

AABANY's Quarterly Report: August 2015 to October 2015

AABANY's Third Quarter was one of our busiest and most productive yet, including our most successful Fall Conference to date, with approximately 400 attendees. We continued our theme of "Charting New Frontiers" from August through October, offering many meaningful and productive panels, programs, opportunities for community outreach, and networking events.



Headed by Naf Kwun, the Newsletter Committee produced the Volume XVI, Issue 4 - Fall Conference Edition of *The AABANY Advocate*, including "Parkin Lee: Charting New Frontiers in the C-Suite," Theo Cheng's article "Auction, Artifacts, & George Takei: Preserving a Part of Japanese-American History Through ADR," Letter from President Will Wang, Sponsor Spotlight on Arnold & Porter, and a rundown of AABANY's Second Quarter.

Our roster of thirty-one committees has now been augmented with the addition of the Asia Practice Committee. Our new Issues Committee Co-Chairs are Christopher M. Kwok, Song Kim, and Yan Cao.

AABANY also began a joint membership discount program with the South Asian Bar Association of New York to encourage membership growth.

Awards & Recognitions

AABANY recognizes the many members of its community, achieving great success across many different fields of law. We congratulate the following members:

Hon. Peggy Kuo, Formerly Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel of the New York Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, who was appointed as United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York, and who was featured in *World Journal*.

Joon H. Kim, Deputy U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, who was profiled in *Bloomberg Business*.

Glenn Magpantay, LGBT Committee Chair, who spoke about LGBT issues in the Asian Pacific American community on NBC's *Comcast Newsmakers*.

Austin So, In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair, who was profiled in the September 2015 *Practical Law Journal*, was named one of *New Jersey Law Journal's* Diverse Attorneys of 2015, was named one of Council of Urban Professional's Catalysts for Change in Law, and one of *Philadelphia Business Journal's* 2015 Corporate Counsel Award recipients.

Irene Chiu, VP and General Counsel of GCA Therapeutics, who was honored by the National Diversity Council as one of the recipients of the Most Powerful and Influential Women Award at their Tri-State Diversity & Leadership Conference.

Parkin Lee, Advisory Committee Member, who was named CEO of Rockefeller Group Investment Management.

Anita Wu, Government Service & Public Interest Committee Co-Chair, who was honored with a Pioneer Spirit Award at Asian Americans for Equality's 8th Annual Community Development Conference.

Jean Lee, Past President, who was spotlighted on the Council of Urban Professional's website as one of its Catalysts for Change in Law.

Andrew Hahn, Past President, who was quoted in *The Economist's* "The model minority is losing patience," on October 3, 2015.

Michael Park, Career Placement Committee Co-Chair, whose firm Consovoy McCarthy Park celebrated its first year anniversary.

Vinoo Varghese, Former Board Director, who was quoted in *New York Law Journal's* "Question of Partial Verdict Raised by Dewey Judge," by Christine Simmons.

Helen Wan, Author of *The Partner Track*, who was honored by the New York Chinese Cultural Center.

Pauline Yeung-Ha, Board Director, who was honored at the Chinese Planning Council, Inc. – Brooklyn Branch's 36th Anniversary Gala.

Special Events



September 19, 2015 AABANY held its largest and most successful **Fall Conference: Charting New Frontiers** to date at the offices of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. We added law student sessions to our popular CLE and non-CLE panels on a diverse range of topics that included intellectual property, human trafficking, ethics, career advancement, and more. Focused on developing tangible skills through hands-on exercises, the full-day Trial

Advocacy Program continued into its fourth year. During our Lunch Plenary Session, we presented the *Kicking Glass: Two Decades and Counting* video and panel discussion. In addition to once again offering law firm pitch sessions, we also included vendor pitches for those looking to develop business relationships. Rocky Chin, advocate for the Asian American community and one of the founders of AABANY, received the second Norman

Lau Kee Trailblazer Award at the Cocktail Reception, where we also kicked off our Mentorship Program for 2015-2016. There were three Committee Dinners following the Fall Conference: the Real Estate, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Tax Committee Dinner; the Intellectual Property, Litigation, Labor & Employment Law, Young Lawyers, and Government Service & Public Interest Committee Dinner; and the In-House Counsel Committee Dinner. This year's stand out at the Fall Conference was the Inaugural Diversity Career Fair and Expo. See below.



