Diversity and inclusion are crucial cornerstones of Littler’s identity, engrained in the fabric of our firm at every level and reflected in the way we operate. As the world’s largest employment and labor law firm, we take great pride in a steadfast commitment to creating a culture of belonging. We emphasize inclusivity and collaboration, where ideas are sought and shared, developed and improved – resulting in better solutions for our firm and our clients.

Littler deeply supports the development and advancement of minority, women and LGBTQ lawyers. We have created multiple programs and initiatives that encourage the professional growth of our diverse lawyers. The firm provides opportunities for attorneys to advance professionally through associate mentoring programs, such as the Career Advocacy Program (CAP), which has received industry recognition, including the 2016 Thomas Sager Award from the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, and the Investment for Success Program. Other supportive resources within the firm are the Women’s Leadership Initiative and four affinity groups: Bollo (African-American), ‘Ohana (Asian-American), Pride (LGBTQ) and Reunión (Hispanic).

The numbers show that our mentoring programs are working. The firm elected 28 new shareholders in 2018 and among them were five minority lawyers, 15 female lawyers and one identifying as LGBTQ. Of the newly elevated shareholders, 18 percent were participants in CAP. Additionally, the diversity of the firm is represented among numerous leadership groups. Littler’s Board of Directors currently

(Continued on page 13)
Dear AABANY Members and Friends,

As we approach the end of another busy year at AABANY, it is hard to close out without remembering some special members and friends of AABANY who left us in 2018. Their contributions to the profession and the community are the legacies they leave behind, and we are saddened by their departure.

In January, we lost Hon. Charles Y.J. Liu. Charlie, as he was affectionately known, devoted his professional life to landlord-tenant and housing issues, serving for many years as a Court Attorney in the Housing Court. When he ascended the bench in 2017, Charlie’s friends, family and colleagues, including many here at AABANY, were happy for his achievement and success, because we all knew how hard he worked to become a Housing Court Judge. Yet with a couple of months to go before reaching his first year anniversary as a judge, Charlie unexpectedly passed away while on vacation. He had many more years left to serve the public, and his loss to the bench has been deeply felt by his peers and the community.

In March, we lost Han C. Choi, Managing Partner of Ballard Spahr’s Atlanta office, and a respected NA-PABA trailblazer, leader and mentor. He was beloved by many, as perhaps best summed up by BJ Pak, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia: “Han was a trailblazer, a mentor, and a role model—not just in Atlanta, but nationwide. He was selfless with his time and devoted much of his energy volunteering for the betterment of the community and mentoring Asian American lawyers. His infectious laugh and everlasting optimism inspired so many to be their best and to strive higher. For me, Han was not just a former colleague, but a mentor, a close friend, and a brother. I miss him dearly.” Those sentiments are shared by the APA legal community here in New York, as exemplified by the joint fundraiser organized by KALAGNY and AABANY in March to raise funds for the inaugural Han C. Choi Scholarship Fund.

More recently, just before the Thanksgiving holiday, we lost Helen Ahn, an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney’s Office. Helen also served as Co-Chair of AABANY’s Prosecutors Committee. At her memorial service on November 25, some 800 friends, family, and colleagues came out to Bayside, Queens, in frigid temperatures, to bid farewell to a cherished member of the legal profession and the community. You can read more about Helen’s life and accomplishments in the touching profile written by Myongjae Yi, Assistant District Attorney in the Queens County District Attorney’s Office, who served with Helen as Co-Chair of the Prosecutors Committee. The profile appears on page 5.

As we bid farewell to 2018, we also say good-bye to Charlie, Han and Helen and we thank them for all they have done during their time with us. They embody our theme of Serving the Community,Advancing the Profession. We will miss them and will always keep them in our hearts and our thoughts.

Very truly yours,

Yang Chen
Executive Director

Legacies

The AABANY newsletter endeavors to share in a non-partisan fashion information of concern to the Asian American legal community of New York. The officers and directors of AABANY do not necessarily share or endorse any particular view expressed in articles published in this newsletter. Statements published herein are those of persons concerned about the Asian American legal community and willing to share their concerns with their colleagues. Proposed articles or letters to the editor should be sent to AABANY Newsletter, Asian American Bar Association of New York, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10111 or e-mail: main@aabany.org; submissions may be excluded or edited by virtue of space or other reasons. Private individuals may publish notices and advertisements, which the editors feel are of interest to members on a space available basis at the following rates: 3.75” x 1” - $40.00; 3.75” x 4.5” (quarter page) - $70.00; half page - $120.00; full page - $220.00. For advertising information call AABANY at (718) 228-7206 or e-mail main@aabany.org.
A meeting of the American Bar Association Collaborative Bar Leadership Academy (CBLA) took place from June 24-26, 2018 in Miami, Florida. This year’s CBLA was hosted by the law firm of Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

The CBLA was founded in 2013 by the American Bar Association Diversity Division. Each year, the ABA invites the following national affinity bar associations to the CBLA: American Bar Association; Hispanic National Bar Association; National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; National Native American Bar Association; and the National Bar Association.

Each year, CBLA candidates from the aforementioned national bar associations submit their resumes and written statements with references to the CBLA Selection Committee. In addition, alumna of each graduating CBLA class are invited back to participate in the Annual CBLA Meetings.

This year, the CBLA in Miami was comprised of over 70 past alumni and first time CBLA attendees. They convened to discuss mutual bar collaboration; leadership training; professional development; personal branding; and how to sustain and strengthen the respective bar organizations within the community. The sessions covered how the mutual and collaborative efforts of each bar association can foster and develop greater diversity and inclusion within both the legal profession and our respective multicultural communities.

NAPABA had a large attendance of over 25 members from all over the country. NAPABA national leadership included: Daniel Sakaguchi, NAPABA’s then President-Elect (now President); Pankit J. Doshi, NAPABA’s then President; Gary Zhou, NAPABA’s current Treasurer; and Alen Hsu, NAPABA’s current Vice President of Membership.

