AABANY Quarterly Report – August through October 2014

The quarter covering August to October has carried the momentum of “Empowering Progress and Unity” into one of our busiest years yet. The efforts of AABANY’s leadership to bring together the Asian American legal community culminated in this year’s Annual Fall Conference, a full day of programming with over 260 attendees. We continued to present many meaningful, educational, and engaging programs, including many networking events, CLEs and panel discussions, and community outreach opportunities.

Headed by Naf Kwun, the Newsletter Committee produced the fall issue of The Advocate, AABANY’s quarterly publication. This issue featured: “AABANY Hosts its 5th Annual Fall Conference,” Letter from President Clara Ohr, a profile on Norman Lau Kee for whom the AABANY’s Trailblazer award is named, news from the LGBT Committee, Board Director Susan Shin’s book review of Haig’s Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts, and a rundown of AABANY’s 2014 second quarter highlights.

Our thirty Committees continued to remain active. The Litigation Committee appointed Theo Cheng as Chair of its newly formed ADR Sub-Committee.

This quarter also saw tremendous growth for the Don H. Liu Scholarship Fund, in large part due to the efforts of Past President Jean Lee in organizing the Inaugural Don H. Liu Scholarship Dinner fundraiser for law firm partners and senior in-house counsel.

Awards and Recognitions

AABANY recognizes and congratulates the many members of its community, achieving great success and garnering many awards from different fields of law. We congratulate the following members:

Jean Lee, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at JPMorgan Chase & Co. and AABANY President 2012-13, who has been selected as a 2014 Council of Urban Professionals (CUP) Catalyst: Change Agent 2014 | Law. She will be honored at CUP’s Fifth Annual Lawyers Forum taking place on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at the Eventi Hotel in New York, NY.

Ona Wang, AABANY Member and Baker Hostetler Partner, was awarded and profiled in New York Law Journal as one of the 2014 Lawyers Who Lead by Example: Pro Bono for her efforts as Baker Hostetler’s pro bono vice chair as well as her individual efforts challenging the death penalty and serving LGBT youth.

Katrina Goyco, who was recognized as one of Legal Services NYC’s Top 30 Pro Bono Attorneys for 2014.
Yang Chen, Executive Director, who made Legal Service NYC’s Pro Bono Honor Roll.

Susan Shin, Board Director, who has been recognized by Working Mother magazine as Arnold & Porter’s 2014 Working Mother of the Year and will be recognized in the October/November issue of Working Mother.

Austin So, In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair, who has been named one of three finalists of the DELVACCA 2014 Corporate Counsel Excellence Award’s Outstanding In-House Counsel of the Year.

Brian Song, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Chair, who has been chosen as Council of Urban Professionals Fellow and was Spotlighted on their website.

Lisa S. Lim, AABANY Member who has joined Akerman LLP as a Partner within the Real Estate Practice Group in the New York office.

Helen Wan, AABANY member and speaker at our Fall Conference, whose Partner Track, a novel about learning the unspoken rules of corporate culture, was recently released in paperback.