September 19, 2015 Led by Membership Secretary and Career Placement Committee Co-Chair Irene Tan, the **Inaugural Diversity Career Fair & Expo** was held at our Sixth Annual Fall Conference: Charting New Frontiers. The Diversity Career Fair featured selected public sector and corporate sector employers who hosted informational sessions, met and greeted interested applicants, and in some instances, conducted first round on-site interviews.

Several applicants were pre-screened for the interviews, leading to a productive session of interviews on the day of the Fall Conference. Employers hosting first-round interviews included: Bronx County District Attorney's Office; Kings County District Attorney's Office; Nassau County District Attorney's Office; New York County District Attorney's Office; New York City Law Department; Queens County District Attorney's Office; and Success Academy Charter Schools. Employers hosting information tables included: Bronx County District Attorney's Office; Eastern District of New York, US Attorney's Office (Civil Division); Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA); International Business Machines Corporation (IBM); JP Morgan Chase; Kings County District Attorney's Office; Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY; Manhattan Legal Services; MassMutual Financial Group; Mental Hygiene Legal Service; NBCUniversal; Office of the New York State Attorney General; Queens County District Attorney's Office; Queens Legal Services; RGP Legal; Richmond County District Attorney's Office; Southern District of New York, US Attorney's Office; Success Academy Charter Schools; and U.S. Navy JAG Corps. In addition, attendees had an opportunity to meet members of AABANY's Career Placement Committee and receive career advice as well as learn more about other job openings.



October 23, 2015 AABANY joined with the Asian American Arts Alliance, Association of Asian American Yale Alumni, Binghamton University Asian and Asian American Alumni Council, Cornell Asian Alumni Association, FF Fraternity, Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance, Harvard Business School Asian American Alumni Association, Kollaboration New York, and Wellesley Asian Alumnae Alliance for a Night at the Theater to see the musical *Allegiance*, starring George Takei and

Lea Salonga. A total of 128 people from the 9 groups signed up for the group outing. Attendees gathered for a pre-show networking reception at Hurley's Saloon, next door to the theater. The play received positive reviews from our group: The story was powerful and moving, the performances were stellar and the sets were visually stunning. It was great to see so much Asian American talent on stage and even better to see a play about the Asian American experience, something that is sorely lacking in mainstream culture today. After the performance, our group stayed for a post-show talkback with the cast that included stars George Takei, Lea Salonga and Telly Leung. Their thoughtful and insightful remarks about the show and the history behind it capped off a wonderful night at the theater.

Panels & CLEs



August 13, 2015 AABANY held an **Asia Practice Committee General Interest Meeting and CLE Program** at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. With about 60 attendees, the event was at capacity. The general interest meeting, led by Executive Director Yang Chen, began with a discussion about the need for an Asia Practice Committee within AABANY and soliciting interest from among the attendees in helping to launch it. Alex Hao, a partner at Jun He who helped

AABANY organize the event, expressed that now was a great time for AABANY to start an Asia Practice Committee, with the high level of activity currently taking place between the United States and Asia. The CLE covered Latest Legal Developments in China and Their Impact on US Companies. Alex served as moderator and introduced the speakers: Adam Li, a partner at Jun He, who spoke about China's Proposed Foreign Investment Law; Yingling Wei of Jun He, who spoke about China's Latest Antitrust Enforcement Efforts; John Du, a partner at Jun He, and Ralph Levene, a partner at Wachtell, who engaged in a discussion comparing the latest anti-corruption efforts in China and the United States. Alex wrapped up the panel discussion with a short update on China's outbound investments. All attendees received 1 CLE credit in Areas of Professional Practice. After the conclusion of the CLE program, the guests enjoyed a reception with wonderful food and drinks courtesy of Wachtell.



