 employees, Kobre & Kim LLP (“Kobre & Kim”) has definitely come a long way. Co-founded in 2003 by AABANY Advisory Committee member Michael S. Kim, Kobre & Kim focuses on serving as special conflicts counsel in complex international disputes and investigations, and attributes much of its success to diversity as a key driver in crafting creative, innovative, and effective solutions for the firm’s clients.

To this end, Kobre & Kim strives to champion diversity firm-wide and to embrace diversity and inclusion as a core value. This commitment is reflected in its cultivation and retention of a diverse and talented workforce at rates that exceed the legal

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The Advocate regularly spotlights AABANY’s corporate sponsors and gives our sponsors an opportunity to showcase how their work aligns with AABANY’s mission and contributes to the legal community at large.



Kobre & Kim LLP is a Silver Level sponsor. As a long-time supporter of AABANY and its sister bars, Kobre & Kim has hosted and/or co-sponsored a number of programs over the years. These include (clockwise from top left): A conversation with Acting Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez in February, 2017; the KALAGNY Mentorship Program’s panel and mock interviews for law students and junior attorneys in July, 2015; a KALCA law career panel in July, 2014; and a robing ceremony in February, 2017 for Judge Judy Kim, the first elected Korean American judge in New York State.

Letter from the President



AABANY President
Dwight S. Yoo

Earlier this month in a podcast, Brooklyn Nets point guard Jeremy Lin shared the many stereotypes he had to overcome and racial slurs he heard while playing basketball, particularly during college.

In the podcast *Outside Shot with Randy Foye*, Lin detailed how he was called “ch--k” openly by players and “that Oriental” by an opposing coach, heckled by a fan screaming Chinese food names at him, and taunted by crowds about his eyes.

The reaction? Largely indifference. Referees looked the other way, and we can infer security and the schools themselves didn’t respond meaningfully, if at all.

In speaking with other Asian Pacific Americans, I am struck by how familiar the experience Lin describes is to many in their own life experiences. To many, having preconceived notions imposed on them and being the recipient of racially tinged offensive remarks are commonplace, including at the workplace (even if the remarks may be without malice), and the indifferent response is unsurprising.

But the reaction needs to change. One of the principal missions of the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) this year is to bring greater attention to these matters.

Whether it is being loud when a television personality like Steve Harvey makes offensive jokes about Asians or Fox News airs a “Watters’ World” segment mocking New York City’s Chinatown residents with the correspondent self-proclaiming it was “all in good fun.”

Or highlighting APA talents deserving of promotion while bringing attention to the disproportionate underrepresentation of APAs in the senior ranks of in-house law departments, law firms, the judiciary, public service, and political office.

Or focusing attention on news stories affecting the APA community, such as the shootings of two Indian engineers in Kansas earlier this year by a gunman who allegedly yelled “Get out of my country” before firing, and the subsequent increase of other violent acts against South Asians.

In 2012, at the height of “Linsanity,” ESPN ran an unconscionably derogatory headline “Chink in the Armor” tied to a story about the end of the Knicks’ winning streak which had been fueled by Lin’s play.

We at AABANY hope to speak out, educate and advocate so that people think twice, with the goal that such headlines become a thing of the past.

Respectfully,

Dwight S. Yoo

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AABANY Participates in Inaugural NY Diversity Forum

By: Jason Cheung
AABANY Spring 2017 Intern

Held on April 28, 2017 at the U.S. District Courthouse of the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) and organized by the Federal Bar Association-EDNY Chapter, the inaugural New York Diversity Forum provided an occasion to reflect upon contemporary obstacles and issues confronting diversity in the legal profession.