Those attending on behalf of AABANY and KALAGNY included: Margaret Ling, AABANY Director of Development and Co-Chair of the Real Estate Committee and CBLA Alum, Class of 2014; Christopher Kwok, AABANY Director, Co-Chair of AABANY’s Asia Practice Committee, Chair of AABANY’s Issues Committee and CBLA Alum, Class of 2016; Marianne Chow-Newman, AABANY Director and first time attendee, CBLA Class of 2018; Cary Chan, Co-Chair of AABANY’s Real Estate Committee and Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee and first time attendee, CBLA Class of 2018; and Brian Yarzab, KALAGNY Vice President of Membership and first time attendee, CBLA Class of 2018.

Marianne Chow-Newman is now a member of the CBLA Steering Committee. We are looking forward to the 2019 CBLA and continuing the time-honored tradition of growing and developing future bar leaders.
Lillian Wan Makes History as First Asian American Woman on New York’s Court of Claims

By Mai Fukata and Dave Singh

Since the beginning of her career as a judge, Judge Wan has paved paths for young Asian Americans seeking to ascend to the bench. Although this path remains unrealized by most Asian Pacific Americans in the legal field, Judge Wan’s career trajectory sets up a precedent for many, especially Asian American women. When she was first appointed to the Kings County Family Court by Mayor Bloomberg in 2012, she became the first Asian American woman judge to serve in the family court in New York. This past June, she repeated her trailblazing path by becoming the first Asian American woman to serve on the New York Court of Claims.

“Can you believe it took so long? Someone pointed that out to me, and I said, ‘Oh, I didn’t realize that there haven’t been any other Asian women before me,’” Judge Wan responded, when asked about being the first Asian American woman in Family Court and the Court of Claims. She highlighted the importance of the bench reflecting the diversity of a population. For example, she noted, Brooklyn’s Asian population, around 13% and ever-growing, is not properly represented by elected officials. This stark disparity in representation is something that Judge Wan believes needs to be addressed.

Born in Flushing, Queens to Chinese immigrant parents, Judge Wan has lived in New York all her life. After attending Binghamton University, she studied law at Albany Law School where she was on the law review and pursued her interest in working for the welfare of children. She first interned for the Department of Social Services in Binghamton, where she worked with social workers and supervised visits between parents and children who have been removed from their parents’ care. During the summers when she was a law student, she worked with Lawyers for Children and with the Legal Aid Society’s Juvenile Rights Practice. In her third year of law school, she worked at a domestic violence law clinic, where she was able to go into the family court. Her experiences working at these organizations repeatedly confirmed for Judge Wan that she wanted to be in the courtroom.

“I love being in court,” declared Judge Wan. Her love of the courtroom drew her to a trial attorney position at the Administration for Child Services (ACS), where she worked for nine years upon graduation from law school. In her time as a trial attorney for ACS, she appeared in front of many judges, who taught her how to become a better lawyer. She described it as “a hit the ground running litigation experience, taking a case from its inception to the end, trying a case in court” and finding, calling and interviewing witnesses. From her time as a trial attorney at ACS, she learned that “to be an effective lawyer and advocate for your client, you have to see all sides of the picture, and be able to see all sides of the argument, not just your own, but also the argument of the other side.” This bit of wisdom developed over the course of her time at ACS shaped her as a lawyer, and ultimately, as a judge.

Judge Wan’s journey to the bench began after her time at ACS. After nine years, she decided to pursue something new, and became a court attorney referee in Surrogate Court, a court that handles affairs related to the deceased, where she worked closely with the judge. In this role, she drafted decisions on motions, attended hearings, and got an insider’s look at how the courtroom functioned. A few months into her position, she knew she wanted to be a judge herself: “That’s it! I want to do this! Whatever [the judge] is doing is incredible.”

In order to become a judge, one has to be admitted to the practice of law for at least 10 years. Judge Wan had been admitted to practice law in January of 2001, so right when she hit the ten-year mark in her legal career, she turned in her application. “Literally, on January 3rd,” she recalls, “I walked my application in. I spent six to seven months gathering materials together, and I knew that when I hit my ten years, even though it was only ten years, I was going to walk that application in. And that’s exactly what I did.”

Following her newfound goal to become a judge, Judge Wan became more involved with bar associations such as the New York City Bar Association and the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY). She joined the New York City Bar Association’s Family Court and Family Law Committees, ultimately becoming the committee’s chair. She also gave kudos to AABANY’s Judiciary Committee for helping and supporting her preparation for her journey to the bench. In July of 2012, after a couple of attempts, she finally became a New York City family court judge. Six years later, now in 2018, she became a Court of Claims judge.

When asked about the appointment process, Judge Wan noted that appointments to the Court of Claims are subject to Senate confirmation and described her journey as a “whirlwind.” Judge Wan had submitted her application to the Court of Claims well before she became a Family Court judge. On Monday evening, June 18th of this year, she was informed that the Governor was nominating her for the position and the confirmation could possibly go through. On Tuesday evening, June 19th, she was asked to be in Albany at 10am “tomorrow.” On Wednesday, June 20th, the last day of the legislative session, Judge Wan was in Albany. The Senate Judiciary Committee hearing took place in the afternoon and later that evening, following her confirmation hearing, Judge Wan was sworn in to her new position at the Court of Claims. Judge Wan said, “I went up to Albany as a Family Court judge and came back as a Court of Claims judge.”

During her transition from Family Court judge to being a Supreme Court judge, Judge Wan said there was certainly a learning curve. In Family Court, Judge Wan was the sole decision maker on both matters of fact and law. Now in the Court of Claims, Judge Wan is in the world of jury trials and loves it. One of her first trials in the Court of Claims involved a personal injury claim and within first 5 minutes of testimony she realized, although her role as judge had changed to an extent, it was nonetheless very much like what she had been doing for the past six years. The rules of evidence and trial procedures were the same, just the subject matter had changed. And Judge Wan “loved learning about a different area of law and managing the jury.” She found (Continued on page 14)
On November 25, 2018, a bone-chilling Sunday evening, over 800 people packed HaKnesiah Church in Queens to bid farewell to Prosecutors’ Committee co-chair Helen Ahn. She unexpectedly passed away five days earlier after suffering a series of strokes. Helen was only forty-five.

