AABANY Quarterly Report – November 2014 through January 2015

During the quarter covering November 2014 to January 2015 AABANY continued to present numerous meaningful, educational, and engaging programs, including many networking events, CLEs and panel discussions, and community outreach opportunities.

Our Nominations Committee recommended the following slate of candidates to be elected at AABANY’s Annual Meeting on February 12:

- **President-Elect:** Susan Shin, Partner at Arnold & Porter LLP
- **Vice President, Programs and Operations:** Marianne Chow, Corporate Counsel at Hearst Corporation
- **Vice President, Finance and Development:** William Ng, Associate at Littler Mendelson, P.C.
- **Treasurer:** Naf Kwun, Associate at Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP
- **Recording Secretary:** Ligee Gu, Associate at Halperin Battaglia Raicht LLP
- **Membership Secretary:** Irene Tan, Associate Counsel at AIG Property Casualty

The Nominations Committee nominated the following members to serve a Director position for a term of two years:

- **Mike Huang,** Partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP
- **Bobby Liu,** General Counsel at M.D. Sass
- **Tristan Loanzon,** Partner at Loanzon LLP
- **Sonia Low,** General Counsel at The ONE Group Hospitality
- **Larry Wee,** Partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Our thirty Committees continued to remain active. The Tax Committee appointed JoonBeom Pae to replace outgoing Committee Co-Chair Michael Kam. Amanda Bernardo joined as an additional Co-Chair to AABANY’s Immigration & Nationality Law Committee.

We are currently well underway with our fundraising efforts for corporate sponsorship of our 26th Anniversary Dinner to be held on February 25, 2015 at Cipriani Wall Street, with the theme, *Charting New Frontiers*, for fiscal year 2015. Our sponsorship deadline is January 30, 2015. As our largest fundraiser of the year, with projected attendance of approximately 800 people, the Annual Dinner provides the necessary funds for AABANY’s operations and programming year-round.
Awards and Recognitions

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

Kathy Hirata Chin, Partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham, & Taft LLP and one of the driving forces behind AABANY’s trial reenactments, who was named as one of seven well-qualified nominees for the judgeship vacancy on the New York Court of Appeal, the state’s highest court, by the Commission on Judicial Nominations.

Glenn Lau-Kee, Partner at Kee & Lau-Kee PLLC, former AABANY President, and current New York State Bar Association President, who was selected as the Public Service Honoree for the National Association of Asian American Professionals – New York Chapter’s 2014 Most Influential Asian Pacific Islander American New Yorkers. He was honored at NAAAP-NY’s Moon Festival Honoree Gala at the Harvard Club of New York City on November 7, 2014.

Sandra Leung, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary at Bristol-Meyers Squibb and a member of AABANY’s Advisory Committee, who was selected as the Corporate Legal Honoree for the National Association of Asian American Professionals – New York Chapter’s 2014 Most Influential Asian Pacific Islander American New Yorkers. She was honored at NAAAP-NY’s Moon Festival Honoree Gala at the Harvard Club of New York City on November 7, 2014.

Karen Lim, Partner at Fross Zelnick and Board Director, who has been named a Rising Star in Intellectual Property by Super Lawyers.

Stacy Wu, Associate at Fross Zelnick and AABANY’s Intellectual Property Committee Co-Chair, who has been named a Rising Star in Intellectual Property by Super Lawyers.

Nelson Mar, Senior Education Law Attorney at Bronx Legal Services, who was part of a team of lawyers involved in a landmark settlement with the NYC Department of Education to put an end to unnecessary and harmful practices of escalating conflicts with students’ emotional, behavioral, and psychiatric episodes by sending them to the emergency room.

Don Liu, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Xerox Corporation, who was profiled in Tim Harper’s “Diversity, not Divinity” in Super Lawyers, with special emphasis on his personal journey and commitment to diversity.

Helen Wan, author of The Partner Track, who was featured in Vivia Chen’s article, “Asian-American Lawyers: Doing Great and Unhappy,” in American Lawyer.