In addition to AABANY the participating groups were:

Dominican Bar Association
Federal Bar Association-EDNY Chapter
Federal Bar Association-LGBT Section
Hispanic National Bar Association, Region II (NY)
International Cultic Studies Association
Latino Judges Association
Latino Lawyers of Queens County
Long Island Hispanic Bar Association
Muslim Bar Association of New York
Puerto Rican Bar Association
South Asian Bar Association of New York

The event commenced with opening remarks from Chief Judge Dora L. Irizarry, U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of New York and the first Hispanic woman to serve as a state judge in New York. Judge Irizarry covered a spectrum of topics in her speech, ranging from the pleasure of being so intimately involved in the naturalization process, to the historical wisdom of George Washington and how he nurtured what may be the greatest social experiment in the history of the world—the American nation. Judge Irizarry shared the following words of advice from George Washington: that “we must never despair...” and that “if difficulties arise, we must put forth new exertion and proportion our efforts to the exigencies of the times.” These words from more than two centuries ago resound to present day.

The Muslim Bar Association of New York led the first panel discussion on “Being Muslim in America: An Introduction to Islam and the Challenges Currently Facing the Muslim Community,” featuring speakers Asim Rehman, General Counsel at the Office of the Inspector General of the NYPD, Sania Khan, Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Bureau of the Office of the New York State Attorney General, and Merium Malik, an Immigration and Criminal Defense Attorney in New York. The discussion touched upon topics such as the legal implications and nuances of the recent Trump Executive Orders and travel bans, potential human rights issues stemming from rights violations at the U.S. border, and recent cases brought forth to contest the legitimacy of the Executive Orders.

The next panel discussion was on the topic of “Religious Freedom vs. LGBT inequality,” led by the LGBT Section of the Federal Bar Association, and featured speakers David Thompson, a

partner at Stecklow & Thompson, and Susan Sommer, Associate Legal Director and Director of Constitutional Litigation for Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization dedicated to the achievement of full civil rights for LGBT persons and persons with HIV. Much of the discussion centered on the legal inequalities of



On April 28, 2017, AABANY was honored to participate in the first ever New York Diversity Forum, organized by the Federal Bar Association-EDNY Chapter.

Mississippi’s legal system (with Sommer citing occasionally hard-to-believe details about the extent of the legal injustices inflicted on LGBT persons in Mississippi) and Sommer’s interpretation of cases such as *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Thompson discussed the legality of using religious exemptions as an opportunistic means for compromising the rights of LGBT individuals, citing the notorious *Hobby Lobby* case as an example of the law ruling in favor of employers who opposed the provision of contraception to employees, on the grounds of religious belief.

The third panel discussion, hosted by the International Cultic Studies Association, and featuring speakers Alan W. Schefflin, Emeritus Professor of Law at Santa Clara University School of Law, Stephanie Spanos, M.D., and Robin Boyle Laisure, Professor of Legal Writing at St. John’s University Law School, supplied an interesting departure from the topics of rights and diversity by focusing specifically on the relevance of undue influence and the challenges to establishing its legitimacy as a justiciable issue in the courtroom. Perhaps the most striking aspect of the discussion was the apparent disjuncture between the troubling consequences for victims of mind control and the lack of legal remedy for such victims.

After a short break came a networking lunch featuring Middle Eastern food catered by Tanoreen, which has deservedly been recognized as being among the best Middle Eastern restaurants in Brooklyn. Many EDNY judges, including Hon. Kiyo Matsumoto, Hon. Peggy Kuo and Hon. Marilyn D. Go, joined the attendees for lunch.

The afternoon session started with a panel presented by the Hispanic National Bar Association, Region II (NY), the Latino

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solidified his decision to become an Assistant U.S. Attorney (“AUSA”), after observing the high levels of skill and excellence that the AUSAs demonstrated. As an AUSA, Joon rose through the ranks for six years to become a prosecutor in the Organized Crime and Terrorism Unit, successfully working on prosecutions against numerous violent criminal organizations and leaders, such as John Gotti and Sui Min “Frank” Ma.

Joon left the U.S. Attorney’s Office in 2006 to pursue a career at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP as a partner in white-collar criminal defense and regulatory enforcement. When asked about the transition from prosecution to defense and back, Joon says easily that there was no difficulty for him in transitioning because of his firm belief in the justice system and a central tenet of that system is, in his words, a “good, fair, robust, and vigilant defense.” However, even while at Cleary Gottlieb, Joon longed to return to public service, his lifelong passion.