Special Events

September 19, 2014 The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) and the Asian American Law Fund of New York (AALFNY) hosted an exclusive In-House Counsel/Partners dinner at Vermillion in Midtown Manhattan to raise funds for the Don H. Liu Scholarship, named after the General Counsel and Secretary of Xerox. The Don H. Liu Scholarship Program focuses on developing a pipeline for Asian Pacific American lawyers, and seeks to identify and cultivate future leaders. The evening began with a cocktail reception during which attendees had the opportunity to meet and mingle over drinks and appetizers, followed by a delicious dinner. During his address, Don spoke about his personal journey as an attorney and what this scholarship opportunity means for future Asian Pacific American law students – a unique answer to the troubling question of Asian American advancement in the law. The proceeds from the dinner helped the program to exceed its fundraising goals for the year. AABANY announced in October that applications from law students would be accepted for 2015, setting a deadline of October 31 for submissions.
**September 20, 2014** With over 260 people in attendance for our Fall Conference 2014: Empowering Progress and Unity hosted at Morgan Lewis, the full day of CLE programs and Trial Advocacy Program (hosted at Alston & Bird LLP) were highly informative, productive, and engaging with something for everyone. We had panels addressing topics from Asian Americans in the Civil Rights Movement to How to Make it Rain and Keep It Raining. The invite-only In-House Counsel and Judicial Forums provided environments for open and candid discussion. We were honored to present the inaugural Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award to Hon. Marilyn Go (EDNY) and the inaugural Law Firm Diversity Award to Perkins Coie LLP. Helen Wan spoke about her book *The Partner Track*, recently released in paperback, and of Asian Americans in law navigating the corporate world. We were happy to welcome 185 attendees at the Cocktail Reception hosted one block away at Park Avenue Tavern. This year, there were five Committee Dinners hosted: Government Service & Public Interest/Litigation/Labor and Employment/Young Lawyers Committees Dinner at Aperitivo; In-House Counsel at Izakaya NoMad; Real Estate and Small & Solo Firm Practice Committees at Cibo; Intellectual Property Committee at Radiance Tea House and Fine Asian Cuisine; and Tax and Bankruptcy & Restructuring Committees at Capital Grille.

**October 18, 2014** As part of the recently opened "Chinese American Inclusion/Exclusion" exhibit at the New York Historical Society, AABANY performed a shortened version of its highly engaging "22 Lewd Chinese Women" Trial Reenactment, led again by Hon. Denny Chin. In yet another performance of this popular trial reenactment since the 2013 NAPABA Convention, we examine important issues of immigration, federalism, human trafficking, and civil rights in the case of *Chy Lung v. Freeman* via performance, narration, discussion, and photography. Following the shortened version of the script, Hon. Denny Chin, Kathy Hirata Chin, Vince Chang, and David Weinberg led a discussion about the historical impact of anti-Asian discrimination and the unknown fate of the 22 Chinese women, exposing the many ironies of the case, including the fact that the women had indeed won their freedom in court and yet were still probably forced into lives of prostitution. The New York Historical Society’s audience did not consist primarily of lawyers, showing the widespread impact of the case not just in the legal community, but the community at large.
Panels & CLEs

September 4, 2014 The Young Lawyers Committee held a Financial Planning Workshop hosted by Ameriprise Financial Services’ Niraj Chhabra on meeting fear and uncertainty on financial matters with a disciplined and integrated approach. The workshop, geared towards young lawyers who face the unique challenges of student loan debt and a fickle legal industry, educated an audience of about 20 young lawyers on budgeting, strategies for tax reduction, and different ways to take care of aging parents. Niraj offered all those present a free financial consultation. Young lawyers learned that some of the financial surprises (such as quarterly taxes and Christmastime) might not be as big of a surprise as they seem, and perhaps it is easier to take small action now for big pay-offs in the future.

September 11, 2014 The Career Placement Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, and Membership Committee hosted Part I of the “Getting on Track” Series: Getting on the Partnership Track at Dechert LLP. Attendees were reminded of the reality that becoming partner is much more than working hard, being responsive, and getting things right. The candid roundtable discussion addressed the political landscape of the partner-track for Asian Pacific Americans, the value of business-building, and judgment calls a person has to make when he or she prioritizes his or her legal career. With about 30 people in attendance, Board Director Steve Chung (Vice President, NBCUniversal Media LLC) humorously and expertly moderated four unique and talented panelists: Terrence Shen, Corporate Partner, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP; Litigation Committee Co-Chair Concepcion Montoya, Litigation Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Board Director Karen Lim, IP Partner, Fross, Zelnick, Lehrman & Zissu, PC; and Board Director and Past President Robert Leung, Corporate Partner, Boies, Schiller, & Flexner LLP. The panelists stressed the importance of not only doing near-perfect work but also developing the soft skills that make clients, bosses, and co-workers trust you. Panelists even explored “the secret room where all the decisions are made” — that is to say they acknowledged that when only 16.5% of partners are female and only 5.4% are minority, it is imperative to have allies and advocates that will make the case for why you in particular stand out among associates. Soon after the engaging panel, attendees put their networking skills into practice asking questions, sharing experiences, and enjoying a refreshing beer or two at Windfall Lounge.
**October 9, 2014** The Real Estate Committee and the Solo & Small Firm Committee presented “Understanding Diversity and the 411 on Foreign Real Estate Investors,” a CLE program and networking dinner, co-sponsored by Asian American Real Estate Association-New York East Chapter, Queens Asian Bar Association, Fidelity National Financial, East West Bank, and Skyline TRG Title Agency. Taking place at Mudan Banquet Hall in Flushing, the event was attended by 60 attorneys and real estate professionals. Panel speakers included Pablo Wong (Senior Vice President of Market Development of Fidelity National Financial), Margaret T. Ling, Esq. (Senior Underwriter Counsel, Skyline TRG Title Agency) and Janny Cheung (First Vice President, Commercial Real Estate, East West Bank). Pablo Wong discussed the statistical breakdown and population changes of the foreign markets and how they affect the U.S. home ownership and the real estate market. Janny Cheung presented on how foreign investors are gaining strength in the U.S. commercial real estate market. She focused on China as a source of global capital and spoke about the current wave of China real estate investment in New York City. Margaret Ling was the final speaker, discussing the legal substantive points of representing foreign buyers and sellers. She stressed the importance of knowing your client and exercising due diligence in explaining all the facets of buying and selling to the foreign client.