Judge Toko Serita, New York City Criminal Court, Queens County, who was heavily featured in the New York Times article, “In a Queens Court, Women in Prostitution Cases
are Seen as Victims,” by Liz Robbins, in which she discussed at length the strides that New York Courts are making to protect victims of human trafficking.


Special Events

November 6-9, 2014 Many AABANY members and leaders spoke on or served as moderators or program chairs for various NAPABA and NAPALSA panels, during NAPABA’s Annual Convention: Convergence, including: Christopher W. Chan, Vincent T. Chang, Hon. Pamela K. Chen, Theodore K. Cheng, Hon. Denny Chin, Francis H. Chin, Kathy Hirata Chin, Sylvia Chin, Marianne Chow, Andrew T. Hahn, Michael Kam, Jane Kim, Michael S. Kim, Naf Kwun, Jean Lee, Lauren Lee, Parkin Lee, Marvin Liang, Karen Lim, Linda Lin, Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, Don H. Liu, Hugh H. Mo, Concepcion Montoya, Sapna Palla, Ivy Suriyopas, Vinoo Varghese, Helen Wan, Lawrence G. Wee, Jessica Wong, Michael Yap, Tsui Yee, Dwight Yoo, and Rosemary Yu. The AABANY Re-enactment Team, led by Hon. Denny Chin, Kathy Hirata Chin and Vincent Chang, performed “Justice Denied: Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio” to a capacity room. AABANY member Ivy Suriyopas, Director of AALDEF’s Anti-Trafficking Initiative, was honored among the recipients of NAPABA’s Best Under 40 awards presentation. AABANY members Lawson Huynh and Kristina Lee of St. John’s University School of Law argued their way through several rounds of the Thomas Tang Moot Court competition, finishing second in the nation, winning top brief.

Panels & CLEs

November 4, 2014 AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee (SOC) and the NYU Law School APALSA presented a Job Skills Workshop. A panel moderated by Jackie Sitjar, SOC Co-Chair, and consisting of Kathie Lee, Esq., Global Chief Legal & Administrative Officer, Le Pain Quotidien; Chris Chan, Esq., Prosperous Law, LLC, former President of AABANY; Catherine Wilson, C.M.A., Prosperous Law, LLC; and Don Leo, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Bureau Chief, New York State Office of the Attorney General, shared their advice and insights on networking, making a strong first impression, and what to do and not to do on a job interview. After the panel discussion,
members of the panel and volunteer attorneys sat down one-on-one with students to review their resumes and give feedback on how they could be strengthened.

November 11, 2014 AABANY’s Intellectual Property Committee, along with the Intellectual Property Committees of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York, and the Sports Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association presented a special inter-bar panel and networking event: “Women in Sports Law: Tips for Breaking into Industry,” hosted at the Classic Car Club and sponsored by Merrill Lynch. MBBA IP & Technology Committee Co-Chair Jessica Lee (Associate, Loeb & Loeb LLC) moderated a panel consisting of Kari Cohen (Vice President & Associate General Counsel, Brooklyn Nets & Barclays Center) and Guiselle Torres (Legal Counsel, Major League Soccer). Over cocktails and sushi, in a space filled with vintage cars, women attorneys from across our different bar associations mixed, mingled, and connected over the exciting prospects of the specialized and growing field of sports law. Experts Kari and Guiselle shared their personal experiences, provided their specific insight in this field, and underscored the importance of building lasting connections throughout one’s professional life regardless of career path. Over 50 women attended the event.

