



**Asian American
Bar Association
of New York**

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

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Hosted by:
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
250 West 55th Street
New York, NY 10019

AUGUST 2017 MINUTES

Board Members Present: Dwight Yoo,* Yang Chen (non-voting), James Cho, Susan Shin, Jung Choi,* Marianne Chow, Diane Gujarati, Jeff Ikejiri,* Kevin Kim, Tristan Loanzon, Terrence Shen, Manisha Sheth, Brian Song,* Larry Wee*

AABANY Committee Chairs, Members, and Others Present: Francis Chin,* Courtney Fong,* August Gweon, Song Kim, Michael Krouse, Chris Kwok, Theresa Lau, Albert Suh

*Present via telephone.

There being a quorum of board members present, James Cho, President-Elect, called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2017 Board Meeting

1. After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board adopted the minutes from the June 13, 2017 board meeting.

B. Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2017 Board Meeting

1. After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board adopted the minutes from the July 25, 2017 board meeting.

II. Reports and Announcements

A. Treasurer Report

1. Treasurer Amy Ngai was not present and submitted the report via email, which was read by Executive Director Yang Chen.

B. Membership Director Report

1. Tristan Loanzon provided a statistical breakdown of membership metrics.

C. June, July, and August Highlights¹

1. AABANY Monthly Pro Bono Legal Clinic (6/14, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NY, Inc., 33 Bowery, Suite C202, NY, NY)
2. AABANY Women’s Committee Monthly Breakfast (6/21, 8 am @ Urbanspace Vanderbilt, 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY)
3. AABANY Co-Sponsors: The Asian American Vote (6/22, 6 – 7:30 pm @ Ropes & Gray LLP, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY)
4. AABANY Prosecutors’ Committee Reception (6/22, 6 – 8 pm @ New York County Lawyers’ Association, 14 Vesey Street, NY, NY)
 - a) James Cho reported that the Prosecutors’ Committee Reception honored the Honorable Danny Chun, Deputy Administrative Judge and Justice, Supreme Court, Kings County, Criminal, and Deputy Chief Ellen Chang, Internal Affairs Bureau – New York City Police Department. It was very well received and attended by many bar associations.
5. AABANY Tax Committee Mentoring Reception (6/22, 7:30 pm @ BBQ Olive Chicken, 25 West 32nd Street, NY, NY)
6. AABANY Immigration Committee Kickoff Meeting & Housewarming for the Law Offices of Tsui H. Yee PC (6/26, 7 – 8:30 pm @ Law Offices of Tsui H. Yee PC, 32 Broadway, Suite 601, NY, NY)
7. AABANY Co-Sponsors: The Asian American Vote (6/27, 12 – 1:30 pm @ Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY)
8. AABANY Co-Sponsors: Disparities in Our Justice System (6/27, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ 100 Church Street, Room 2-160, NY, NY)
9. 10th Annual AABANY Winetasting & Networking Reception for Law Firm Partners and Senior In-House Counsel (6/27, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ NYY Steak, 7 West 51st Street, NY, NY)
 - a) Larry Wee reported that the winetasting event was well attended, successful, and encouraging to sponsors. With respect to sponsors, Summit Financial Disclosure, LLC has indicated that it would now like to sponsor/host a panel for the 2017 Fall Conference. Prosperian Wealth Management also expressed interest in the 2017

¹ Not discussed unless otherwise noted.

Fall Conference.

