

Statement of Interest

Over the past few years, as Co-Chair of the AABANY Corporate Law Committee, I've had the opportunity to get to know AABANY and the important work that it does, and has done for many years, serving the APA legal community of New York.

I currently have the good fortune of a very busy and interesting corporate law practice, with the opportunity to work on some of the most complicated and significant transactions globally, with colleagues who are considered the very best at what they do.

When I think about the hard work and commitment that have been instrumental in my career thus far, the truth is that only a portion of that relates to my own efforts. The opportunities I've had professionally were few and far between for an APA attorney in New York City only a short time ago, and it is the struggles and courage of so many APA attorneys—people like those who preceded all of us at AABANY—over many years that set the stage for me and others in my generation. That said, we still have a long way to go.

It is with the belief that I can contribute to AABANY's mission of aiding all of us as we continue to push ahead for next generation of APA attorneys and law students that I seek to join your Board. Mentoring young lawyers and law students is something I take extremely seriously at Wachtell, Lipton, and is an area where I have taken on a leadership role within our partnership, including by spearheading the APA affinity group within the firm. Mentoring, both literally by serving as mentor to individuals and—more importantly—by working to continually question and improve institutional and organizational structures and practices to place young attorneys in the best possible positions to succeed is not only the right thing to do, but also something that all of us owe to our broader APA community.

Recently, I've begun to extend my efforts in this regard beyond Wachtell, Lipton to the broader APA legal community, including by organizing and presenting a panel on public company M&A at the 2018 AABANY Fall Conference, speaking on a panel on diversity in the legal profession at the 2017 NAPABA conference, moderating a General Counsel panel at the 2018 CAPABA conference, and serving as an inaugural faculty member for AABANY's Leadership Development Program. I have found my involvement in the Leadership Development Program to be particularly rewarding. Forming a connection with ambitious, up-and-coming APA lawyers, gaining their trust and feeling like I am able to offer concrete help and guidance, even if only in a small way, is extremely gratifying. I would like to be involved in helping to ensure that the Leadership Development Program remains a fixture among AABANY's programs and in finding other opportunities with my Corporate Law Committee Co-Chairs to create original programs and workshops geared towards advancing the careers of the broader AABANY legal community.

Yours sincerely,

Edward J. Lee
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