Joon is driven and inspired by the example of his father, who served as a diplomat for the Republic of Korea. Joon always knew that he wanted to emulate his father in dedicating his life to serving his nation—South Korea, for the father, and the United States for the son. Joon’s young life overseas, with years spent in Korea, Jordan, and the UK as he followed his father’s diplomatic missions, also provided him with a greater sense of perspective, he says. In engaging such varying cultures, Joon learned to embrace perspectives not his own. As a prosecutor, he says that this has helped him pursue justice more effectively by allowing him to place himself in the shoes of witnesses, jurors, and even defendants. It’s an approach that has won him not just his cases but also the admiration and respect of colleagues, victims, and even adversaries.

In 2013 Joon returned to the SDNY at the behest of then-U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara. In announcing Joon’s return to the office, Mr. Bharara said in an email to his staff: “For those of you who don’t know Joon, you will find him to be smart, thoughtful, and funny, in addition to being an exacting lawyer with unerring judgment.” It’s a sentiment that has held firm over the years. As Mr. Bharara left the office and later at his first public appearance, at the Cooper Union, he reiterated that he felt that the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Southern District of New York was in good hands with Joon.

From his position as Chief Counsel, Joon went on to become



In June, 2015, the Prosecutors’ Committee honored Joon Kim, then-Deputy U.S. Attorney for the SDNY, at its 7th Annual Reception, which was held at Brooklyn Law School. Accepting the award, Joon described his choice to leave a lucrative private practice to rejoin the U.S. Attorney’s Office as a “no-brainer” and that he is proud to tell his children what he does every day—fight crime, not as Batman, but as a lawyer who helps Batman. From left to right: Joon Kim; Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director; William Wang, AABANY President (2015-2016); Susan Shin, AABANY President (2016-2017).

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the Chief of the Criminal Division, then the Deputy U.S. Attorney, and finally to the position of Acting U.S. Attorney. Yet through it all, when asked about his greatest achievements, Joon humbly hearkens back to his days as a line-prosecutor in the Organized Crime Unit. For Joon, taking down violent gangs was a fulfillment of his promise to serve the public – to hold accountable those who preyed upon the innocent, those who hurt people with impunity and without remorse. Of course, he is also very proud of the more recent directions that both he and the office have taken, in aggressively and successfully pursuing white-collar criminals, terrorism, and public corruption.

When asked about the future of the office, Joon expressed his faith in the 227 year-old institution of the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Southern District of New York in fiercely and independently seeking justice. He fully intends to continue that tradition, applying the width and breadth of his experience to making sure that the office continues its proud tradition of “doing the right thing,” as they say.

As for himself, Joon simply says that he’ll see what happens next. In the meantime, Joon hopes to see and to inspire more vibrant Asian American participation in public life, whether through public service and public interest work or through more engagement in public discourse. In his dedication to justice and his excellence in service to the public, Joon Kim continues to set the example – and the bar – for Asian American attorneys throughout New York and beyond. ♦

About the Author: Albert W. Suh is an Assistant District Attorney in the Kings County District Attorney’s Office. He serves as Co-Chair of the Young Lawyers Committee and as Co-Chair of the Newsletter Committee.

AABANY Celebrates 2017 Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street

By: AABANY Staff

On February 22, 2017, AABANY held its 2017 **Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street**. Nearly 700 members and friends gathered to help celebrate this year's dinner, which introduced the theme for 2017, "Take Charge, Lead Change." **Richard Liu** of MSNBC emceed the evening's festivities, which kicked off with a cocktail reception.



From left to right: Hon. Marilyn D. Go (Impact Leadership Award); Lee Cheng (Corporate Leadership Award); and AABANY Board member Manisha Sheth (for NYS Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, Public Service Leadership Award).

This year, AABANY honored **Hon. Eric T. Schneiderman**, Attorney General for the State of New York, with the Public Service Leadership Award; **Lee Cheng**, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Gibson Brands, with the **Corporate Leadership Award**; and **Hon. Marilyn D. Go**, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York, with the **Impact Leadership Award**. **White & Case LLP**, an AABANY Platinum Level Sponsor and long-time supporter, received the 2017

Law Firm Diversity Award. The Don H. Liu Scholars Program awarded scholarships to: Jaclyn Castelar (University of Pennsylvania Law School), Yahui Liang (Yale Law School), and Quyen Truong (University of Connecticut School of Law).