As the second eldest among four siblings, Helen immigrated to the United States when she was two years old. After graduating from Stuyvesant High School and Binghamton University, she went on to receive her Masters and M.Div. degrees from Princeton University. Although Helen felt she was not called to become a reverend like her father, she served several years as a New York City high school English teacher and as a youth pastor at her father’s church. According to her father, Helen developed an interest in studying criminal law after ministering to troubled youth who found themselves “in and out” of police precincts. She pursued this interest at CUNY Law School, earned a seat on its Law Review, and began her legal career at the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office upon graduation in 2004.

Helen devoted her entire 14-year legal career as a prosecutor at the same office. A gifted orator with quick wits and sharp intellect, Helen became a prolific trial attorney who conducted dozens of jury trials and handled over 1500 cases. Among those cases were some of the most serious violent felonies and heinous sex crimes at the Manhattan DA’s Office. According to her co-workers, Helen’s humor and strong work ethic got her through the long and stressful work hours. She regularly left home at the crack of dawn and returned at 10:00 p.m. Her closest family members, friends, and co-workers admit to having advised Helen to either slow down or even find a less stressful job. But Helen was an idealist who thrived under her pressure-filled job, which mandated a single mission: to do the right thing. According to Helen’s brothers, she declined much more lucrative and “comfortable” job offers to pursue this mission.

Helen loved her job and cherished the camaraderie she forged with her co-workers, members of the NYPD, court officers, and court reporters. She was also proud of her heritage and valued diversity in the law enforcement community. To this end, Helen was a very active member of AABANY and served as co-chair of its Prosecutors’ Committee. She volunteered her time to recruit and mentor prospective law students and young prosecutors, spoke at several criminal law conferences worldwide, and even spent a year overseas as a research fellow/lecturer for South Korea’s Ministry of Justice.

As highlighted at her funeral, Helen deeply impacted an incredibly large number of people. She was an extraordinary Assistant District Attorney because she possessed a combination of qualities that prosecutors covet: being tough-as-nails with defendants while compassionate and empathetic to victims. Outside the office, Helen was a truly loved daughter, sister, aunt, pastor, teacher, mentor, friend, and co-chair.

AABANY benefited tremendously from her leadership and service. Helen will be deeply missed by her friends, colleagues and our members.

All photos in this article courtesy of Myongjae Yi
On Friday, September 21, AABANY proudly co-hosted the 5th Annual Scholarship Dinner of the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors’ Association (NAPIPA) and APAPA Scholarship award at Golden Unicorn Restaurant in Chinatown. The dinner raised funds for the scholarship, which was awarded to three distinguished law students. The event also honored the accomplishments of special guests Preet Bharara, former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and the Honorable Grace Meng, who represents New York’s 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. This is the first time the NAPIPA dinner has been hosted in New York.

The dinner started with a cocktail reception and featured a variety of empowering speeches centering on the importance of attracting and retaining Asian Americans in public interest careers. From Congresswoman Meng’s remarks on how she was inspired to run for office, to AABANY President James Cho’s speech on API representation in light of films like “Crazy Rich Asians,” guests were exposed to a series of diverse and inspiring perspectives on what it meant to fight for the public good and the API community, whether it be in prosecution or related fields. The dinner also provided a dynamic and exciting environment for prosecutors, lawyers, and law students from all backgrounds to meet and discuss issues over delicious Chinese food.

This year, the scholarships were awarded to Christian Ro of Cardozo Law School, Michelle Park of Southwestern Law School, and Tyler Anne Lee of Columbia Law School. Each scholarship recipient was awarded a full Kaplan bar prep scholarship as well as a monetary scholarship from the funds raised by the dinner. To receive the competitive award, all three students demonstrated a strong commitment to prosecution and displayed an understanding of the role of the prosecutor in the criminal justice system—not as litigators simply out to win cases but as a part of a whole system of justice wherein exonerating an innocent person is just as important as seeking punishment for the guilty. Each student had also previously interned or worked in criminal justice and prosecution offices and demonstrated a strong desire to enter into a career in prosecution.

NAPIPA has hosted annual scholarship dinners since 2014. Each year, the organization seeks out law students who express a passion to give back to their communities, both as prosecutors and as members of the API community. The award is given out through the NAPIPA Foundation. The APAPA Scholarship is named for the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs organization. APAPA was founded by entrepreneur and philanthropist C.C. Yin in 2001, with the aim of strengthening API communities and pushing for greater representation of API voices in civic life. APAPA and C.C. Yin have been staunch supporters of NAPIPA’s efforts and have been critical to the success of the scholarship dinners.

AABANY and NAPIPA have had a strong relationship since the inception of NAPIPA in 2010. The New York Chapter was officially launched in 2011 in close association with AABANY’s Prosecutors’ Committee. The New York chapter is led by Kin Ng, Chief of the Red Zone Trial Bureau of the Kings County District Attorney’s Office. Kin Ng is also this year’s recipient of the 2018 Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award, presented at the reception that concluded the AABANY Fall Conference. Kin received the award for his tireless and dedicated service and leadership in AABANY, the API communities of New York, and the legal profession.

All photos in this article taken by Sarah Lu
AABANY Biannual Report

By Cathlyn Lee and Emma Li

During the latter half of 2018, from late June to early December, AABANY kept active by organizing and hosting a number of CLEs, panels, events, and networking opportunities that engaged both AABANY members and the wider community. A major highlight was our annual Fall Conference, during which we organized programs covering a variety of topics, including language access, pro bono refreshers, and networking. (Read the article on page 1 for more details.) Our diverse programs included career information sessions, our monthly pro bono clinics, monthly membership happy hours and multiple collaborations with other bar associations to advance diversity and inclusion in the legal field.

