



AABANY Named NAPABA 2008 Affiliate of the Year

all win.

Increased Membership and Sponsorship

By William Wang, Advocate Editor

They say the Big Apple is a melting pot. NAPABA has interpreted this phrase to mean that New York is a melting pot of ideas and best practices, naming AABANY (the Asian American Bar Association of New York) its 2008 Affiliate of the Year during NAPABA's 20th Annual Convention held in Seattle, Washington on November 19-23, 2008. This recognition comes at a time when AABANY is preparing to celebrate its 20th Anniversary.

NAPABA's Affiliate of the Year Award was first conferred at the 2007 NAPABA Convention held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The AABA of Houston was the first Affiliate of the Year award winner. The award was established to recognize outstanding regional Asian Pacific American bar associations affiliated with NAPABA, for making exceptional contributions to its local community.

"AABANY is to be commended for its special efforts to increase involvement by current members in its activities, demonstrating to new Asian Pacific American lawyers the many benefits of joining the organization," said Alexander C. Chae, Co-chair of the NAPABA Awards Committee.

The award is designed to combine the spirit of competition by having strong organizations submit applications, including their best initiatives, best practices and innovating ideas, and disseminate those ideas widely in order for all affiliates to become stronger. In the end, we

BANY's membership numbers are strong and continually growing. In 2007, membership reached a high of 467 members, and in 2008 those numbers were up to 660. Today, the organization has over 700 members. The growth has been fueled by increased recruiting efforts with students as well as reaching out to new areas of the law and attracting members through the addition of new committees (e.g., Prosecutor's Committee and Real Estate Committee). AABANY's retention rate is approximately 70%.



Photo Courtesy of Francis Chin

Yang Chen accepts NAPABA Affiliate of the Year Award.

AABANY successfully raised a record amount of funds from law firm and corporate fundraising this year from the Annual Banquet. Over 550 lawyers attended that event.

(Continued on page 8)

Inside This Advocate

President's Message 2

Real Estate Committee Joins AABANY 3

Attorneys Monitor 4 Polls on Election Day 4

Poll Monitor Memoirs 4

Securities Arbitration Clinic Visits Chinatown 6

Prosecutors' Committee Bowl and Dim Sum 8

Young Lawyers Committee Hosts Theory Event For JMB JIP 10

Advocate Briefs: Photo Gallery 11

Membership Application 12



Photo Courtesy of Parkin Lee

Parkin Lee: A Success Story Grows in Brooklyn

By William Wang, Advocate Editor

After having a conversation with Parkin Lee, you get the feeling that Parkin probably could have done anything he wanted and chosen any career path, and become prominently successful. Design jet engines, compete on Top Chef, serve as chief legal officer to a world-renowned corporate developer, assist a company with its 1st public securities offering, run your typical merger or acquisition, run a marathon: you name it, Parkin Lee can probably do it.

Parkin Lee was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He still lives in Brooklyn today. Before Parkin was an attorney, Parkin was an engineer designing and testing jet engines for General Electric. He graduated from NYU with an engineering degree and from the University of Cincinnati with a Masters degree in Applied Mechanics. Then Parkin brought his technical expertise and attention to detail to law school. He graduated from New York University School of Law in 1981.

(Continued on page 7)



Farewell from the Outgoing President

This President's Message will be my final one. As you read these words, I will have stepped down as AABANY's President, and James Chou will have taken the reins as AABANY's President for 2009.

What a momentous year 2008 has been. When I took over around this time last year, the economy was still sound and everyone went about their business as if the good times would last forever. Bush was still in the White House, and the Iraq War continued to rage unabated, with daily reports of more American lives being lost. In the ensuing months, we received tragic reports of natural disasters, with two that had devastating effects in Asia: first in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta in Myanmar and then in Sichuan Province in China. Then came the summer and the first grumblings of a crumbling financial infrastructure began to be heard. The exotic subprime mortgages that drove the real estate boom of the last few years became the subject of defaults across the nation. The stock market tumbled, as the Dow inconceivably dipped below 10,000. Through the last quarter, the stock market continued to dip and rise like a rollercoaster gone wild. Almost daily, we heard news of one after another financial institution collapsing or scrambling to merge to avoid demise. The U.S. government tried to provide relief through bailouts to the tune of seven hundred billion dollars. And the bad news was not confined to our shores. The economic decline was global, affecting the markets in Asia and in Europe. By year's end, everyone recognized that we were living in the worst economic climate since the Great Depression.