Congratulations to all honorees and scholarship recipients, and thank you to all who attended the Annual Dinner. ♦



Above: AABANY Board members at the 2017 Annual Dinner. Right: AABANY members and friends gather to catch up and celebrate the evening's honorees.



Photo by Corky Lee



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AABANY First Quarter 2017 Review

By: Jason Cheung
AABANY Spring 2017 Intern

During the first quarter of this year, we held: our 2017 Annual Dinner: *Take Charge | Lead Change*; our last Board Meeting of FY 2016; our Annual Meeting, where we elected new officers and directors for the upcoming year; our Committee Chairs' Orientation and Reception; and our first Board Meeting of FY 2017. The quarter also marked the commencement of new terms for our Committee Chairs, the majority of whom returned to serve another term.

Honors and Recognitions

January 27, 2017 AABANY received the **NYSBA Bar Leaders Innovation Award** for its 7th Annual Fall Conference, which was held in September, 2016 at the New York office of Skadden Arps.

March 30, 2017 AABANY member **Nelson Mar**, a senior staff attorney and education specialist at Bronx Legal Services, received a Medal of Distinguished Service from Binghamton University.

March 31, 2017 The **Hon. Denny Chin**, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, received the Outstanding Public Service Award at the New York Intellectual Property Lawyers Association's 95th Annual Dinner in Honor of the Federal Judiciary at the New York Hilton Midtown.

March 8, 2017 AABANY applauded the appointments of three Asian American judges to the New York State judiciary: **Charles Y.J. Liu**, who was appointed to the New York City Housing Court, **Phyllis Chu**, who was appointed to the New York Criminal Court, and **Frances Wang**, who was appointed to the New York Civil Court.

Special Events

February 16, 2017 A special robing ceremony was held by the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY) to celebrate the Hon. Judy Kim as the first Korean American to be elected judge in New York State. Many AABANY members were present for the ceremony.

February 15, 2017 At the **Annual Meeting**, we elected our 2017-2018 Board of Officers and Directors and established the position of **Development Director**.

Officers:

President Elect: James Cho, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of New York

Vice President of Programs and Operations: Jeff Ikejiri, VP, Legal & Business Services, UnitedLex Corporation

Vice President of Programs and Operations: Naf Kwun, Associate, Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP

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Terrence Shen, Partner, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Brian Song, Partner, BakerHostetler LLP

Larry Wee, Partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP



The **Committee of the Year** award was shared by the Government Service and Public Interest Committee and the Pro Bono & Community Service Committee, who have collaborated on several important projects this year, including the monthly pro bono legal services clinic.

The **Program of the Year Award** was presented to the Student Outreach Committee for its Volunteer Program, which was so vital in helping make many AABANY events such a success in the last fiscal year.

Chris Kwok, Co-Chair of the Issues Committee, received the **AABANY MVP Award** for his tireless work as co-chair in informing and advising the Board on politically relevant issues in a measured and objective way throughout the year.

February 21, 2017 AABANY co-sponsored a **Trial Re-enactment of the Murder of Vincent Chin**, which took

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place at Brooklyn Law School (BLS) and was jointly conducted with the help of the student organizations BLS Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest.

February 22, 2017 AABANY held the **2017 Annual Dinner: Take Charge | Lead Change** at Cipriani Wall Street, where we honored Eric Schneiderman, Attorney General for the State of New York, with the Public Service Leadership Award; Lee Cheng, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Gibson Brands, with the Corporate Leadership Award; and Hon. Marilyn D. Go, United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York, with the Impact Leadership Award (see page 5).

March 25, 2017 To assist attorneys in developing better advocacy skills and knowledge of litigation procedures, AABANY's Litigation Committee hosted the annual **AABANY Trial Advocacy Program**, a day-long CLE program where attorneys were provided with opportunities to hear from panelists, who



spoke extensively about how to conduct an effective cross-examination and opening and closing statement, followed by smaller breakout groups formed to practice advocacy skills in front of seasoned trial lawyers who provided feedback and critique.