Special Events

June 28, 2018 AABANY and AALFNY held their annual Summer Reception, featuring Hon. Toko Serita, Acting Justice, NYS Supreme Court, and the recognition of AALFNY’s scholarship and fellowship recipients. Sylvia Chin, President of AALFNY delivered the opening remarks, introducing AALFNY and AABANY’s board members and thanking all attendees for their support and contributions to both organizations. AABANY President James Cho followed up with a meaningful reminder that AALFNY’s scholarships help dozens of aspiring attorneys commit to public service or public interest without being weighed down by financial burdens. The event’s guest speaker was Hon. Toko Serita who presides over three problem solving courts in Queens County Criminal Court. She delivered a powerful address that discussed the reality of human trafficking. As a judge at the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court since 2008, Justice Serita shared insights about the causes, consequences, and conditions of human trafficking that often remain unseen, especially in large metropolitan areas like New York City.

August 15, 2018 AABANY was delighted to co-partner with the Forest Hills Asian Association and attend a red carpet screening of the film, “Crazy Rich Asians” at the Cinemart Cinemas in Forest Hills. Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, and Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director, attended on behalf of AABANY. Margaret spoke at the prescreening social at the Theatre Cafe and introduced the attendees to AABANY and detailed our many efforts to support the Asian American community in New York. Thank you to Edwin Wong, President of Forest Hills Asian Association for inviting us to co-partner. The event was sold out and the film was very well received. The free soft drinks and popcorn were an added plus to the evening. “Crazy Rich Asians” broke box office records as the first Hollywood film in 25 years to feature an all-Asian cast.

August 25, 2018 AABANY’s Annual Picnic took place at the Pool Lawn, in the north end of Central Park, by the West 100th Street entrance. It was a beautiful and peaceful sunny day for a picnic, and many AABANY members, with family and friends in tow, got to meet and mingle with each other over banh mi sandwiches and dumplings.

August 29, 2018 AABANY’s Issues Committee hosted a “Crazy Rich Discussion” at JAMS, in the New York Times Building. At the event, attendees engaged in a lively free-form discussion about the under-representation of Asian American artists in Hollywood and how “Crazy Rich Asians” may be a game changer.

September 22, 2018 AABANY proudly presented its 2018 Fall Conference, “Serving Our Community, Advancing Our Profession” at Fordham University School of Law. This year’s Fall Conference featured a full day of CLE and non-CLE programs on cutting
Biannual Report, cont’d

(Continued from page 7)

edge topics, along with a variety of other offerings, including a Trial Advocacy Program and Diversity Career Fair and Expo. Read more about it in the article on page 1.

November 8 - 11, 2018 AABANY turned out in force again at the 2018 NA-PABA National Convention in Chicago. AABANY was well-represented in various panels, including our renowned Trial Re-enactment. This year we performed “Alice in Chinatown: Chol Soo Lee and His Fight for Freedom,” about a Korean American man wrongly accused of a gangland murder in 1970s San Francisco. Congratulations to Best Under 40 honoree Marianne Chow Newman and Trailblazer Award recipient Joon Kim. Congratulations to Arnold & Porter for receiving the Law Firm Diversity Award. Past AABANY President Susan L. Shin accepted the award on behalf of the firm.

December 13, 2018 AABANY held its Annual Holiday Party at rent24, a co-working space near Bryant Park. More than 100 members and their guests registered for this full capacity event. AABANY had the space to itself and attendees got to enjoy cheese and crudite from Murray’s and delicious Korean food from Woorijip. A professional bartender was on hand to serve and mix drinks for our guests. The atmosphere was festive and lively, as Board members and Committee Chairs interacted with each other and all the members and friends who were in attendance.

Panels and CLEs

July 11, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored Diversity Tax Day for Professionals Working with Limited English Proficiency Taxpayers at Venable LLP. This event included panel discussions on various topics regarding taxpayers, such as how it is difficult for LEP (limited English proficiency) taxpayers to exercise their right to be informed about their taxes, and tax scams and identity theft. The panels featured multiple speakers who hold prominent positions or status in their field, including Sharon Bradley, the Chief of the ITIN Section of the IRS, Eunkyong Choi, the NYC Taxpayer Advocate, Margaret Neri, the New York State Taxpayer Rights Advocate, and Pam Parker Cortijo, the Assistant Commissioner of the Collections Division of the New York City Department of Finance. Sung Hwang, Partner at Venable and Co-Chair of AABANY’s Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, spoke on the first of four panels, “Starting a Business with Money from Abroad,” which addressed the tax implications for small businesses that receive financing domestically and from abroad. Over 100 professionals attended this event, who all qualified for CLE, CPE and CE credits.

August 14, 2018 AABANY’s Real Estate, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Labor & Employment Law Committees, KALAGNY, Flushing Bank, and Littler Mendelson, P.C. presented a CLE program entitled “Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace: Respecting and Embracing It.” The CLE program was held at Flushing Bank’s branch at 99 Park Ave. The event was attended by forty-five attorneys and focused on the new New York State CLE requirement mandating attorneys to take at least one CLE course in diversity and inclusion during their biennial reporting period. The program was interesting, engaging, and informative. It was moderated by Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee, and was presented by AABANY’s very own William Ng, of Littler Mendelson, P.C. (AABANY’s former VP of Finance and Development, Recording Secretary, and Founding Co-Chair of AABANY’s Labor & Employment Law Committee) and Kevin Yam, Esq. of Littler Mendelson, P.C. They defined what diversity and inclusion really means within the confines

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of the work environment and focused on understanding what implicit and unconscious bias is.

October 16, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored an information session on going in-house at AmEx. The event began with a panel discussion moderated by In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair Grace Fu that engaged in a lighthearted and candid discussion about what it is like to work in-house at AmEx. The panelists, which included AmEx General Counsel Laureen Seeger and Senior Counsel Ming-Hsuan Elders, discussed the various types of matters handled by the company’s legal department and shared their personal experiences to shed light on the company’s culture. The panelists also discussed issues like diversity and steps the company is taking to make the legal field more inclusive for minorities. After the panel concluded, attorneys in attendance were matched with Hiring Leaders at AmEx and given the opportunity to mingle and engage in a more personalized one-to-one discussion.