**October 15, 2014** During the ABA’s Mediation Week, the ADR Sub-Committee of AABANY’s Litigation Committee, led by Sub-Committee Chair Theo Chen, co-sponsored a free CLE panel program with JAMS and NYCLA on “Best Practices in Employment Mediation.” Held at the JAMS NY Resolution Center, the program was moderated by retired Appellate Division Judge Ariel Belen, and the panelists were Jane Kauh (Vice President and Senior Legal Counsel at HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. and former AABANY Recording Secretary), Karen Yau (pro bono EEOC mediator and Co-Chair of AABANY’s Government Service and Public Interest Committee), Jyotin Hamid (partner at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP), and Douglas H. Wigdor (partner at WIGDOR LLP). The topics addressed by the panelists included how to prepare a case for mediation, effective negotiation techniques, getting beyond impasse, and considerations if a case does not settle. The program was well received and well attended, and it was followed by a valuable networking reception hosted by JAMS.
Community Outreach

September 28, 2014 Members of the Government Service & Public Interest Committee and Immigration & Nationality Law Committee, in collaboration with members of the Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund, proudly presented a community presentation on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) at P.S. 24 in Sunset Park. We served as partners in the New York Immigration Coalition’s inaugural effort to include the Asian Pacific Islander community in its annual multi-service consular event, recognizing the great need for more outreach, education, and both social and legal services in the API community. Speakers included Annie Wang, AALDEF attorney and immigration law specialist, Jeffrey Louie, a core member of Revolutionizing Asian American Immigrant Stories on the East Coast (RAISE), and Elizabeth Plum, DACA coordinator at the NYIC, with Katrina Goyco, co-chair of the Government Service & Public Interest Committee at AABANY introducing the speakers and making remarks. After the presentation, AABANY attorneys, Yao Ma and Keli Liu, led by Immigration & Nationality Law Committee co-chair, Tsui Yee, counseled several individuals who had questions about DACA and immigration laws. Other AABANY members, including Ran Kyong Yoo, Fonyu Kong, and Pounnaphone Phomtalikhith, took advantage of this pro bono opportunity, offering their time and translation abilities at this forum. Vicky Mao, an AABANY law student member, translated outreach materials for the DACA program in simplified and traditional Chinese, and provided expert simultaneous translation in Mandarin for the entire event. New York City Council Member Carlos Menchaca made public remarks at the close of our DACA program, showing his support for our efforts and the need to reach the API community in his efforts as Chair of the City Council’s Immigration Committee. Joyce Choi Li, City Council’s Community Liaison to the API community, was present for the entire day. All major Chinese newspapers, Sing Tao, World Journal, and China Press, covered our program and/or interviewed the speakers, as well as the Epoch Times, and the television channel, Sinovision.