Where was AABANY in the midst of this turmoil? During the first half of the year, before the downturn, AABANY continued to serve its membership by offering numerous programs that provided networking opportunities and opportunities for professional development and growth. AABANY responded to the devastating natural disasters in Asia by joining with the Asian American Law Fund of New York (AALFNY) to create a disaster relief fund. AABANY also sponsored a fundraiser in the fall to help rebuild a hospital in Sichuan Province. Over the summer, AABANY reached out to area law students through events designed to enhance the students' networking and job interviewing skills. In the fall, AABANY took its show on the road and visited numerous area law schools to encourage law students to join AABANY and become active participants in the Association.

AABANY also created new committees in 2008 to serve segments of the Asian American legal community that had not been served before. AABANY established a Prosecutors' Committee to provide a forum for Asian American lawyers in the District Attorneys' offices and other prosecutors' offices in New York. AABANY formed a Real Estate Committee to meet the needs of Asian American attorneys who practice real estate law. Through both the Prosecutors' Committee and the Real Estate Committee, AABANY has extended its reach to the outer boroughs, where many Asian American attorneys practice in the community as prosecutors or real estate lawyers.

In 2008, AABANY witnessed a milestone being reached, as the Hon. Kiyo Matsumoto became the first Asian American to be sworn in as an Article III judge in the United States District Court in the Eastern District of New York. AABANY worked closely with NAPABA to support and advance Judge Matsumoto's confirmation as a District Court judge, and we watched proudly as she was formally inducted as the 56th United States District Court Judge in the Eastern District of New York.

Right before Thanksgiving, at the NAPABA National Convention in Seattle, AABANY appeared in force to witness more achievements: two of our members, Sam Yee and President James Chou, were recognized as two of NAPABA's Best Lawyers Under 40. Former AABANY President Andy Hahn was formally inducted as NAPABA's incoming President. And to top it all off, AABANY received an award as Affiliate of the Year.

In retrospect, as the world around us seemed to be falling apart, AABANY not only stayed afloat, it has grown and it has thrived. Mindful of the challenges still facing us in the weeks and months to come, now is as good a time as any to be thankful for our good fortune in these days of uncertainty and anxiety. Thank you to the Officers and Board of AABANY, to the Committee Chairs and to all the members of AABANY in the past year that brought about all the wonderful events and programs that have enriched our lives as Asian American attorneys in New York. I am grateful for the privilege and honor to have served AABANY as its President in 2008. It was a tremendous learning experience and a wonderful opportunity. Thanks for the memories.

And now, as I bid you farewell, please welcome AABANY's 2009 President, James Chou. I look forward to working with James and the Board as the Immediate Past President. I hope to see you at the AABANY Annual Banquet at the Marriott Marquis on February 12. Happy New Year, and congratulations to AABANY on 20 years of service to the Asian American legal community. — Y.C.



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AABANY's Real Estate Committee: Newest Addition to the AABANY Community

By Margaret Ling & Sandra Ung, Special Advocate Correspondents

The Fall of 2008 welcomed the newly formed Real Estate Committee to the roster of AABANY Committees. Co-Chaired by Margaret Ling and Sandra Ung, the Real Estate Committee was a much needed addition. Margaret Ling is the Senior Counsel and National Coordinator at Liberty Title Agency, LLC in New York City and brings her depth of experience as both a real estate practitioner and in house corporate counsel in the title industry to AABANY. Sandra Ung is a Legislative Assistant to City of New York Comptroller William C. Thompson. Familiar to many at AABANY, Sandra is a long time AABANY Board Member and Chairperson of the AABANY Probono Committee and is always dedicated to helping the AABANY community.

Both Sandra and Margaret worked hard throughout the summer to get the Real Estate Committee up and running by the Fall. With the focus of broadening the AABANY membership base and bringing AABANY to the attorneys of the outer boroughs outside of Manhattan, the Real Estate Committee has worked to address the needs of the real estate attorneys on both the solo practitioner and corporate counsel level.

With the generosity of Citibank and John Lim, Vice President of Business Development and Liberty Title Agency, as Sponsors, the Real Estate Committee successfully held two Continuing Education events this past Fall.

On October 15, 2008, the Real Estate Committee presented a two credit Continuing Education Seminar entitled "The Authority to Convey and Mortgage Real Property". Presented by Margaret Ling, this seminar covered conveying and mortgaging real property through the use of Power of Attorneys; conveying and mortgaging out of a deceased party; through bankruptcy; and transfers by corporation, partnerships, and limited liability corporations. The seminar was held at Citibank in Flushing and was successfully attended by forty attorneys from the Flushing community.