10. AABANY Presents: Don't Sign the Contracts Yet! (6/28, 6 – 8 pm @ Flushing Bank, 186 Montague Street, Brooklyn, NY)
11. AALFNY & AABANY Mentorship Program Summer Reception (6/29, 6 – 8:30 pm @ Baker & McKenzie LLP, 452 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY)
12. AABANY Pro Bono Training: Special Education Hearings for Asian American Children with Disabilities (7/11, 12 – 2 pm @ Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY)
13. Get to Know AABANY Happy Hour (7/12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ District Social, 252 West 37th Street, NY, NY)
14. AABANY Monthly Pro Bono Legal Clinic (7/12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NY, Inc., 33 Bowery Street, Suite C202, NY, NY)
15. AABANY Karaoke Night (7/13, 6:30 – 9:30 pm @ Karaoke City, 22 West 32nd Street, 7th Floor, NY, NY)
16. AABANY Women's Committee Monthly Breakfast (7/19, 8 am @ Urbanspace Vanderbilt, 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY)
17. AABANY Career Placement Committee Kick-Off Meet-Up (7/19, 12 – 1:30 pm @ Paul Hastings LLP, 200 Park Avenue, NY, NY)
18. AABANY Judiciary Committee Meeting (7/25, 7 – 9 pm @ Paul Hastings LLP, 200 Park Avenue, NY, NY)
19. AABANY Co-Sponsors: Screenings at the 40th Annual Asian American International Film Festival of "Save My Seoul" (7/28 @ Village East Cinema, 189 2nd Avenue, NY, NY) and "Defender (8/5 @ Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue, NY, NY)
20. AABANY Tax Club Dinner (8/1, 7:30 – 9:30 pm @ Tang Pavilion, 65 West 55th Street, NY, NY)
21. AABANY Annual Picnic (8/6, 12 – 5 pm @ Central Park, Diana Ross Playground Lawn, Central Park West & 81st Street, NY, NY)
22. AABANY Women's Committee: Court Visit with Judge Pamela K. Chen (8/8, 11 am @ U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY)

D. Promotion of Future Events²

1. AABANY Monthly Pro Bono Legal Clinic (8/9, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NY, Inc., 33 Bowery Street, Suite C202, NY, NY)
 - a) Yang Chen reported that the Pro Bono Clinic continues to need the assistance of volunteer attorneys.
2. AABANY Co-Sponsors: ABA Annual Meeting CLE in the City Series (8/10-8/11), including Reenactment of Heart Mountain Draft Resisters Trial (8/10, 2 – 3:30 pm @ Fordham University School of Law, 150 West 62nd Street, NY, NY)
3. AABANY Co-Sponsors: ABA JusticeHack NYC (8/12, 8 am – 6 pm @ Fordham University School of Law, 113 West 60th Street, NY, NY)
4. Mock Interview and Resume Review Workshop (8/14, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ Paul Hastings LLP, 200 Park Avenue, NY, NY)
 - a) Yang Chen asked if board members/committee chairs could assist this event by reviewing resumes or conducting mock interviews.
5. AABANY Women’s Committee Monthly Breakfast (8/16, 8 am @ Urbanspace Vanderbilt, 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY)
6. AABANY Prosecutors’ Committee Summer Cocktail Mixer (8/17, 6 – 9 pm @ Legends Bar NYC, 6 West 33rd Street, NY, NY)
7. AABANY Co-Sponsors: City Council District 20 Candidate Forum (8/20, 2 pm @ Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Avenue, Flushing, NY)
8. NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference (9/8 @ Drexel University School of Law, 3320 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA)
9. 8th Annual AABANY Fall Conference (9/23 @ Fordham University School of Law, 150 West 62nd Street, NY, NY)

² Not discussed unless otherwise noted.

III. New Business (Open)

A. Update: Fall Conference

1. Jeff Ikejiri reported that the Fall Conference currently has 14 programs, and thanked Chris Kwok for his help in arranging the plenary session, “The Golden Venture.” Mr. Ikejiri explained that the Fall Conference will highlight special programming, such as the Diversity Career Fair, which currently has 21 participating employers, with 9 employers conducting on-site interviews. 7 companies are currently participating in the Pitch Sessions, and Steve Chung’s group mentoring program will continue despite Mr. Chung moving to California. Mr. Ikejiri asked the Board for assistance in securing additional sponsors.
2. Questions were asked regarding additional programming by sponsors Prosperian and Summit. Discussion ensued.
3. Yang Chen discussed that this year’s Fall Conference involves, for the first time, costs associated with renting space. Accordingly, AABANY has set a fundraising goal of \$30,000. Additional funding is required to cover costs. Moreover, in light of increased costs, committees will run their own dinners at their own expense.
4. Additional discussion ensued regarding profits from prior conferences, and anticipated revenue streams and profits for this year’s Fall Conference.