November 18, 2014 AABANY’s Government Service & Public Interest Committee, the Racial Justice Project of the Impact Center for the Public Interest and Asian Pacific American Law Students Association at New York Law School presented the CLE program, Shattering the Model Minority Myth: Asian Pacific Americans Facing Poverty in NYC, attended by over 40 people and offering 1.5 CLE credits. Moderated by Karen Yau, Co-Chair of AABANY’s Government Service and Public Interest Committee, the panel of speakers consisted of Wei Hu, Deputy Director of Policy and Research, Family Independence Administration, NYC Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services; Hon. Lydia Lai, Housing Court Judge, Kings County; Kavita Pawria-Sanchez, Assistant Commissioner, NYC Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Affairs; and Grace Shim, Executive Director, MinKwon Center for Community Action. The panelists shared their recent projects, concerns, and views on many critical issues regarding poverty and other human rights issues surrounding the
Asian American communities in NYC. By sharing their wisdom and expertise of real Asian Americans facing poverty, the panelists challenged the ‘model minority’ myth, discussed the burgeoning APA population of NYC and their unique needs, and provided the legal tools and resources to provide relief to low-income members of this community.

December 15, 2014 AABANY took part in the Historical Society of New York Courts’ Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Program entitled “Asian Americans and the Law: New York Pioneers in the Judiciary,” with an audience of over 300 attendees. The program was preceded by a reception at which most of the currently sitting APA judges in New York were in attendance. In addition to the APA judges, leaders from AABANY, KALAGNY, SABANY and FALANY were present at the reception. Judge Denny Chin and Kathy Hirata Chin presented a history of Asian Americans and the law, touching on four seminal cases that helped shape not only the Asian American experience but also the legal landscape of America. The cases were subjects of trial re-enactments that Judge Chin and Kathy Chin spearheaded for AABANY. They discussed the following cases: *Chy Lung v. Freeman* (“22 Lewd Chinese Women”), Heart Mountain, Tokyo Rose and Vincent Chin. The presentation was accompanied by a slideshow of historic images, many of them reflecting the racism and anti-Asian sentiment that was prevalent at the time. After the presentation, Judge Chin led a conversation with three APA pioneers on the New York bench: Hon. Peter Tom (Justice, 1st Dept. Appellate Division), Hon. Randall Eng (Presiding Justice, 2d Dept. Appellate Division), and Hon. Dorothy Chin-Brandt (Justice, New York Supreme Court, Queens Co.). The lively and freewheeling discussion chronicled the trailblazing careers of each judge, showing the great strides each made for Asian Americans in the law and the judiciary, providing strong inspiration for those who would follow the paths they cut for future generations.

**Student Outreach**

January 16, 2015 The **Joint Minority Bar Judicial Internship Program** (JMB JIP), of which AABANY has proudly been a part of for many years, solicited applications from law students of color for the 2015 Summer Program. JMB JIP was founded in 2010 to offer law students with a strong commitment to diversity an opportunity to enhance and complement their legal education as summer judicial interns in New York metropolitan area courthouses. Judicial internships are exceptional learning opportunities that offer tremendous insight into the process of judicial decision-making, as well as an opportunity to strengthen analytic and legal writing skills. Each year, JMB JIP partners with various bar associations to offer the program, which has historically included a stipend for judicial internships – a traditionally unpaid position.
**Networking**

*November 10, 2014* AABANY’s Mentorship Program held its **Mentor-Mentee Orientation**, the first formal meeting of the Program since our Fall Conference in late September. Providing the opportunity for many mentors and mentees to meet each other for the first time as well as the opportunity to meet others in the Mentorship Program, this orientation discussed mentor-mentee expectations — what to ask, how to communicate, and general ideas on how to make the most of our formal mentorship program, now in its fourth year. The Mentorship Program’s success in providing AABANY members with support, advice, and networking opportunities has been a wonderful opportunity for young lawyers ever since its inception, with great credit to Mentorship Program Coordinator Julie Kwon, AABANY’s 2014 MVP Award recipient.

*December 10, 2014* AABANY held its **Annual Holiday Party** at Smithfield NYC. With over 100 people, many gathered to kickoff the holiday season, catch up with old friends, make new friends, and enjoy some good food and drinks. Our members and friends looked absolutely spectacular, and it was a much-needed and informal retreat during the hectic holidays.