Recently elected AABANY Director and Real Estate Committee Co-Chair Margaret Ling (Third from Left) and AABANY Director John Bajit (Second from Left) gather with real estate practitioners at CLE event.

Event. The seminar was presented by Marie Flavin of Investment Property Exchange Services and Joseph Insalaco of 1031 Investment Services. Again, almost forty attorneys attended the event and provided much

On December 12, 2008, the Real Estate Committee incorporated both a Continuing Education Seminar on 1031 Exchanges with their Holiday Networking

positive feedback to the substance and nature of the event.

For the Spring of 2009, the Real Estate Committee has many exciting plans. They will continue to work with Citibank as their sponsor while establishing a new relationship with a new sponsor, the Asian Segment Division of Wells Fargo Bank.

Margaret and Sandra are planning another Continuing Education Seminar with Citibank entitled: "Understanding Foreclosures and the Home Equity Theft Prevention Act". This presentation shall cover the basics of

a foreclosure procedure; the Home Equity Prevention Act; as well as all of the post 9/11/2008 Sub prime Legislation newly enacted by Governor Patterson and the New York State Legislature. Margaret Ling shall be presenting. This is in response to many requests by the attorneys to address a topic which many know little about. Margaret has stressed that "...given the state of the economy and the distressed real estate market, foreclosure is a topic which every real estate attorney should know"

Future Spring 2009 programs being planned also include (a) a Seminar on New Construction & Development in New York City including a discussion of the basics of Sponsor Condominiums: from the base lot to the development and sale of Sponsor Condominium Units; (b) a Career Panel and Networking Event to entitled "Surviving as a Real Estate in the Distressed Economy"; (c) Community panels with our Bank Sponsors on: first time home ownership of residential houses, condominium units, and cooperative apartments: through the perspective of the Attorneys; Title company and Bank.

With the growth and development of the numbers of practicing Asian Real Estate Attorneys outside of Manhattan, there was a definite need for a forum where the Asian attorneys could assemble to discuss and share their vast knowledge and ideas with one another. The Real Estate Committee has understood this need and will continue to develop the Committee to educate, broaden and solidify the relationships amongst the Asian real estate attorneys of the AABANY community.



Attorneys Monitor Polls on Election Day

By Glenn D. Magpantay, Special Correspondent

On November 4, 2008, NAPABA and fifteen NAPABA affiliates joined the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's (AALDEF) Election Protection Project.

Together they, along with 60 other national and local community group co-sponsors recruited 1,500 attorneys, law students, and community volunteers to monitor poll sites in eleven states for compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act. It was the country's most expansive Asian American *pro bono* effort.

The volunteer attorneys, in partnership with AALDEF, documented incidents of voter discrimination at poll sites and conducted a multilingual exit poll of 16,665 Asian American voters in 39 cities in 11 states: New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Michigan, Illinois, Nevada, Louisiana, Texas, and Washington, DC. AALDEF's survey was the largest nonpartisan exit poll of its kind in the nation.

THE ASIAN AMERICAN VOTE

The six largest Asian ethnic groups polled in 2008 were Chinese (32%), Asian Indian (16%), Korean (14%), Bangladeshi (8%), Vietnamese (6%) and Filipino (5%). Four out of five (79%) of those polled were foreign born. 21% had no formal U.S. education. Nearly one-third (31%) were first-time voters.

By more than a 3 to 1 margin, Asian Americans favored Barack Obama over John McCain, 76% to 22%, with 2% voting for other candidates. A clear majority (58%) of Asian Americans were registered Democrats, 26% were not enrolled in any political party, and 14% of Asian Americans were registered Republicans.

Economy/Jobs was the dominant issue for Asian American voters (30%), followed by Health Care (19%), Foreign Policy/War in Iraq (15%), Education (13%) and Civil Rights/Immigration Rights (11%).

Language assistance and bilingual ballots are needed to preserve access to the vote. Although one in five (20%) identified English as their native language and over one-third (35%) of Asian Americans polled said that they were limited English proficient.

ANTI-ASIAN VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT

Volunteer attorneys also documented many voting barriers. Just like Florida in 2000, attorneys from the Asian American Bar Association of New York received complaints from hundreds of Asian American voters that their names were missing from voter rolls, inverted, or misspelled.