April 18, 2017 Our **Mentorship Program Spring Reception** was held at Baker & McKenzie, where this year's class of mentees met with their mentors.

April 20, 2017 **The Committee Chairs' Orientation** was held to prepare returning and incoming committee chairs to lead their committees in FY 2017. Committee chairs then gathered for a recep-



tion afterwards at the New York Yankees Steakhouse.

Panels & CLEs

February 14, 2017 AABANY and the Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York (FALA New York) jointly hosted a webinar entitled "**Understanding Trump's Executive Orders on Immigration**," which explained and discussed the potential ramifications of Trump's executive orders on the immigrant community as a whole.

February 16, 2017 **Path to the Bench with the Hon. Denny Chin of the Second Circuit** was a presentation given by Judge Denny Chin on his experiences emigrating to the U.S. and the early years of his career as a lawyer in private practice. The event was organized by the Muslim Bar Association of New York (MuBANY), and was co-sponsored by AABANY and by other minority bar associations.

February 21, 2017 AABANY's Litigation Committee hosted a CLE entitled **Litigation Funding – Past, Present, and Future**. The CLE covered topics such as the ethics of litigation funding and how to make funding applications.



February 24, 2017 **Writ of Habeas Corpus Training**, an event organized by KALAGNY which AABANY co-sponsored, covered the implications of the Trump executive orders, and also provided training on filing habeas corpus petitions.

March 16, 2017 AABANY's Judiciary Committee hosted **The Importance of Engaging in Judicial Screening Committee Panels** at Dorsey & Whitney LLP. Topics discussed included the importance of maintaining a diverse and excellent judiciary, how AABANY members could contribute to the pursuit of a more diverse judiciary, and the need for transparency and confidentiality in the judicial screening process.

Community Outreach

February 7, 2017 **The Get to Know AABANY Happy Hour**, hosted by AABANY's Membership, Asia Practice, Corporate Law, Bankruptcy, and Student Outreach Committees, provided a chance for AABANY members to connect and for non-members to learn more about AABANY through the work of the fea-



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tured committees.

February 8, 2017, March 8, 2017 & April 12, 2017 AABANY continued to provide legal assistance to members of the Chinatown community through the **Pro Bono Monthly Clinic**, which is held on the second Wednesday of every month.



February 11, 2017 Hosted by Columbia Law School's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, and co-sponsored by AABANY, **"Foreign" Americans – Asian America and Race** was a day-long event featuring a series of panel discussions on topics such as Asian American leadership.

February 12, 2017 Co-chairs of AABANY's Young Lawyers Committee and AABANY members banded together for a day of **volunteering at the Xavier Soup Kitchen**



February 21, 2017 AABANY co-sponsored the Museum of Chinese in America event **"Film and Forum - Immigration, Exclusion, and Acts of Civic Engagement: Leveraging Our Asian American Experiences."** The event consisted of a screening of Felicia Lowe's *Chinese Couplets*, a film centered

on the filmmaker's investigation into her mother's emigration story during the Chinese Exclusion era, and an open forum that featured panelists drawn from fields ranging from academia to immigration law.

March 15, 2017 Hosted by AABANY's LGBT Committee, **A Sign of the Times: A Legal and Political Analysis of What's at Stake for LGBT Asians and South Asians** was a panel discussion held at Fried Frank Harris Shriver Jacobson LLP concerning the impact of the Trump executive orders on the LGBT Asian American and South Asian community. Co-sponsors included KALAGNY, the South Asian Bar Association of New York (SABANY), and the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York.

April 28, 2017 AABANY participated in the **New York Diversity Forum**, a CLE seminar hosted at the U.S. District Courthouse by the Eastern District of New York Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. A delegation of AABANY and SABANY members hosted a panel discussion session entitled **"Legacy of Exclusion: Learning from the Lessons of History, from the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Current Immigration Executive Orders."** Other minority bar associations such as MuBANY and the Hispanic National Bar Association also presented panels at the forum. (See page 3.)

