



**Asian American
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**ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK LAUNCHES ONLINE
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR REENACTMENTS OF HISTORICAL TRIALS
INVOLVING ASIAN AMERICANS**

NEW YORK – January 6, 2016 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) is excited to announce that it has launched an online educational resource for its historical trial reenactments. Since 2007, under the leadership and directions of Hon. Denny Chin of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and Kathy Hirata Chin, Partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, AABANY has produced and performed a series of trial reenactments based on notable trials and cases involving Asian Americans. Performed by a core team of AABANY members at the annual conventions of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“NAPABA”), each dramatic program utilizes the format of a reenactment of an historic trial or appeal. We invite you to visit reenactments.aabany.org to relive and to learn about important aspects of American history that have too often been overlooked, ignored, or forgotten.

The reenactments began as educational programs aimed at lawyers but due to the scope of issues and the power of each story to shed new light on neglected chapters of American history, their audience and influence have grown. Each case marks a different chapter in Asian American history, and each case had a significant impact on law and society – touching on themes such as race, discrimination, loyalty, human and civil rights, and the struggle for justice against bigotry, government persecution, and public opposition. AABANY’s online resource will provide access to each of the nine trial reenactment scripts so far, news articles and information about past performances, and information on upcoming trial reenactment programs and performances. The trial reenactments are accompanied by PowerPoint presentations with historic photographs and documents prepared by David Weinberg, an attorney and principal of JuryGroup, a litigation consulting firm. Also available are links to videos of past performances, including the four most recent reenactments performed and taped at Cadwalader since 2012. The site will also provide instructions and guidelines about how you can perform one of AABANY’s trial reenactments yourself.

“The AABANY Trial Reenactments, starting with the ‘The Constitution in a Time of War: The Trial of Minoru Yasui’ in 2007, have been a highlight of the annual NAPABA convention each November, and AABANY has been pleased and proud to see how these stories have been performed and produced over the last few years by other bar groups, community groups, government agencies, college students and law students, all over the country,” says Executive Director Yang Chen. “Especially gratifying is the audience reaction, particularly among non-lawyers, who are moved and touched by these stories about Asian American history and the Asian American experience that they knew little or nothing about.”

“Through these trial reenactments, lawyers and the general public alike come away with a greater and deeper understanding and appreciation for the vital role played by Asian Americans

in shaping the legal, social and political history of America as a whole,” adds William Wang, President of AABANY. “They also learn how the themes raised in the reenactments such as social justice, civil rights, racial prejudice -- just to name a few -- remain relevant today. The reenactments therefore provide lessons for yesterday and today so that we can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. We are delighted that through this website, AABANY is able to share an online resource that we hope will spread the knowledge and learning that can be gained from these trial reenactments.”

For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (718) 228-7206, or direct any inquiries to main@aabany.org.

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

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