FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK PARTNERS WITH THE ASIAN AMERICANS FOR EQUALITY TO RESUME FREE LEGAL CLINIC IN QUEENS ON FEBRUARY 26, 2022 WITH THE SUPPORT OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCILMEMBER SANDRA UNG

NEW YORK – February 23, 2022 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) resumes its free pro bono clinics after a month-long hiatus due to rising COVID cases in January 2022. Organized by AABANY’s Pro Bono and Community Services (“PBCS”) Committee, the first pro bono clinic of the year 2022 will be held on February 26, 2022 from 12:30pm – 3:30pm in downtown Flushing, at the Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) office, located at One Flushing Community Center, 133-29 41st Ave, 2nd floor, Flushing, NY 11355. The Queens Clinic will be available every fourth week of the month and is available to assist New Yorkers with legal questions in various fields of law including housing, employment, labor, and matrimonial. Interpreters in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Spanish, Korean, and other languages will be available during the one-on-one consultations with a volunteer attorney. May Wong and Kwok Ng will be volunteering their time to serve as the Coordinators of the Manhattan Clinic, and Eugene Love Kim and Meng Zhang will be volunteering their time to serve as Coordinators of the Queens Clinic.

The Clinic will continue to be held in partnership with Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE), one of New York’s leading Asian community organizations. In addition, the Clinic will be held in collaboration with New York City Councilmember Sandra Ung of the 20th District.

On February 21, 2022, AAFE and the PBCS Committee held a press conference at AAFE’s Flushing office to promote the pro bono clinics in Queens.

Councilmember Sandra Ung, who first supported the Queens Pro Bono Clinic during its inception in 2020, emphasized the importance of making these legal services resources available to the Asian community, citing her own personal experiences as a first generation immigrant.

Emily Rios, AAFE managing director of Community Services said, “We know first-hand that this is an incredibly challenging time for the AAPI community. AAFE would like to thank the dedicated volunteer attorneys at AABANY for making this important resource available. During the pandemic, we have been determined to provide essential services for our most vulnerable community members. After a very successful series of legal clinics this past fall, we are pleased to be able to expand this valuable service to the Flushing community.”

“With the increased violence being perpetrated against people in the Asian community, particularly the more vulnerable elderly and women, we want to let our community members know that we are here for them,” said Eugene Love Kim, one of PBCS Committee’s vice chairs. Kim
also added, “We encourage any Asian New Yorker who has been victim of a bias incident or hate crime to reach out to AABANY’s Hate Eradication Active Response Team (HEART), a collective task force assembled to support community members who have been subjected to harassment, discrimination, or violence on the because they are Asian. Only as a unified community will we be able persevere through these trying times.”

AABANY’s Pro Bono Legal Clinic opened in 2015 to serve members of the Asian Pacific American community who have limited English proficiency ("LEP") so that they can have meaningful access to justice. These clinics are run entirely by members of AABANY who are lawyers, law students, and interpreters volunteering their time, in collaboration with community organizations such as AAFE, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, and the Chinese Chambers of Commerce of New York. Since the re-launch of the monthly pro bono clinic in August 2021, AABANY has assisted over 180 community members in Manhattan and Queens.

Flushing, Queens, is home to the ethnically diverse communities of New York City. Many who possess limited English proficiency lack access to reliable information about the legal process and available legal resources. AABANY’s volunteers provide assistance in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, so that the community can understand their rights and available remedies.

Appointments are made based on availability. Please note that walk-ins will not be permitted at the Queens Clinic. To make an appointment, please contact AAFE at (718) 316-9993 to leave a message; an AAFE staff member will return the call.

All attendees must show proof of vaccinations and wear mask at all times. Those seeking legal information and referrals should bring in all relevant documents about their legal issue. Please note that no legal representation is provided.

More information about the press conference can be found at these newspapers:

**World Journal:**
https://www.worldjournal.com/wj/story/121390/6115293?from=wj_catelistnews

**Epoch Times:** https://www.epochtimes.com/b5/22/2/22/n13595754.htm

**China Press:**
http://www.uschinapress.com/static/content/HS/2022-02-22/945681567597342720.html
For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653-2168, or direct any inquiries to main@aabany.org.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the AAPI community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

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Additional information about AABANY is available at [www.aabany.org](http://www.aabany.org)

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