B. Update: Annual Dinner

1. James Cho reported that he has contacted potential honorees. Discussion ensued regarding other potential honorees that might be considered, and whether attendance of politicians causes any concerns.

C. Courtney Fong Request for AABANY Endorsement (NAPABA VP of Finance and Development)

1. The Board interviewed Courtney Fong in connection with his request to be endorsed by AABANY for the position of NAPABA Vice President of Finance and Development.
2. Mr. Fong described his experience as general counsel and chief compliance officer of a hedge fund, and as co-chair of the Investments and Corporate Transactions Committees of NAPABA.
3. The Board asked questions to Mr. Fong and Mr. Fong provided answers.
4. After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board elected to endorse Mr. Fong for NAPABA Vice President of Finance and Development.

D. Form 990

1. Yang Chen discussed the Audit Committee's responsibility for helping to review Form 990. Board members with questions regarding Form 990, or who are interested in providing advice, should contact Treasurer Amy Ngai.
2. Discussion ensued regarding potential updates to page 24 of the form ("Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ"), as well as the reported negative investment income.

E. Issues

1. Participation in New York State Constitutional Convention
 - a) Chris Kwok provided background on the Convention, an opportunity to re-write the state constitution which has not occurred for at least 40 years but will be on the ballot this November to be held in 2019.
 - b) Albert Suh and Theresa Lau provided an overview of the potential pros and cons of supporting the Convention. Various issues were discussed, including:
 - (1) Risks associated with the Convention, including potential threats to strong rights held under the current constitution in light of the political makeup of New York State and influence of special interests;
 - (2) Opportunities associated with the Convention, including improving judiciary issues that affect attorneys, as well as issues that affect Asian Americans in politics;
 - (3) Costs to taxpayers of holding the Convention;
 - (4) Costs to AABANY of taking a position on the Convention;
 - (5) What AABANY's role could be in supporting or opposing the Convention;
 - (6) The positions of the New York City Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association;
 - (7) How AABANY could be perceived by opposing the Convention or taking no position regarding the Convention;
 - (8) Whether AABANY should make a public statement regarding the Convention, and if so, when; and

- (9) Whether the Board should vote regarding AABANY's position regarding the Convention.
- c) Mr. Kwok stated in conclusion that board members should send additional questions to him by next week. Once questions have been addressed, the Board can then decide on further action to be taken with respect to the Convention, if any.
2. RAISE Act
- a) Chris Kwok reported that the Raise Act, announced earlier in the week, contains proposed reforms to legal immigration that would reduce the number of green cards and institute a new point system for legal immigrants to America. Mr. Kwok inquired whether AABANY desired to issue a statement regarding the Raise Act.
- b) Discussion ensued regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the Act. Yang Chen noted that NAPABA had already issued a statement and were AABANY to issue a statement, it should do so in the very near future.
3. Affirmative Action in Higher Education
- a) Chris Kwok discussed a recent *New York Times* article on the Department of Justice's memorandum concerning discrimination against white applicants in college admissions. Another recent *New York Times* article noted the Justice Department was searching for Civil Rights Division lawyers to investigate a complaint alleging discrimination against Asian Americans in college admissions.
- b) Susan Shin stated that AABANY should be a voice in support of affirmative action, and should issue statements regarding specific issues when there is a clear position that aligns with AABANY's interests.
- c) Discussed ensued regarding various issues, including:
- (1) How AABANY's approach should be nuanced in comparison to the left/right and black/white dichotomies;
 - (2) Affirmative action as a pipeline issue for AABANY; and
 - (3) Whether AABANY should issue a statement.
- d) James Cho concluded that the Issues Committee will further examine this issue.
4. Recording of Abstentions on Zarda 2d Cir. Amicus Brief

- a) Yang Chen noted that following the Policy and Protocol and Joining Amicus Briefs, AABANY had previously signed on to an amicus brief in the *Zarda* Second Circuit appeal on treating sexual orientation discrimination as sex discrimination that violates Title VII. He requested any abstentions from this action by any board members. James Cho and Diane Gujarati abstained.

IV. Next Meeting (Location TBD): September 12, 2017

- A. Agenda items to daiwai.chinfeman@aabany.org by September 8, 2017

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.