



**Asian American  
Bar Association  
of New York**

**Asian American Bar Association of New York  
Board Meeting**

Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Held via Teleconference/Zoom

**JULY 2017 MINUTES<sup>1</sup>**

**Board Members Present:** Dwight Yoo, Yang Chen (non-voting), James Cho, Larry Wee, Terrence Shen, Marianne Chow, Dai Wai Chin Feman, Tristan Loanzon, Sapna Palla, Susan Shin, Naf Kwun, Irene Tan, Suhana Han, Amy Ngai

**AABANY Committee Chairs, Members, and Others Present:** Francis Chin, Simone Nguyen, Charles Jung

Dwight Yoo, President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

**1. New Business (Open)**

a. Endorsement of Charles Jung for NAPABA Election (VP of Programs and Operations)

The meeting commenced with an interview of Charles Jung, candidate for NAPABA Vice President of Programs and Operations.

Mr. Jung thanked the Board for hosting the interview, and expressed his positive impressions of AABANY from past experiences. Mr. Jung proceeded to provide an overview of his activities within NAPABA. Mr. Jung is a current officer of AABA Greater Bay Area and is a director-at-large of NAPABA.

Mr. Jung explained his views of the three focuses of NAPABA: (1) community building, (2) member services, and (3) civil rights. With respect to community building, Mr. Jung noted his appreciation for the community aspects of affinity bar associations. Regarding member services, Mr. Jung detailed several of his accomplishments for NAPABA, including best practices webinars, pitch programs, and leadership development. And concerning civil rights, Mr. Jung discussed NAPABA's various advocacy efforts involving community mobilization.

Larry Wee inquired how Mr. Jung would combat the notions that NAPABA is predominantly comprised of litigators and focused on the West Coast. Mr. Jung thanked Mr. Wee for his question, and noted that the litigation-centric criticism is common among NAPABA affiliates. He discussed that NAPABA sponsors programming around the country that is focused on leadership, regardless of practice area. In addition, NAPABA's programming covers general

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<sup>1</sup> In lieu of holding its regularly scheduled July 2017 meeting, the Board met for a Strategic Planning session on July 20, 2017. The instant meeting was called for the limited purpose of discussing endorsement of NAPABA candidates. Other matters, including the approval of the June 2017 minutes, were reserved for the upcoming August 2017 meeting.

topics that do not exclusively apply to litigation. With respect to Mr. Wee's West Coast comment, Mr. Jung responded that the issue is largely a function of geography and the location of NAPABA's members. Nevertheless, Mr. Jung intends to focus on nationwide community building.

Mr. Wee subsequently asked whether NAPABA's leadership reflects diversity of practice areas, or whether it is dominated by litigators. Mr. Jung responded that many litigators are on NAPABA's board, which also tends to be the case in other bar organizations around the country. While Mr. Jung could not say that corporate and intellectual property practice areas were evenly represented, he stated that he prioritized other types of board diversity over practice area diversity, such as gender, geographic, and ethnic diversity.

Dwight Yoo asked about Mr. Jung's plans to improve coordination between NAPABA and AABANY. Mr. Jung replied that he would like to see more AABANY members interested in leadership at the committee and board levels.

There being no further questions, Mr. Jung thanked the Board for its consideration. After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board elected to endorse Mr. Jung for NAPABA VP of Programs and Operations.

The Board inquired about the manner in which it has historically endorsed NAPABA candidates. Yang Chen explained that AABANY endorses in response to requests, and has limited its endorsements to a single candidate per position.

b. Endorsement of Courtney Fong for NAPABA Election (VP of Finance and Development)

The Board next discussed its potential endorsement of Courtney Fong for NAPABA Vice President of Finance and Development. Mr. Fong had a conflict and could not join the call. Yang Chen noted that no other candidate for this position has sought AABANY's endorsement, and that Mr. Fong is very involved with NAPABA at a national level and seems qualified for the role.

Dwight Yoo noted that based upon limited interactions, Mr. Fong appears approachable, hard-working, and well-intentioned.

Susan Shin stated that in the event that prompt action is not required with respect to Mr. Fong's candidacy, the Board should require an actual interview of endorsement candidates. Mr. Yoo agreed, and noted that in light of the difficulty in obtaining a quorum, board members should endeavor to be flexible to accommodate another meeting to discuss Mr. Fong's candidacy.

James Cho inquired whether the Board could delegate its endorsement authority to a nomination committee. Larry Wee stated that the position of VP of Finance and Development is particularly important to large sponsor law firms, and that he would like the opportunity to pose questions to Mr. Fong. Mr. Yoo agreed.

Mr. Chen responded that no such delegation has been done in the past, and that he would

ask Mr. Fong whether he could participate in the Board's upcoming August 8 meeting. In the event Mr. Fong is unavailable or that the endorsement deadline is before August 8, the Board will consider pursuing other options, including formation of an *ad hoc* committee. Mr. Wee noted that he would be interested in participating in such an *ad hoc* committee.

c. Simone Nguyen's Departure

Simone Nguyen announced that she is moving to California. Her last day as a full-time AABANY employee will be Friday, August 4.

Yang Chen noted that AABANY may explore the possibility of Ms. Nguyen serving in a part-time role in the coming months.

Ms. Nguyen expressed that she has enjoyed working with AABANY over the years.

**2. Next Meeting (Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP): August 8, 2017**

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.