October 15, 16, and 28, 2014 AABANY is proud to yet again partner with AALDEF as a co-sponsor for Poll Monitoring Training Sessions. In past elections, Asian Americans have faced a series of barriers in exercising their right to vote. When the news media reported on election results, Asian Americans were overlooked. In response, AALDEF along with several partners will monitor the elections for bilingual ballots under the federal Voting Rights Act and to document instances of anti-Asian voter disenfranchisement. At the Poll Monitoring Training Sessions, volunteers will be learning
to monitor elections and conduct non-partisan voter surveys in Asian American neighborhoods. Attorneys can receive 1.5 CLE credits, including .5 ethics credit, and are required to work a 3-hour shift.

October 18, 2014 AABANY's Young Lawyer Committee took part in New York Cares Day Fall — New York City's largest hands-on volunteer service day, which is dedicated to revitalizing the city's public schools. Committee chairs Amy Ngai and Gabriel Arce-Yee, and members Jessica Eng, Jessica Lam, Katherine Eng, Julie Geng, May Li, Rachel Yu, and Sophia Yoo used spray paint and paint brushes to apply a fresh coat to the perimeter fence of IS 230Q in Jackson Heights. At the end of the day, Principal Ronald Zirin remarked that he had never seen the fence look so good. Other projects at the school included gardening, removing old study materials, and painting murals.

Networking

August 14, 2014 The Women’s Committee held a Perfume-Blending Workshop with Scenterprises, Inc. at the offices of Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP. This event was limited to 30 attendees and it filled up less than 24 hours after it was announced to the Women’s Committee’s listserv. A wait list had to be started to accommodate the overflow. The evening began with a light reception during which attendees had the opportunity to meet and mingle over wine and sushi. Attendees then gathered in the law firm’s art gallery where Women’s Committee Co-Chair Naf Kwun welcomed everyone and introduced her Co-Chairs, Marianne Chow and Sapna Palla, as well as the event’s sponsor, Merrill Lynch. Merrill Lynch representatives Jody Thompson and Jimmy Quan spoke about their company and their pleasure in partnering with AABANY before turning it over to Sue Phillips of Scenterprises, Inc. Fourteen vials of fragrant liquids ranging in color from light honey to deep amber lined a large table in the center of the room, where stood Ms. Phillips and her team in crisp, white frocks. Ms. Phillips explained the power of the sense of smell and gave a brief history of the fragrance industry before delving into a colorful and informative discussion of the core fragrance groups and the different top, middle and base notes that comprise a fragrance. As Ms. Phillips and her team discussed the origins and contours of each note, samples of each were passed around to the attendees, who enjoyed learning about the different scents and jotted down which they liked best. At the end of
the night, attendees were invited to create and name their own fragrances to take home using up to three different notes.

August 16, 2014 AABANY and KALAGNY joined their Annual Picnics together for the first time to great success. Additional first for an AABANY picnic: banh mi sandwiches (versus a 6-foot sub) and bocce ball (versus tug of war and chubby bunny). Friends and family from AABANY and KALAGNY alike met in Central Park by the Diana Ross playground for a day of leisure. The weather was ideal for a relaxing picnic. At least we didn’t get rained out, like we did last year and the year before. Members, friends, family (and even a pet) from both AABANY and KALAGNY were present. The picnic ran from noon until about 5 pm, and the photo taken at around 3 pm included some sixty attendees. KALAGNY co-hosted with our Young Lawyers and Litigation Committees to make the day a true family outing.

August 17, 2014 Several AABANY members attended and supported the APAPA-NYC Internship Award and Scholarship Fundraising Gala at the Grand Restaurant in Flushing, Queens. Congresswoman Grace Meng, City Councilman Peter Koo, State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, and State Senate candidate John Liu were among the list of special guests. The mission of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) is to empower Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Americans in civic and public affairs through education, active participation, and leadership development. The APAPA-NYC internship program is one of their flagship programs. The dinner celebrated the completion of APAPA-NYC’s summer internship program where interns were provided opportunities to gain real-life experiences and further develop their leadership skills, through working in public offices (and offices of elected officials) under APAPA-NYC’s mentorship. Rosemary Yu, Prosecutors Committee Co-Chair, hosted a table at the event.