October 17, 2018 AABANY presented a CLE in Nassau County, Long Island. Hosted by Flushing Bank at their New Hyde Park Branch, the AABANY Real Estate Committee and Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee presented a CLE entitled “Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace-Respecting and Embracing It.” The CLE Event was attended by over 25 attorneys. It was moderated by Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director and Co-Chair of the Real Estate Committee. Speakers included AABANY’s William Ng, attorney at Littler Mendelson, P.C. and past AABANY Board Director and Vice President of Finance and Development, as well as Leslie DiBenedetto, attorney at Littler Mendelson, P.C.

October 22, 2018 AABANY in collaboration with the Disney Lawyers of Color presented a career information session on what working for the Walt Disney Company and its various subsidiaries and affiliates, such as Disney Theatrical Group, Marvel Entertainment, and ESPN, is like. The event took place at the New Amsterdam Room in the New Amsterdam Theater on 42nd Street and Broadway. The speakers shared with the audience how each of them got to where they are today and how much they enjoy the work and the colleagues they have at their respective Disney companies.

October 30, 2018 AABANY’s Real Estate Committee hosted the CLE and networking event entitled “Due Diligence and Residential Real Estate Contracts.” Over 25 attorneys attended the program at Flushing Bank’s branch located at 164-20 Northern Boulevard, in Flushing. AABANY’s Real Estate Committee co-chair Margaret Ling and Robert Moy, partner at Forchelli Deegan Terana LLP, spoke on best practices for conducting due diligence in real estate transactions. They gave insightful advice on minimizing liability for attorneys and realtors, based on their experience and years of practice. Special thanks to Flushing Bank and its staff for hosting the CLE panel for the evening. Attendees received 1 CLE credit in the Areas of Ethics.

November 14, 2018, AABANY’s Real Estate Committee presented a roundtable discussion entitled “A Discussion About Leading Issues in Asia Practice.” Over 60 professionals attended the program at JAMS, located at 620 8th Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, New York. Panelists included Alex Hao, Partner at JunHe LLP, New York; Ji Li, Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School and Author of The Clash of Capitalisms? Chinese Companies in the United States; Ruth Jin, Founder of The Jin Law Group; Jian Wu, International Lawyer at Kobre & Kim LLP; and Ann Lee, CEO of Coterie. The panel engaged in a lively discussion on China-US cross-border transactions, disputes, and trends supported by academic research and practical experiences.

November 14, 2018 AABANY’s Real Estate Committee presented a CLE and Networking event entitled “Green Light Go: Title Insurance Clearing Before Closing.” The CLE was hosted by Flushing Bank at their Bayside, Queens branch. The speakers, Margaret Ling and Cary Chan, Co-Chairs of the Real Estate Committee, discussed an array of issues that can arise with obtaining title insurance clearance prior to closing and how to resolve them. The speakers also discussed the importance of conducting due diligence and provided attendees with insightful advice, based on their years of experience, on how to minimize liability. Thanks to Flushing Bank and its staff for hosting the CLE panel for the evening.

Committee Meetings
July 31, 2018 Tax Committee held its quarterly Tax Club Dinner at Tang Pavilion. The group engaged in a lively discussion of winners and losers from the 2017 tax reform law, which also was a program topic at the September 22 AABANY Fall Conference, led by the Tax Committee.

October 9, 2018 The Tax Committee held its quarterly meeting and dinner at the offices of Ashurst LLP, in order to discuss the Wayfair Supreme Court decision and other state and local tax issues. Presenters Jessika Wong, of Grant Thornton LLP, and Rebecca Miodori Balinskas, of Morrison & Foerster LLP, led a lively and informative discussion about the new landscape for sales taxes, particularly the issues for law firms and other service providers when they provide services to residents of other states. The discussion addressed the lack of foreign treaty protection for state sales and income taxes.
which may be imposed on Asia-based foreign businesses that sell products online to U.S. residents. The group also discussed various questions related to the effects of the 2017 federal tax reform on state income taxation, such as whether state taxable income includes GILTI. Special thanks to Sharon Kim, partner at Ashurst LLP, for hosting the event.

October 23, 2018 AABANY Judiciary Committee held a meeting at Paul, Hastings led by Co-Chairs Linda Lin and Robert Leung. Attendees heard about highlights from events and activities held earlier in the year. The meeting also covered plans for upcoming events and a call for help with the Committee’s activities, such as evaluating candidates for the judiciary and sitting on independent screening panels. This meeting included several first-time attendees, and we hope they will be able to participate in the important work of the Judiciary Committee to enhance diversity on the bench.

November 19, 2018 AABANY’s Vice Presidents of Programs and Operations, Jeff Ikejiri and Charles Chen, hosted a Committee Chairs Meeting at JAMS, in the New York Times Building. Immediately following the meeting, AABANY hosted an Information Session for anyone interested in learning more about what it means to be a Committee Chair and what it entails. We introduced the attendees to all the Committee Chairs in attendance and encouraged everyone to meet and mingle with the Committee Chairs one-on-one. Special Thanks to our VPPOs, Jeff and Charles, for their leadership and to all our Committee Chairs for their hard work and dedication. Thanks also to Chris Kwok and JAMS for hosting the meetings.

December 12, 2018 The Academic Committee held a holiday lunch at Tea & Sympathy in Greenwich Village. Many law professors from area law schools, such as Rutgers, Fordham, CUNY, St. John’s and others gathered to celebrate the holidays in an intimate space with a menu that serves traditional British comfort foods.

Community Outreach

September 6, 2018 AABANY was proud to announce that it is continuing its pro bono legal clinic in partnership with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York, Inc. at a larger new location at 3 Bowery Street in New York City to accommodate the ever-increasing number of community members who have been coming to the clinic each month.