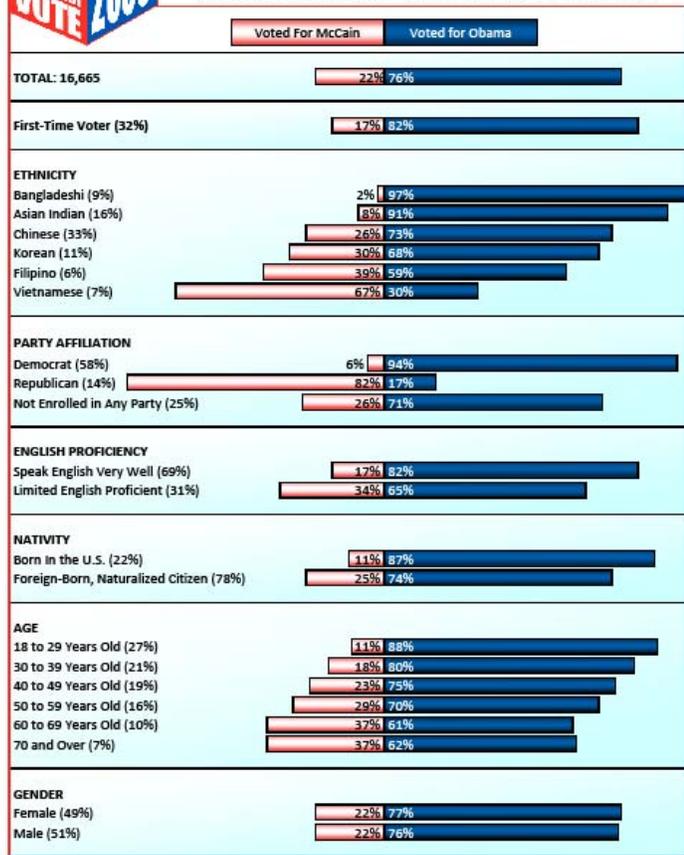
A Sikh voter in Queens complained to an attorney from the

(Continued on page 5)



THE ASIAN AMERICAN VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

A Multilingual Exit Poll Conducted by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund on November 4, 2008



"I" percent of total polled

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Poll Monitor Memoirs

By William Wang, Advocate Editor

To state the overstated and obvious, November 4th, 2008 was a historic election. Since law school, I have wanted to volunteer as a poll monitor and exit pollster for AALDEF's Asian American Voter Rights Project. Finally, this year, I made sure I set aside the time to attend a training session and volunteer on election day. In addition to other activities (partisan and non-partisan) participated in leading up to the election, I definitely wanted to be active on this historic election day.

I have lived in different parts of Elmhurst for probably two-thirds of my life. Today, Elmhurst is one of the most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in New York City. And Queens is the most ethnically diverse county in all of the country. I was assigned to volunteer at Newtown High School, a few short blocks from my apartment building. Election day started out by visiting my own poll site in the morning, Public School 102, where I attended elementary school. At 3pm, I arrived at Newtown High School ready to begin my 2 three hour shifts.

The AALDEF site supervisor was a Columbia grad student named Dan. He gave me some surveys, voter incident forms, and a brief rundown of logistics. Basically, our job as volunteers was to exit poll

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

South Asian Bar Association of New York that he was made to vote by provisional ballot because his last name (Singh) was very common and poll workers “couldn’t figure out which one he was.”

Attorneys from the Muslim Bar Association of New York heard poll workers say that Arab American voters “look like terrorists.”

“[A]ttorneys from the Asian American Bar Association of New York received complaints from hundreds of Asian American voters that their names were missing from voter rolls, inverted, or misspelled.”

In Virginia, attorneys from the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington D.C. Area found that Korean American voters were taken advantage of because of the lack of nonpartisan interpreters. In Annandale, a campaign operative translated for elderly voters and not only showed them how to vote but who to vote for. In another instance in Falls Church, a poll worker ignored Asian American voters at the front of the line and assisted white voters behind them.

Attorneys from the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania received a complaint from a Chinese American grandmother in Upper Darby who needed assistance to vote and asked her granddaughter to help her cast her ballot. A poll worker prevented the voter from bringing her family member into the voting booth, in violation of the Voting Rights Act.

The Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts and Asian Outreach Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services monitored a 2005 court settlement that required the City of Boston to provide Chinese, Vietnamese, and Spanish language assistance to voters under the Voting Rights Act. They found that Chinese American voters had difficulty identifying their candidates of choice because the names of the presidential candidates were not transliterated into Chinese characters.

A Vietnamese voter reported to an attorney from the Asian American Bar Association of Houston of a malfunction that stopped him from voting for all the races on the ballot. He did not yet vote for president yet and the poll worker simply said that he was done voting.