August 20, 2014 The Government Service & Public Interest Committee joined forces with the Pro Bono & Community Service Committee for a wine and cheese reception and info session on AABANY’s exciting public interest projects. The mixer was held at 308 at 156, the art gallery located at Lee Anav Chung White and Kim LLP. The space played
host to lively conversation, including productive discussions between committees about upcoming AABANY events, experienced attorneys sharing their wisdom with the many students in attendance, and friends and colleagues catching up over snacks and drinks. During the Committee Chair presentation, the GSPI & PBCS Committees shared updates on AABANY’s initiatives involving Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and U-Visa relief for immigrant victims of domestic violence. For those interested in transitioning to a career in government service, the mixer offered brief remarks from representatives from the Comptroller’s Office, the EEOC, the United States Attorney’s office and the Attorney General’s Office. Over 60 people attended the event.

August 21, 2014 AABANY’s Women’s Committee met for the first of their meet-ups, organized by Bindu Nair, at the Satay Lounge in Pranna. Members came to mix, mingle, find out about upcoming programs, and unwind with their colleagues. Approximately 20 people attended the intimate gathering. One of AABANY’s largest and most active committees, the Women’s Committee includes many sub-committees and opportunities to network with women across diverse legal fields.

August 25, 2014 AABANY’s Intellectual Property Committee, Student Outreach Committee, and Pro Bono & Community Service Committee hosted a “Get to Know AABANY” Happy Hour at Barn Joo in Manhattan’s Flatiron district, attended by approximately 50 people. During this casual and laid-back event, IP attorneys, law students, and other members and friends of AABANY enjoyed great food and the opportunity to meet or catch up with one another. Event sponsor Kaplan Bar Review raffled off a free bar review course, won by St. John’s student Julia Hsieh. Kaplan also graciously extended a $750 discount to all AABANY student members.

September 18, 2014 AABANY, represented by Board member and Real Estate Committee Co-Chair Margaret Ling and Executive Director Yang Chen, attended the Queens Asian Bar Association’s second Annual Gala, held at Dae Dong Manor in Flushing. The Asian American Judges Association of New York (AAJANY) and Allen Chiu were honored at the dinner. Hon. Alexander Jeong, Acting Supreme Court Justice, Kings County, accepted the award on behalf of AAJANY as its President. Allen Chiu, who has practiced real estate law for over 30 years in Queens and Manhattan, was recognized for his outstanding leadership and support for the Asian American
community. AABANY congratulates QABA on the occasion of its second annual gala and salutes the honorees.

*September 24, 2014* In conjunction with the South Asian Bar Association of New York, AABANY’s LGBT Committee held a networking reception at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. This reception recognized the diversity within the LGBT and Asian American and Asian Pacific Islander communities, as well as also provided support to LGBT attorneys in corporate, commercial, government, and public interest practice.

*September 27, 2014* AABANY leadership was present at the NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference and Gala with the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers: *Breakthrough! Shattering Barriers and Creating Opportunities*. The keynote address was given by our very own Judge Denny Chin, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and first Asian American appointed to a U.S. District Court outside of the Ninth Circuit. Representing AABANY were President Clara Ohr, Former Membership Secretary Judy Kim, and Intellectual Property Co-Chair Jenny Lee. President Clara Ohr spoke on the “Launching Your Legal Career: The First Crucial Years” panel, where she discussed the chief do’s and don’ts for young lawyers setting the foundation of their future career growth.

*October 8, 2014* AABANY continued to support the South Asian Bar Association of New York as they held their 8th Annual Leadership Awards Gala at the Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers, honoring and celebrating South Asian attorneys as leaders within the legal and business communities. Following a delightful cocktail reception, attendees sat down to a delicious dinner. Each of the incredible honorees spoke about their personal journeys, how their ties to their home countries color their understanding of justice today, and how important it is to uphold the notions that Americans of South Asian descent are Americans too. We congratulated each of the inspirational award winners as well as celebrated the strong relationship between AABANY and SABANY.