July 12, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12, 2018 Through its Pro Bono & Community Service Committee, AABANY continued holding its Monthly Pro Bono Clinics on the second Wednesdays of the month at Confucius Plaza from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. In July and August, the Clinic took place at the offices of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. Then, starting in September, the Clinic took place at the offices of the Asian Mutual Aid Group, on a ground floor location at Confucius Plaza. Since the inauguration of this monthly pro bono clinic in 2015, hundreds of low-income community members have received thoughtful advice and appropriate legal referral from AABANY members. Special thanks to all the volunteer attorneys who gave of their time to help anywhere from 30 to 50 clients each month. Thanks also to Pro Bono and Community Service Committee Co-Chairs Karen Kithan Yau, Ming Chu Lee, and Asako Aiba for their leadership.

Student Outreach

August 2, 2018 AABANY’s Corporate Law Committee and Student Outreach Committee hosted an informative and insightful Pre-OCI Information Session titled, “What Do Corporate Lawyers Do?” at Paul, Weiss. With the OCI season just around the corner for current law students, the event provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to acquire a better understanding of the corporate law practice from a panel that comprised some of today’s most distinguished and experienced APA corporate lawyers from top firms and companies.

August 27, 2018 AABANY hosted its first road show of the 2018-19 school year at Hofstra Law School with the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) and South Asian American Law School Association (SALSA) during their first general meeting of the semester. Executive Director Yang Chen, Board Director and Real Estate Committee Co-Chair Margaret Ling, and Associate at Forchelli Deegan Terrana Jane Chen (and past Hofstra APALSA President) discussed how Asian Americans suffer from the model minority myth and are vastly underrepresented in positions of influence, leadership, and power in the legal profession. They shared personal stories and provided insight about how AABANY can be a tremendous resource for Asian American students to develop the skills and contacts necessary to advance in the legal field.

September 5, 2018 AABANY’s Law School Roadshows visited Cardozo APALSA. Executive Director Yang Chen met with Cardozo’s APALSA members to share with them what AABANY is, why we exist, what we do, how we do it and most importantly, how law students can get involved and why they need to start connecting with AABANY, even as law students. Executive Director Chen offered some free memberships donated by AABANY’s sponsors, and many eager law students took him up on the offer.

September 13, 2018 AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee was pleased to host the first InterAPALSA Happy Hour at District Social on Thursday, September 13, 2018. Local APALSA leaders and members were grateful for the opportunity to foster new connections and to meet AABANY members that were in attendance.
October 16, 2018 AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee presented a resume review workshop and roadshow at NYU. Practicing attorneys from various fields attended the event to review student resumes and provide useful advice on how to succeed in the legal profession. Right before the resume review workshop, Executive Director Yang Chen addressed NYU’s APALSA members to tell them more about AABANY, its missions and members, and how law students can become more actively involved.

October 24, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored Potential Careers in Immigration Law Practice with Brooklyn Law School’s APALSA in providing law students with an array of career options in immigration law practice. Gathered at Brooklyn Law School, students gained valuable practical career knowledge through panel discussion and individual follow up. The panelists included: Amanda Bernardo, Supervising Attorney, New York Legal Assistance Group, and Immigration Committee Co-Chair; Susan Akina, Managing Attorney, Guerrero Law Firm, and Immigration Committee Co-Chair; and Rio Guerrero, Principal, Guerrero Law Firm, and inaugural Immigration Committee Co-Chair. Special thanks to Professor Catherine Y. Kim for leading the dynamic discussion.

November 5, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored KALAGNY’s Second Annual Veterans and Military Networking Event at the Museum of Korean American Heritage (MoKAH). Through this annual event, KALAGNY hoped to expand and strengthen a network of and for veteran and military members. The event also provided an opportunity to spotlight and thank each of our veteran and military members and their families for their service and sacrifice. The event included two networking sessions and a panel discussion on “Diversity in the Military: Then and Now.” The panelists included: Sung H. Hwang, Venable LLP, Partner and U.S. Army Reserve, JAG, Major; Barbara St. Martin Cho, Korean American Vietnam War Veterans of NJ and NY at Fort Lee, Foreign Affairs Director and U.S. Air Force, Sergeant; Andrew T. Hahn, Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, Partner and General Counsel and U.S. Army, JAG, Captain; Darol Tucker, Brooklyn Local Taxpayer Advocate and U.S. Army, First Sergeant, Ret.

AABANY’s Real Estate and Solo & Small Firm Practice Committees, with KALAGNY, Citrin Cooperman and HSBC, hosted a Fall Harvest Moon Festival Networking Event. Over 60 people attended the event at Citrin Cooperman’s Fifth Avenue headquarters. Everyone enjoyed the networking and the buffet, which included moon cakes to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.

July 18, August 15, September 26, October 17, 2018 AABANY’s Academic Committee and Litigation Committee co-hosted July’s Membership Happy Hour at Karaoke City. AABANY’s Young Lawyers, IP and Asia Practice Committee co-hosted August’s Monthly Membership Happy Hour at Ainsworth Midtown. The September Membership Happy Hour featured the Issues Committee and the Bankruptcy Committee and also took place at Ainsworth Midtown. The October Happy Hour took place at Roki Le Izakaya on West 21st Street and featured AABANY’s Immigration, Government Service & Public Interest, Student Outreach, and Pro Bono Committees. Each Happy Hour was co-sponsored by the Membership Committee, under the leadership of David Sohn, and all attendees had the chance to mingle and network with Committee leaders and members as well as lawyers in various practice areas.

July 25, 2018 AABANY hosted a Committee Chairs Mixer at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, providing Committee Co-Chairs with the valuable opportunity to discuss both previous and upcoming events, exchange ideas and updates, and catch up with one another. Among the topics that were discussed at the event were the Monthly Membership Happy Hours and the 2018 Fall Conference, both of which are major opportunities for committee activity and engagement.

