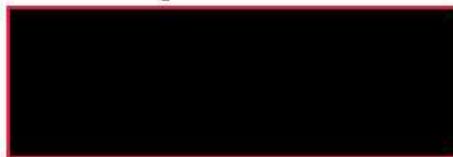


*Sapna W. Palla*



December 11, 2018

Via email ([nominations@aabany.com](mailto:nominations@aabany.com))

Nominations Committee  
Asian American Bar Association of New York  
45 Rockefeller Plaza, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10111

**Re: Statement of Interest for the President-Elect Position**

Dear Nominations Committee:

I submit this application in support of my candidacy for the position of President-Elect of the Asian American Bar Association of New York ("AABANY").

***Professional Background***

I am a partner at Wiggin and Dana LLP and a member of its Intellectual Property Practice based in New York City. I have over 15 years of experience in intellectual property litigation both as first and second chair in various jurisdictions including the Federal Circuit and federal courts in Delaware, District of New Jersey, Eastern District of Virginia, Eastern District of Texas, Southern District of New York, Southern District of Florida, Northern District of California, District of Maryland, District of Minnesota and Western District of Wisconsin. I counsel a variety of US and international clients regarding US intellectual property law by providing them with infringement, validity, enforceability and clearance opinions, and by advising them in licensing and antitrust matters, conducting intellectual property due diligence investigations in connection with acquisitions and licensing deals and preparing responses and amendments before the United States Patent Office and the International Trade Commission and in private arbitrations. I also counsel clients about patent law in Asia including China and India. In the patent area, I work on a broad array of technologies, including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, drug delivery systems and medical devices, mechanical devices, batteries, software and agrochemicals. Outside the patent area, I am experienced in trademark, trade dress and copyright litigation as well as in counseling clients on trademark and copyright registration, strategy and licensing.

At Wiggin and Dana, I am also actively involved in the firm's diversity initiatives and am on the firm's Diversity and Women committees. Attached is a copy of my firm biography which provides further details about my practice.

***Service and Commitment to AABANY***

I am an active member of AABANY and have had the privilege of serving for a second term on the AABANY Board of Directors. In my role as Director, I have contributed to the missions and goals of AABANY in supporting the Asian-American legal community as well as in strategizing about the role and growth of AABANY and in fund raising for AABANY including securing as a keynote speaker, Mark Steffenssen the General Counsel of HSBC USA, for the 2018 Annual Gala.

I am also very pleased to have the opportunity to work with other Board members in helming the AABANY Leadership Development Institute (“ALDP”). The ALDP, which was rolled out in the Spring of 2018, is aimed at addressing the continued under-representation of Asian Pacific Americans (APA) in leadership positions at law firms, companies and in the government. This is an important endeavor to increase the presence of Asian American attorneys in positions of leadership and influence in their organizations. Since the Spring of 2018, I have worked with other Board members to conduct various panels and programs to help a selected group of qualified senior APA law firm associates, who have completed basic leadership training and have a strong desire to become a partner at his or her respective law firm, to obtain the skills necessary to advance in their careers. This has been a very rewarding experience and I am excited about continuing and expanding the program into its second year.

I am also currently part of the AABANY Mentoring program and find it very fulfilling to formally and informally mentor members of the AABANY Community.

Prior to holding a position on the Board, I was Co-Chair of the AABANY Women’s Committee. In my role as Co-Chair of the Women’s Committee, I contributed to many activities of interest to the Committee members including networking events, career development, CLE programs and social events. In particular, I am very proud of the Womens’ Committee’s efforts and dedication in helming the production of the AABANY video “Kicking Glass: Two Decades and Counting.” Our plenary session at the AABANY 2015 Fall Conference built around this video, which I moderated, was also well appreciated. I am also a member of the AABANY Intellectual Property committee and have actively participated in this committee including hosting and presenting CLE programs. I have also organized and moderated panels at the AABANY Fall Conferences.

I am also an active member of NAPABA. Currently, I am part of the Intellectual Property and International Law Committees at NAPABA and have presented CLE programs on various intellectual property topics as well as organizing and moderating a panel on “Kicking Glass: Two Decades and Counting.” I have also presented Intellectual Property CLE programs at the North Eastern Regional conferences.

### ***Role as President-Elect***

I care deeply about the mission of AABANY and am very proud of how far we have come as an organization. If I have the opportunity to serve as President-Elect, I would like to continue contributing to AABANY’s mission to improve the study and practice of law, to ensure the meaningful participation of all Asian-Americans in the legal profession, and to support their promotion in law, business, politics, the judiciary and other arenas. I also hope to serve, along with other AABANY officers and the Board to reach out to other minority and non-minority bar organizations, as well as local community organizations, to work with them to advance the goals of AABANY in meaningfully serving the Asian-American communities. While we have already made

substantial strides in this regard, I hope to continue the effort and put in place concrete opportunities for AABANY to work with and network with these organizations to further the mission of AABANY. Finally, while AABANY has achieved much success in building a strong financial base to support the immense breadth and superior quality of programming and services we offer to our members, I would also like to work with the officers and Board of AABANY to find new avenues of fund raising to further strengthen our financial position.

I believe that I have the leadership skills, enthusiasm, dedication and interest in advancing the role of AABANY given my prior and current participation in AABANY. I have also demonstrated leadership skills on a professional level which I believe would be useful in my role as President-Elect.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my statement of interest. I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue my service to AABANY as President-Elect. I look forward to discussing my candidacy with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sapna W. Palla." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sapna W. Palla