Chinese American voters in Rockville, MD complained to the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center that they may have fumbled their vote because no interpreters were available to assist them. Likewise, the Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association and South Asian Bar Association of Michigan found that Bengali voters also had difficulty voting because of the lack of interpreters, but interpreters were required under a prior consent decree.

Attorneys from the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of New Jersey also found that Korean voters in Bergen County encountered the same barriers. Other volunteers came from the Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, South Asian Bar Association of DC, and Asian Pacific American Law Students Association chapters across the country.

Many of the NAPABA affiliates, along with several law firms, hosted trainings that provided free CLE credits to volunteer attorneys.

AALDEF has been compiling all the observations from the elections, sending complaint letters to local elections officials, and exploring legal remedies to defend the voting rights of Asian Americans.

For more information or for a copy of the results, go to www.aaldef.org.

Glenn D. Magpantay is a staff attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

(Continued from page 4)

Asian American voters when they completed voting. We asked them to fill out a 20 question survey, which we had available in different languages. Some of the questions were general pedigree info, some asked what issues were important to them, some asked straight out who they voted for. If they experienced any voting “incident,” we would report that up. We were poll monitors, our job function was not to step in and advocate on behalf of the voter or try to correct a mistaken poll site worker.

I found that the Asian Americans I spoke to who were exiting the polls were generally friendly and willing to take the time to fill out the survey. People were excited about this election and willing to let their voices be heard, even in exit polls. Eventually, I was holding 3 clipboards with surveys all at once, and running back and forth and having more than one survey filled out at a time. For the 3pm to 6pm shift, a majority of the other volunteers were high school students from Newtown High School and nearby Forest Hills High School. They spoke Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali. At first, they were a bit shy and less aggressive but eventually they came around and started to have more fun with reaching out to people. Obviously, they were more successful

when they opened people in their native language, and so was I. It was great to see firsthand the interest younger folks had in the election and they all told me they wanted to vote in

To evidence how remedial my Mandarin is, I only learned that “vote” in Mandarin was “*tou piao*,” two days earlier.

the election but were not yet of age. I was able to practice my very limited Mandarin speaking ability frequently. To evidence how remedial my Mandarin is, I only learned that “vote” in Mandarin was “*tou piao*,” two days earlier. Wearing a suit was definitely helpful because people took me more seriously because of the way I dressed.

The 6pm to 9pm shift was definitely busier because neighborhood residents came home from work and went to the polling site to vote. Lines started to build. The volunteer group also changed. Our group consisted of a Korean-speaking securities litigator and member of AABANY and KALAGNY, a Bengali-speaking paralegal from Shearman Sterling, a Nepalese-speaking Caucasian law student from CUNY Law, and another Mandarin-speaking student from Hunter College. It was a fun and very diverse group of volunteers. In terms of exit poll responses, as can be expected, most folks thought the economy was the most important issue. The people I spoke to varied and came from all walks of life. I spoke to recent college grads voting for the first time. I spoke to 75 year old men and women, voting for the first time. I spoke to mothers and fathers who also lived in Elmhurst for over 20 years and were voting in their 4th or 5th election. I spoke to doctors, lawyers, cab drivers, grocery store owners, grandmothers, grandfathers, students. It was truly an amazing experience. Some people didn’t want to talk to me at all, and I begged. “Sir, this will only take 2 minutes of your time. AALDEF protects the Asian American vote!” At the end of the evening, there were not a huge amount of voter incidents. Some folks were not given provisional ballots when they should have been, others were asked for identification when they should not have been, but in general, the poll workers were competent enough (Elmhurst poll workers were incredibly diverse as well). I was very happy I was able to participate in AALDEF’s poll monitoring and exit polling project. I look forward to reading about the results of the survey. It was an incredibly rewarding experience and I encourage anyone who wants to volunteer to get in touch with AALDEF for the next mid-term elections in 2010.



AABANY Introduces New York Securities Arbitration Clinic to Chinatown Community

By Yang Chen, Special Advocate Correspondent

On Saturday, November 15, 2008, AABANY co-sponsored with the New York Law School Securities Arbitration Clinic a program entitled "Investing Safely and Knowing Your Rights." Held at the Ling Sing Association in Manhattan's Chinatown, members of the New York Law School Securities Arbitration Clinic gave a presentation to a large and attentive crowd from the Chinatown community. Law students from area law schools provided translations in both Mandarin and Cantonese.