August 9, 2018 AABANY and SABANY came together for the second annual AABANY/SABANY mixer at the Chinese Club NYC, a restaurant that offers an excellent window into Indian-Chinese cuisine. At the event, attendees got the chance to taste some of the restaurant’s most popular dishes, which include Lollipop Chicken, Butter Salt & Pepper Mushroom, Wheels of Fortune (crispy lotus roots), Szechuan Fried Rice, most of which were vegan and vegetarian-friendly. All of the dishes blended together a number of fragrant spices, both sweet and savory, offering an amazing food experience for all who came. During the event, Saif Mehta, owner of the Chinese Club, was kind enough to share his stories about the food, Indian-Chinese cuisine, his inspirations, and the meaning behind his journey with the restaurant.

November 13, 2018 AABANY officers, directors, leaders and staff attended the Kings of Queens Awards and Networking Event at Russo’s on the Bay in Howard Beach, New York. We celebrated our Executive Director, Yang Chen, as he walked the red carpet to receive his bronze statue award as one of the “Kings of Queens.” Present from AABANY to help celebrate and honor Yang Chen as the recipient of this well-deserved award were: James Cho, AABANY President; Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director; Marianne Chow-Newman, AABANY Board Director; Beatrice Leong, Co-Chair of AABANY’s Government Service and Public Interest Committee; Dave Singh, AABANY Program Associate; and Jason Cheung, former AABANY Legal Intern.

Networking
AABANY Annual Dinner 2019

Save the Date

02/27/19
day and was hosted by AABANY’s Litigation Committee. Judge Lorna G. Schofield of the Southern District of New York delivered the keynote remarks and shared practical and useful tips from her own experience as a litigator in private practice and from her vantage point as a trial judge. TAP gave attendees the opportunity to conduct opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, and closing statements. They also received constructive feedback from highly experienced trial lawyers including current and former prosecutors.

The Fall Conference also continued to offer Pitch Sessions, which provided law firm attorneys an opportunity to make meaningful connections with in-house counsels interested in learning more about their legal services and capabilities. We also hosted our annual Diversity Career Fair & Expo, which featured information tables and on-site interviews from numerous employers, including District Attorneys’ Offices, government agencies, law firms, corporations, and public interest employers.

In the middle of the day, we held a luncheon plenary session on “Lessons and Legacy of the My Lai Massacre: 50th Year Commemoration.” The session was moderated by President-Elect Brian Song and reflected on a dark moment in American history that involved the massacre of 350 Vietnamese civilians in the village of My Lai. Our distinguished panelist discussed the lessons learned from the failure of military justice system to punish those responsible and how the legacy left behind from this tragedy still resonates today.

At the conclusion of the conference, we hosted a cocktail reception, where attendees gathered and mingled while enjoying drinks and hors d’oeuvres. At the reception, President James Cho presented the Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award. Named for Norman Lau Kee, a revered legal and community pillar of New York City’s Chinatown for decades, the award honors an individual who has carved a path for others to follow, served the community as a mentor and role model, and has made a lasting impact on the Asian Pacific American community through his or her dedication and commitment.

The award was presented to Kin Ng, who made history last year when he became the first Asian Pacific American to be promoted to serve as Bureau Chief at a major trial bureau in a prosecutors’ office in New York City. He supervises more than 40 Assistant District Attorneys in prosecuting crimes ranging from minor violations to burglaries and attempted murder. He is also responsible for closely coordinating with local precincts and community leaders to serve the people of Brooklyn. Prior to taking on his role of Bureau Chief, Kin was a tireless defender of Brooklyn’s immigrant population, bringing to justice countless offenders who preyed on vulnerable immigrants through scams and theft. In his more than 25 years of service at the King’s County District Attorney’s Office, during which he has tried countless serious felonies, Kin has provided an excellent example of an individual committed to justice and public service. On top of all that, Kin helped to found AABANY’s Prosecutor’s Committee and serves on the National Board of the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association (NAPIPA) as Vice President.

Following the cocktail reception, attendees packed the second floor of Szechuan Gourmet for a Post-Conference Joint Committees Dinner and Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration. Enjoying the food as well as each other’s company, attendees the successful conclusion of yet another Fall Conference.

We hope to see everyone at the 2019 Fall Conference which will also be the NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference. Stay tuned for details.

(Continued from page 1)

**SUBMISSIONS WANTED!**

The AABANY Advocate is searching for staff writers and guest authors to submit articles for publication. If you would like to propose an article or come on board as a staff member, please send an inquiry to main@AABANY.org.

**THE AABANY ADVOCATE**

Edited by
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& Staff

Guest Writers
Mai Fukata
Cathlyn Lee
Emma Li
Margaret T. Ling
Sarah Lu
Dave Singh
Albert Sub
Myongjae Yi

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Judge Wan, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

consists of seven female shareholders, two LGBTQ shareholders and three minority shareholders and half of the firm’s six-person Management Committee, the firm’s highest governing body, consists of diverse members.

Littler also maintains close ties with a number of diverse organizations in New York, including the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY), the Metropolitan Black Bar Association (MBBA), and the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program. Since 2014, Littler has been among the sponsors of AABANY’s Annual Dinner, and each year our attorneys have presented at or attended AABANY’s Annual Fall Conference and supporter or attended various committee dinners. Littler and its attorneys also helped launch AABANY’s Labor and Employment Law Committee.

Littler understands the need to recruit and develop a pipeline of diverse law students and young lawyers to serve as the future leaders of our firm and the profession. In several offices, Littler attorneys – together with in-house counsel – have been hosting a “First Generation Professionals Mock Interview Program” to help law students perfect their interview techniques. In New York, planning for a similar program is underway.

At Littler, we believe in fostering a culture of empowerment, where people of all backgrounds can belong, grow and succeed. We continually strive to advance our diversity and inclusion efforts, which are critical to the firm’s success now and in the future.

Judge Wan, cont.

the jury charge conference with the attorneys, who were very well prepared for their respective cases, to be very interesting and enjoyable.