Networking

January 5, 2017 Krav Maga Academy once again hosted us for a wonderful **Self-Defense Seminar**. Sponsored by the Military & Veterans Affairs Committee and the Litigation Committee, the seminar consisted of an extremely demanding warm-up, lecture on the vulnerability of certain soft spots, technique demonstrations on our past president James Chou, and the chance to partner up and practice those techniques.



February 1, 2017 **Learn to Ballroom Dance with Dancing Classrooms** provided an occasion for AABANY members to network and interact while being taught how to ballroom dance. Dancing Classrooms is a non-profit dedicated to social and emotional learning for schoolchildren in New York and across the world.

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February 27, 2017

The Immigration Committee, the Government Service & Public Interest Committee, and the Women's Committee hosted the second **Yoga for Lawyers Class** at Reflections Center for Conscious Living and Yoga.



March 3, 2017 Co-hosted by AABANY and the New York Intellectual Property Law Association, the **Intellectual Property Committee Happy Hour** served as a chance for members from both organizations to meet and greet each other.

March 5, 2017 AABANY's IP and Young Lawyers Committees hosted a **Laser Tag Social**.



March 8, 2017 **Indian Chinese Food at the Chinese Club**, a restaurant in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, was a chance for both AABANY and SABANY members to share a unique culinary experience. Attendees were able to sample exotic-sounding dishes such as "Manchow Soup" and "Bhel Salad," memorable experiences that probably introduced to many attendees a different perspective on the expansive worldwide effects of Chinese immigration.



March 27, 2017 AABANY's **Real Estate Networking Event**, hosted by AABANY's Real Estate Committee and East West Bank, was held at Hyatt Place in Flushing and enjoyed a strong turnout of attorneys and real estate industry professionals.



Meetings and Committee Dinners

February 28, 2017 The AABANY **Tax Club Dinner** took place at Tang Pavilion. The discussion topic was tax reform.



February 28, 2017 AABANY's **Bankruptcy Committee** hosted its last meeting of FY 2016 at Osamil, a restaurant in Koreatown.

February 28, 2017 The AABANY **Women's Committee Meeting** featured a career-planning session and a discussion of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

March 14, 2017 AABANY's final **FY 2016 Board Meeting** was held at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, led by outgoing President Susan L. Shin, a partner at the firm.

March 15, 2017 and April 26, 2017 AABANY's **Government Service & Public Interest and Pro-Bono & Community Service Committees** jointly held a committee meeting at Legal Services NYC to discuss future initiatives.

April 19, 2017 AABANY's first **FY 2017 Board Meeting** was held at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

April 26, 2017 AABANY's **Judiciary Committee Meeting** held its first meeting of FY 2017 at King & Spalding LLP. ♦

About the Author: Jason Cheung attends New York University, where he is majoring in economics and minoring in mathematics. He enjoys British Parliamentary affairs, English literature, and volunteering. He was AABANY's Spring 2017 intern, and hopes to become a corporate lawyer.

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Lawyers Association of Queens County, the Dominican Bar Association, the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association, and the Latino Judges Association, entitled "Racial Profiling of the Latino Community." Speakers included Jose Perez, Deputy General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF; Luis Pagan of Pagan Law Group; Christopher Cassar of the Office of Christopher Cassar; and Kevin Satterfield of the NYC Department of Corrections. Moderating the discussion was Matthew Fernandez Konigsberg, Regional President of the National Hispanic Bar Association, Region II (NY).

The panelists recounted horrific cases of injustice, raising issues of police corruption, racial profiling as a precursor to arbitrary detention and prosecution, and the inadequacies of the current Suffolk County legal system to provide relief to victims of racially motivated actions.

The final panel of the forum was led by AABANY and the South Asian Bar Association of New York (SABANY). The topic of discussion was "The Legacy of Exclusion: Learning the Lessons of History, from the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Current Immigration Executive Orders," and speakers included Rose Cuison Villazor, Professor of Law at UC Davis School of Law; Amol Sinha, President-Elect of SABANY; and Annie J. Wang, a Staff Attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund. Annie Wang began with a presentation tracing the linkage between President Trump's Executive Order and the very first Federal law banning immigration of any one group—the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Amol Sinha continued the discussion by sharing the story of his mother, who registered to vote after 40 years in America, in an attempt to be more civically engaged, in the face of rising anti-immigrant sentiment in America. He also focused on the Supreme Court cases of *Ozawa* and *Thind*, which posed the question of what constituted "white enough" to be eligible for American citizenship.