The law students from New York Law School's Securities Arbitration Clinic gave an overview of the rights and responsibilities that attach to a broker-investor relationship and what rights an investor had if he or she believed that the broker has engaged in fraudulent conduct that caused the investor to incur losses or damages. After the presentation, the students opened the floor to questions, and the attendees asked many challenging questions that showed the high level of concern about these financial issues among members of the community in Chinatown.

The purpose of the presentation was to make members of the Chinese community aware that this service was available to them if any of them believed that they were victims of fraud or misconduct on the part of their brokers. Many who at-

tended appeared eager to have the law students begin representing them at the presentation, but that was, of course, not possible, and the law students took down the contact information of those individuals who seemed to have pressing needs.

The clinic is led by two former practicing attorneys and current professors, and its goal is to provide efficient, effective and low cost representation to investors who have fallen victim to unscrupulous behavior by their brokers. The student members are Matthew Baum, Kevin Chu, Mariel Cruz, Magdalena Kadziolka, Jennifer McCallion, Stephanie Michael, Roger Morscheiser, Shruti Shah, Jennifer Steward, Alex Tolston, Aaron Wax, and Robert Zecher. Anyone interested in obtaining the assistance of the New York Law School Securities Arbitration Clinic should call (212) 431-2892, extension 3, or e-mail supervising professor Howard Meyers at howard.meyers@law.nyls.edu.

AABANY was pleased to be able to bring awareness of the New York Securities Arbitration Clinic to the Chinatown community through this program, and if any other community groups would like AABANY to arrange a similar program on this topic, please let AABANY know by contacting main@aabany.org.

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AABANY Panelists and New York Law School students discuss Securities Arbitration Law with local Chinatown residents, answering questions from the audience.



(Continued from page 1)

Parkin spent four years as an associate at the law firm of Dewey Ballantine and then a couple years at American Express. Parkin eventually would move to an in-house position at New York Life, a client of his former law firm, Dewey Ballantine. Parkin was able to live the dream of most associates from big law firms: move to the client, turn the tables, start giving the partner some work. Parkin would spend 20 years at New York Life, and there he demonstrated his ability to adapt to new work environments and be a true “jack of all trades” for his employer.

Parkin led the effort for New York Life’s first public offering of debt securities, only the second time that a mutual insurance company had engaged in a domestic public offering. Parkin would traverse New York Life’s legal group and participate in numerous practice groups: private placements, supervising real estate investments, being responsible for mergers and acquisitions, private equity, venture capital, insurance regulation, and derivatives. Parkin spent time as a bankruptcy lawyer at New York Life as well, serving on the official creditors committee for MCI/Worldcom and other major bankruptcies. When he left the company, he was the supervising attorney for the legal team at New York Life supporting the Fixed Income Investment Group, Guaranteed Products, and CDOs. His experience at New York Life covered a broad spectrum of responsibilities, preparing him well for his current position.

Parkin is now the chief legal officer of The Rockefeller Group, an owner, developer and manager of high quality commercial real estate, and a provider of real estate and telecommunications services to commercial clients. Despite these difficult economic times, The Rockefeller Group is very solid, waiting patiently and moving forward with a conservative economic approach.

Parkin moderated a panel at the NAPABA Convention in Seattle addressing issues relating to climbing the corporate ladder. Discussing his views, he said “welcome challenges, open up your horizons and always make sure you’re learning. These are basic concepts that are essential to getting ahead.” Parkin stresses the importance of networking and getting involved in attorney groups, such as NAPABA and AABANY. He also encourages young lawyers to get involved in industry groups, such as the American College of Investment Counsel, and stresses the importance of

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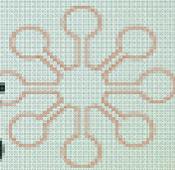
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being recognized in your own industry.

But Parkin’s distinguished legal career only tells half the story. Parkin is a devoted husband and father of two. Parkin describes himself as a “cardio-junkie” and “foodie,” two titles that may seem counter-intuitive, but actually balance each other out. Parkin ran a marathon in Paris and the New York City marathon two times. He plans to run the New York City marathon again this year. Parkin is an avid skier and was on the brink of another ski trip as we spoke for this article. If Parkin’s not running or biking during his free time, you can find him on the slopes. The next learning adventure for Parkin is golf.

Finally, Parkin also is an avid foodie, enjoying both a good meal in the many restaurants of New York City or a good reality TV show like Top Chef. Some of his restaurant recommendations include: Kittichai, Koi, Perilla (where the 1st winner of Top Chef, Harold Dieterle, holds forth) and the up-and-coming Red Hook establishment The Good Fork. Parkin certainly has all the key ingredients of success, and the recipe comes straight from Brooklyn.