Judge Wan’s boldness and gusto in being a judge are inspiring and her story proves that with determination and the support of a community, one can achieve great things. As a woman of color, claiming and securing one’s place in a white and male dominated profession is difficult. To this, Judge Wan advises, “You cannot be deterred by people telling you that there’s no seat at the table for you. So, you have to take the seat yourself. They’re not going to give it to you.”

And that’s exactly what she did.
# Applicant Information

## Membership Application

**Name**
- **First**
- **Middle**
- **Last**

**Address**
- **Home Address**
- **Business Address**

**Employment Information**
- **Firm or Organization Name**
- **Business Address**

**Membership Type**
- **I Would Like To:**
  - [ ] Join
  - [ ] Renew

**A. Active Member**
- [ ] Private Sector (10 or less years since admission) - $75
- [ ] Private Sector (More than 10 years since admission) - $125
- [ ] Public Sector - $40

**B. Associate Member**
- [ ] $50

**C. Law Student Member**
- [ ] $15

**D. Affinity Member**
- [ ] $30

## Contact Preferences
- **Send Email To:**
  - [ ] Home
  - [ ] Work
  - [ ] Don’t Send Email
- **Send Postal Mail To:**
  - [ ] Home
  - [ ] Work

## AABANY Affiliation
- **Is the New York Affiliate of NAPABA?**
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No
- **Provide Contact Information in the Directory?**
  - [ ] Home
  - [ ] Work
  - [ ] Do Not List

## Profile
- **Law School:**
- **Graduation Year:**
  - **Program:**
    - [ ] JD
    - [ ] LLM
    - [ ] SJD/Ph.D.
  - **State Bars Admitted:**
    - [ ] NY
    - [ ] NJ
    - [ ] CT
    - [ ] Other
    - [ ] Pending
  - **Year First Admitted:**

## Practice Area(s):
- [ ] Firm/Solo Practitioner
- [ ] In-House
- [ ] Government
- [ ] Judiciary
- [ ] Student
- [ ] Educator
- [ ] Non-Profit/Public Interest
- [ ] Other

## Non-English Languages:

## Committee Participation
- **I Would Like To Participate In (Check All That Apply):**
  - [ ] Academic
  - [ ] Awards
  - [ ] Career Placement
  - [ ] Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring
  - [ ] Compensation
  - [ ] Corporate Law
  - [ ] Finance
  - [ ] Government Service & Public Interest
  - [ ] Immigration & Nationality Law
  - [ ] In-House Counsel
  - [ ] Intellectual Property
  - [ ] Issues
  - [ ] Judiciary
  - [ ] Labor & Employment Law
  - [ ] LGBT
  - [ ] Litigation
  - [ ] Membership
  - [ ] Military & Veteran Affairs
  - [ ] Newsletter
  - [ ] Nominations
  - [ ] Pro Bono & Community Service
  - [ ] Professional Development
  - [ ] Prosecutors
  - [ ] Real Estate
  - [ ] Solo & Small Firm Practice
  - [ ] Student Outreach
  - [ ] Tax
  - [ ] Women's
  - [ ] Young Lawyers

## Credit Card Payment
- **Check Enclosed (Make Checks Payable to Asian American Bar Association of New York)**
- **If Paying by Credit Card, I Agree to Pay Dues Selected Above According to My Cardmember’s Agreement.**
- **Please Charge My:**
  - [ ] Visa
  - [ ] American Express
  - [ ] Discover
  - [ ] MasterCard

**Credit Card Number**

**Expiration Date**

**Signature of Applicant**

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**AABANY**

**Return This Form To:**
- 45 Rockefeller Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10111
- main@aabany.org | (718) 228-7206 | Join Online at www.aabany.org

**AABANY Advocate**

Winter 2018

15
Asian American Bar Association of New York

The Asian American Bar Association of New York was formed in 1989 as a not-for-profit corporation to represent the interests of New York Asian American attorneys, judges, law professors, legal professionals, legal assistants, paralegals and law students. Today AABANY has over 1100 members.

The mission of AABANY is to improve the study and practice of law, and the fair administration of justice for all by ensuring the meaningful participation of Asian Americans in the legal profession.

Member Benefits and Activities

- **LEARN**
  Attend interesting and relevant Continuing Legal Education ("CLE") accredited programs on a wide range of topics for free or at discounted rates.

- **NETWORK**
  Connect with a diverse network of attorneys in every type and size of practice in a variety of networking settings, including social, community service, and physical wellness events.

- **COLLABORATE**
  Get involved in the organization by joining one of AABANY’s 30 different committees, participating in AABANY’s Mentorship Program, or volunteering at one of our signature events.

- **ACCESS**
  Access AABANY’s members-only career center database for legal job openings and consult with AABANY’s Career Placement Committee for targeted job advice/guidance.

- **CONNECT**
  As an Active Member, get a free membership in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association “NAPABA” and connect with a vast network of APA attorneys in North America, from coast to coast and in Canada.

- **GROW**
  Take on a leadership role within a committee, highlight your practice by speaking on a panel, and raise your profile in the legal community.

- **SAVE**
  Get discounted memberships at other bar associations and discounts on entertainment, travel, and shopping with the Working Advantage Program.

Membership Types

- **A**  **Active Member** – Any attorney admitted in any state, territory or possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or foreign country jurisdiction who works and/or resides in New York State.
  - **Annual Fees:**
    - Private Sector (10 or less years since admission) - $75
    - Private Sector (More than 10 years since admission) - $125
    - Public Sector - $40

- **B**  **Associate Member** – Any attorney admitted in any state, territory or possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or foreign country jurisdiction who does not work or reside in New York State.
  - **Annual Fee:** $50

- **C**  **Law Student Member** – Any individual enrolled at an American Bar Association accredited law school who resides or attends a law school in New York State or intends to sit for the New York State Bar Examination, or any graduate of an ABA-accredited law school who is pending admission to the New York State bar and works or resides in New York State.
  - **Annual Fee:** $15

- **D**  **Affinity Member** – Any individual supporting the legal community who is not a licensed attorney, law school graduate, or law student.
  - **Annual Fee:** $30