August 13, 2015 AABANY's Labor & Employment Law Committee teamed up with the Metropolitan Black Bar Association's ("MBBA") Labor & Employment Law Committee and the New York State Bar Association's (NYSBA) Labor & Employment Law Section for a joint **Networking Your Brand** program at Morgan Lewis. The panelists shared their perspectives on branding and how they established a brand in their legal practice and offered practical advice during

the question and answer segment. They shared their experiences drawn from their diverse legal backgrounds in the private and public sector, as well as in their positions as corporate counsel or independent arbitrators. Moderated by our Vice President of Finance & Development and Labor & Employment Law Committee Co-Chair William Ng and MBBA Labor & Employment Law Committee Chair Tanya Blocker, the panelists included the following attorneys: Sheila S. Boston, Partner, Kaye Scholer LLP; Theodore K. Cheng, Partner, Fox Horan & Camerini LLP and Independent Arbitrator/Mediator; Thomas Giovanni, Executive Assistant Corporation Counsel for Government Policy for the New York City Law Department; Sonya D. Johnson, Senior Counsel, National Grid USA; and Rosemary A. Townley, Arbitrator. More than fifty people attended the program. After the program, the attendees networked with the panelists and enjoyed a reception, courtesy of Morgan Lewis.



September 9, 2015 AABANY held a **How to Pitch Panel** in advance of the Fall Conference's Pitch Sessions. One of the most candid discussions in AABANY's recent memory, panelists shared their opinions that 90% of the time, a person has made their mind before the pitch, and 100% of the time

you spend with a person could be a part of the pitch you give them one day. Moderated and hosted by Corporate Law Committee Co-Chair Larry Wee of Paul Weiss, the panelists included: Sonia Low, The ONE Group; Austin So, Heraeus; Clara Ohr, LUKOIL Pan Americas; and Bobby Liu, MD Sass. Vice President of Programs and Operations Marianne Chow, Larry Wee, and George Hang organized the panel.



October 14, 2015 The IP Committee, Career Placement Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, and the Membership Committee hosted **Landing Your First Corporate Gig: Tips for Counsel** in the 308at156 Art Gallery at Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP. Moderated by IP Committee Co-Chair Stacy Wu, the panel consisted of: Charles Chen, Deputy General Counsel, Intellectual Property, HICKIES; Lee Pham, Director of Global Intellectual Property Strategy, American Express; Gene Rhough,

VP, Business & Legal Affairs, Global Digital Business, Sony Music Entertainment; and Jeff Tang, Intellectual Property Attorney, IBM. Whereas all the attorneys on the panel are now in-house, only one of them, Gene Rhough, went the more common law firm to in-house route. Each shared their unique experiences of taking the initiative in their own training and discovering what makes an attorney essential to a corporation – showing enthusiasm and adding value. The roundtable discussed the importance of keeping yourself engaged to prevent your career from plateauing.

September 10, 2015 & October 15, 2015 Our Tax Committee remained active in the professional development of its members. They continued their dinner group series, with a dinner discussion on the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 on September 10. They also held a Peer Group Mentoring event on October 15.

Community Outreach



September 13, 2015 AABANY Ran for the Cure with the Susan G. Komen Foundation in Central Park. Those running included President Will Wang; Immediate Past President Clara Ohr; Vice President of Programs and Operations Marianne Chow; Miyun Sung, Women's Committee Co-Chair and Organizer; Jack Chen, Membership Committee Co-Chair; and Grace Lee.



September 21, 2015 AABANY's Issues Committee presented the **Tested Film Screening** at the Time Warner Screening Room at Time Warner Center. This documentary follows a dozen racially and socio-economically diverse 8th graders as they fight for a seat at one of these schools. Their only way in: to ace a single standardized test. In New York City, where blacks and Hispanics make up 70% of the city's school-aged population, they represent less than 5% at the city's most elite public high schools. Meanwhile Asian Americans make up as much as 73%. *Tested* includes the voices of such education experts as Pedro Noguera and Diane Ravitch as it explores access to a high-quality public

education, affirmative action, and the model-minority myth. A question-and-answer segment and a reception with the director and cast followed the screening.