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Prosecutors Committee Venture to Queens for Dim Sum and Bowling

By Jasmine Chang, Special Advocate Correspondent

On November 11, 2008, members of the Prosecutors' Committee of AABANY gathered for dim sum and bowling in Queens, home of the largest Asian American population in New York City. Over two dozen current and former Asian American Assistant District Attorneys from all five boroughs met for dim sum at Jade Restaurant. The restaurant is in the heart of the bustle of Flushing, the commercial and residential center of the Asian American community in Queens. The Prosecutor's Committee filled two large tables and enjoyed various delicious dim sum dishes, enough to satisfy any type of craving. After lunch, the group headed to JIB Lanes in Flushing for several rounds of friendly competitive bowling. ADA Matthew Yi (204) of the Queens District Attorney's Office displayed his impressive bowling skills by edging out ADA Brian Lee (193) of Queens for the highest score in a single game, thus becoming the recipient of the "High Point" trophy. Although the Queens DA's office took home the prize for the highest score, this was countered by their colleague ADA Jasmine Chang who won the "Best Effort" trophy for having the lowest score (42) in a single game. Both scores were notably impressive for their highs and lows, and will be the scores to beat at next year's bowling event. Mirroring the Stanley Cup format, the trophies will be in Matt and Jasmine's sole possession until next year's tournament.

This festive social event allowed current and former Asian American members of the city's district attorney's offices to meet, network and socialize in a neighborly setting. The day was also bittersweet as ADA Brian Lee, who coordinated this first event hosted by Queens, also coordinated his last event in Queens as he has moved on to the Nassau District Attorney's Office as Deputy Bureau Chief of District Court. We all wish Brian Lee the best and look forward to seeing him at future events. This first year of the Prosecutor's Committee has already coordinated successful networking, career development and social events, and we are looking forward to future events during the upcoming year.

For more information on the Prosecutors' Committee and how to get involved, please contact Kin Ng at NGKIN@brooklynda.org.

(Continued from page 1)

One Big Family

One critical element to AABANY's success has been maintaining wonderful working relationships with other organizations in our area. We regularly work with many groups, including AALDEF, SABANY, KALAGNY, and of course NAPABA. Several of our board members or officers either sit on boards or are active participants in these organizations. AABANY sponsors events with several different organizations, bar association and non-bar association. Our Asian Heritage Month event at the New York Supreme Court was co-sponsored with KALAGNY and SABANY. Our NAPABA Affiliates Dinner, AABANY co-hosted that event with KALAGNY as well. We've co-sponsored CLE events with AALDEF as well as purchased a table to their annual gala. Our organizational reach also extends to our affiliate neighbors, APALA-NJ and CAPABA. And our work with non-legal groups includes events with APEX (Professional Exchange group), the Asian American International Film Festival, and the Association of Chinese Physicians.

Diversity on the Bench

The desire for obtaining diversity on the bench has been one of AABANY's long-term goals since its inception. AABANY has taken a much more active role in judicial selection than it has in the past, in an effort to increase our influence. We have advocated on behalf of Asian American candidates to the Federal and State bench, including the recently-confirmed Kiyo Matsumoto and recently-appointed Randall Eng. In addition, AABANY submitted *amicus curiae* briefs to the Second Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court in *Lopez Torres v. New York State Board of Elections*, involving the constitutionality of the state's judicial convention system by which political parties nominate judicial candidates for the state's general trial courts. AABANY advocated for a reversal of the decision below, which enjoined the convention system, contending that the trial court below failed to adequately consider how the judicial convention affects diversity on the bench and impacts aspiring Asian American judicial candidates. In January 2008, AABANY ended up on the winning side when the U.S. Supreme Court granted a 9-0 decision finding that New York's convention system is constitutional. As a result, AABANY gained tremendous good will and respect from the state's supreme court justices, the local political parties and other minority bar associations.

(Continued on page 9)

Photo Courtesy of Kin Ng





AABANY's Vince Chang sums up during the Re-enactment of the Vincent Chin Trial at the NAPABA Convention.

(Continued from page 8)

Great Committee Work

AABANY's committees are the arms and legs of our organization. Much of our work is done through committees. Our Litigation, Women's, Corporate Counsel, Young Lawyers, Student Outreach, Judicial Affairs, Pro Bono, and Professional Development Committee are some of our most active committees who have annual calendars full of events themselves. Those committees were recently joined by two new and thriving committees, the Prosecutors Committee and Real Estate Committee.