Rose Cuison Villazor then picked up the thread from the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Immigration Act of 1917, which created the Asiatic Barred Zone and essentially stopped all immigration from Asia, except for Japan. Moderating was Christopher M. Kwok, Co-Chair of the AABANY Issues Committee, who wrapped up the discussion with how the question of "Who is an American?" has been at the heart of all immigration debates and exclusionary laws, and how the nature of that answer has been both inclusive and nativist. Indeed, the lessons of active civic engagement and a clear-eyed understanding of history are critical to ensuring that we remain vigilant against repeating the mistakes of our past.

Many thanks to the Federal Bar Association-EDNY Chapter for organizing this timely forum and for including AABANY and the many other bar associations and groups that took part. ♦

About the Author: *Jason Cheung* attends New York University, where he is majoring in economics and minoring in mathematics. He enjoys British Parliamentary affairs, English literature, and volunteering. He was AABANY's Spring intern, and hopes to become a corporate lawyer.

(Continued from page 1)

industry average. Currently, 66% of the firm's personnel are of diverse backgrounds. 49% of the firm's lawyers are women, minorities, veterans, and members of the LGBT community, with 24% being of Asian descent. Asian Americans comprise 13% of the firm's lawyers globally and 14% of its New York-based lawyers. Asian Americans also represent 10% of the firm's partners, which is significantly higher than the industry average of 3% (according to the 2016 Vault/MCCA Law Firm Diversity Survey).

The firm's global Diversity Committee, which is tasked with coordinating initiatives relating to professional development, training, human resources, and advocacy, further supports the firm's continued diversity efforts in the recruitment, retention, and promotion of diverse attorneys. For example, the firm's 2017 programming features diversity training courses that cover topics such as business norms in Korea; redefining traditional gender roles in the legal profession; navigating gender identity and gender expression in the workplace; negotiation techniques for women lawyers; and legal developments that impact civil rights and marriage equality.

The firm's success in this regard has been recognized by its clients, such as Chevron, who awarded Kim & Kobre with the Law Firm Diversity Recognition Award, and by leading industry publications, rankings, and surveys, such as *Vault*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *Chambers & Partners*, and *Legal 500*.

In addition to fostering diversity within the firm, Kobre & Kim has generously sponsored and/or hosted many programs geared towards the promotion of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Such programs include the New York State Bar Association's 14th Annual Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception, the 2016 National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Convention, AABANY's 2016 Annual Dinner and its 2016 Fall Conference, and the Korean American League for Civic Action Gala.

Kobre & Kim also supports a long roster of organizations through firm sponsorships and by encouraging its lawyers to become members of, and often leaders within, organizations whose missions include the promotion of diversity in the legal profession. Such organizations include the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Chinese Business Lawyers Association, the International Association of Korean Lawyers, Minority Corporate Counsel Association, and Women's White Collar Defense Association, just to name a few.

With over 250 employees, including 91 attorneys, across nine offices worldwide, Kobre & Kim's global practice is a testament to the firm's desire to embrace a diversity of clients as well as a commitment to establishing expertise in a diverse range of legal issues – the perfect strategic complement to the firm's diverse set of attorneys.

We are proud to have Kobre & Kim as an AABANY Silver Level Sponsor and thank Kobre & Kim for its support and contributions to the legal profession and Asian American community. ♦

AABANY • MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Asian American
Bar Association
of New York

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

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Attend interesting and relevant Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) accredited programs on a wide range of topics for free or at discounted rates.
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- **GROW**
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- Annual Fees: Private Sector (10 or less years since admission) - \$75
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Public Sector - \$40
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- Annual Fee: \$50
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- Annual Fee: \$15
- D Affinity Member** – Any individual supporting the legal community who is not a licensed attorney, law school graduate, or law student.
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