October 21, 2015 At the 308at156 Art Gallery of Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP, AABANY's Women's Committee teamed up with KALAGNY to host a **Networking Benefit for the New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC)**. A 33-year-old organization that supports women and families, NYAWC provides multi-lingual support programs for families from all cultural backgrounds offering shelter services, job training, and counseling. Supporters, friends, and early pioneers of the

program joined us this evening. Many representatives shared the wonderful work and support provided by NYAWC for victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking. Among the speakers that evening were Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Term, 1st Department, and a Founding Member of NYAWC, who shared

stories of personally picking up survivors in her own car and bringing them to a safe place. Even though organizations like NYAWC can provide support for victims, the stigma and struggle for those looking to reclaim independence are real. Attendees could make donations to NYAWC or donate their gently used interview-ready handbags. They were also encouraged to donate their time to serve this population in need.



October 24, 2015 On a crisp autumnal morning, AABANY's Young Lawyers Committee 'Spruced Up Chinatown' with New York Cares. Meeting in Sara D. Roosevelt Park, AABANY sojourned over to the islands on Allen Street to clear the litter, weeds, cigarette butts, and who-knows-what-else to leave just the tiniest part of Chinatown refreshed and revitalized. After a hard morning's work, the AABANY team rewarded itself with a hearty dim sum meal at Jing Fong.

October 27, 2015 AABANY's Student Outreach Committee hosted a **Resume Review Workshop** with New York University School of Law's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association with about 30 students in attendance. They recruited attorneys to meet with students in small groups to critique resumes and offer tips and advice. Following critique from previous a job skills workshop, the Student Outreach Committee endeavored to provide the students with more face-to-face time with attorneys that could mentor them and provide direct advice.

Networking



August 9, 2015 AABANY members and their family and friends gathered at the Great Lawn in Central Park for the annual **AABANY Summer Picnic**. The weather was perfect on this Sunday afternoon for everyone to toss around a few frisbees. Attendees enjoyed delicious Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches, catered by Saigon Sandwiches located on 369 Broome Street in Chinatown. An assortment of drinks and snacks was also provided.

The Young Lawyers Committee, Tax Committee, and Litigation Committee planned and organized this fun event.



August 20, 2015 AABANY hosted its **End-of-Summer Happy Hour** at the Ainsworth Park, organized by Young Lawyers Committee Co-Chair and Mentorship Program Coordinator David Sohn. The event was attended by around 40 people, and was an opportunity to learn about the 2015-2016 Mentorship Program as well as the Fall

Conference. As always, we were happy to provide an opportunity for new people to meet each other and for old friends to catch up.



October 26, 2015 AABANY's LGBT Committee co-sponsored the **7th Annual LGBTQ Reception** held by National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) at Skadden Arps. The reception celebrated the diversity within the LGBT and Asian American and South Asian communities. It also provided support to LGBT API attorneys in corporate, commercial, government, and

public interest practice. AABANY's LGBT Co-Chair Glenn Magpantay, who also serves as NQAPIA's Executive Director, gave a warm welcome to all attendees. Matthew Skinner, LeGaL's Executive Director was also hand and gave brief remarks. New York City Commissioner on Human Rights Carmelyn Malalis, who was also recently honored by the Asian American Law Fund of New York at their Annual Summer Reception, was the honoree and keynote speaker. The reception drew a very strong turnout, including Judge Doris Ling-Cohan, one of the very first jurists to rule in favor of same-sex marriage in a 2005 New York case. AABANY's Corporate Law Committee Co-Chair Dwight Yoo and his firm Skadden Arps generously hosted the reception.



October 27, 2015 AABANY's Pro Bono & Community Service and Government Service & Public Interest Committees teamed up for a **Pro Bono Mixer** at Singl Lounge to spread the word about their upcoming pro bono projects. AABANY is currently offering different opportunities to give back in immigration, housing, education, and general pro bono work. The mixer drew about 40 people throughout the night from all different sectors and all different levels of attorneys.