Everyone Needs Continuing Legal Education

AABANY sponsored a diverse array of free continuing legal education programs throughout the year. These varied from ethical considerations in e-discovery, to lawyering for social change, to voter rights workshops and communications skills workshops. We have used our highly advanced CLE program (AABANY is a certified CLE provider) to attract new members through offering free CLEs for members. This past year alone, AABANY offered over 50 CLE credits.

Focus on Students

Our entire organization and particularly the Student Outreach Committee make a concerted effort to reach out to law students to get involved in AABANY. AABANY regularly schedules networking events for law students to meet and network with practicing attorneys. Additionally, AABANY encourages participation in NAPABA Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition for 2008 and held workshops designed to assist students prepare for competition. The Student Outreach Committee hosts Final Exam Preparation workshops designed to assist stu-

dents succeed in those nerve-racking first year final exams. This year, we co-sponsored a Summer Associates reception with AALF. AABANY has also created an AABANY Facebook page as another avenue to reach out to law students and disseminate information about our organization and events. Lastly, AABANY recently launched a "road show" presentation that it has taken to local area law schools to introduce law students to the association.

Serving the Community

Many of AABANY's events provide our members with the opportunity to participate in outreach efforts to the community. For example, our Voter Poll Monitoring Project allows our members to protect the Asian American vote by volunteering at poll sites and ensuring that Asian Americans who come out to vote do not face any undue obstacles. Our work with APEX allows us to mentor law students and those who seek a career in the field of law. Our work with CAPA provides us with general exposure in the Asian American community. CAPA is known in New York for hosting an annual Asian American Heritage festival in New York that is widely attended. Our work with

CCBA (Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association) helps provide us with a noticeable presence in Chinatown and our work with YKASEC (Empowering the Korean American Community) gives us a voice in Flushing, two of the most prominent Asian American-populated neighborhood in New York City. We also sponsored a CLE that focused on the nuts and bolts of becoming a 501(c)(3). Finally, we also sponsored a film, directed by two of our members, in the Asian American International Film Festival. Our work with the community covers a broad spectrum of events and provides our members the opportunity to get involved in a diverse array of activities.

In closing, while the Affiliate of the Year Award was given on the basis of AABANY's accomplishments over the past year, the award represents a culmination of 20 years of hard work and dedication by our leadership and members throughout the years. As AABANY commences its third decade of existence, it intends to continue carrying out its mission to advocate on behalf of Asian American legal professionals and the greater Asian American community through its wide range of programs and services and become even more prominent with legal circles.



AABANY Members gather at NAPABA's 2008 Annual Convention in Seattle, Washington.





Photo Courtesy of Kin Ng

AABANY Photo Gallery:

On the left, prosecutors from Bronx, New York, Queens, Kings, and Richmond County gather for dim sum in Queens before moving on to an exciting afternoon of bowling, friendly competition and social networking held by AABANY's Prosecutors' Committee.

Below, shoppers gather for the blockbuster Theory sale, benefiting the Joint Minority Bar Judicial Internship Program. The Young Lawyers' Committee sponsored this event.



Photo Courtesy of Yang Chen

Young Lawyers' Host Theory Sale to Benefit Judicial Internships

On November 20, 2009, the Young Lawyers' Committee hosted its semi-annual private sale benefiting the Joint Minority Bar Judicial Internship Program ("JMB JIP") at Theory in the trendy meatpacking district. Theory closed its doors to the public and held a private sale exclusively for AABANY members and their guests. Not only did Theory offer everything in the store at a 25% discount, theory donated 10% of all sale proceeds to the JMB JIP. The event raised approximately \$3000 for JMB JIP, which will launch in the summer of this year.

JMB JIP was created by a joint effort between the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY), Asian American Law Fund of New York (AALFNY), the Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA), and the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage (AJHH). The program offers students with a demonstrated commitment to diversity the exceptional learning opportunity of interning with distinguished judges in New York-area courts. Over 15 judges, in both the federal and state court systems, are participating in the program.

Contributed By Linda Lin



AABANY PHOTOS—November/December/January

Photo Courtesy of Francis Chin



AABANY Photo Gallery:

On the left, AABANY directors, officers, and members gather with newly inducted Judge Kiyo A. Matsumoto at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Judge Matsumoto is joined by Judge Denny Chin along with former clerks and interns.

Below, on January 22, 2009, AABANY members celebrate with the South Asian Bar Association of New York at SABANY's annual Leadership Awards Gala at Cipriani 23.

Photo Courtesy of Corky Lee





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Bar Association
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