



AABANY* ADVOCATE

*Asian American Bar Association of New York

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Volume X Issue III

AABANY Hosts Second Annual In-House Counsel Wine Tasting & Networking Event



Photos courtesy of Gabarron Foundation

On June 24, 2009, AABANY's Corporate Counsel Committee and the newly-formed Corporate Law Committee hosted its Second Annual Wine Tasting and Networking Reception for In-House Counsel and Law Firm Attorneys at the Gabarron Foundation Carriage House. Approximately 100 people attended. In-house counsel from several corporations were represented, including Xerox Corporation, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Verizon Wireless, and Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. For more info, please contact Yvette Chang (yvette.y.chang@mbusa.com) or Michael Huang (mhuang@bsfillp.com).

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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT:

The AABANY Advocate unveils a new feature to its quarterly newsletter: the "Sponsor Spotlight." The Advocate would like to regularly spotlight some of AABANY's corporate sponsors and give our sponsors an opportunity to showcase how their work meets AABANY's mission and how they contribute to the legal community at large.

BOIES, SCHILLER & FLEXNER LLP

"At Boies, Schiller & Flexner, we believe in diversity, not for the sake of diversity; we believe in diversity because it is a critical means to our success."

These are the words of Robert Leung, a corporate partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP (BS&F) and the current President-Elect of AABANY. The statistical record of achievements by minorities at the Firm attests to the truth of his words. The Chambers USA 2009 Client's Guide (Chambers Report) reports that, "minorities make up an excellent (and way above average) 13% of the partnership." Many of the partners and counsel at the Firm were recently pro-

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Photo Courtesy of BSF LLP



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for contributing to AABANY's success this year. Please don't forget to vote in the elections for AABANY's new Board of Directors. Further information regarding the elections is forthcoming.

AABANY is now over 1000 members strong, and we continue to strive to be the bar association of choice for all APA lawyers in New York. To that end, I am pleased to report that AABANY has hired its first executive director, Yang Chen. A past president of AABANY, Yang brings to the table his institutional knowledge, leadership skills, and passion for AABANY. His new role in the association will be critical to meeting the short and long term objectives that the Board set during our strategic planning session this past spring. Already, Yang is working closely with AABANY's leadership to execute initiatives to ensure AABANY's continued growth and success. Please join me in congratulating Yang.

This issue of the AABANY Advocate recaps just some of the many events that AABANY has sponsored over the last two quarters. The programs reflect how active AABANY continues to be and how AABANY seeks to address the interests of its diverse constituency. All of our events have been of the highest quality and very successful. Indeed, we have received uniform praise for our programs from attendees, guests, and participants. Highlights include our judicial clerkship panel held at the Southern District Courthouse, the Second Annual Wine Tasting and Networking Reception for In-House Counsel and Law Firm Attorneys at the Gabarron Foundation Carriage House, and our CLE on Asserting Privilege in Federal Civil Litigation at Kirkland & Ellis. Thanks to all of our Committee Chairs, volunteers, and speakers for their hard work in putting together such quality programs.

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AABANY Hosts Government and Public Sector Careers Panel Discussion



Photo by Yang Chen

Moderator Rocky Chin leads the discussion with panelists Lai Sun Yee, James Lin and Brant Campbell.

By Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director

On October 21, the Government and Public Sector Committee of AABANY presented a panel on careers in the government and public sector. The event took place at New York Law School, in the new building on West Broadway. Rocky Chin, a founder of AABANY, moderated the panel. The panelists were former AABANY President Lai Sun Yee, Prosecutor's Committee co-chair James Lin and AABANY member Brant Campbell. The panelists shared with the attendees their experiences in pursuing careers in the public and government sector. After the panel discussion, the attendees had the pleasure of networking with the panelists and other attendees who currently work in the government and public sector. Will Ng, an attorney with the New York City Department of Law and Student Outreach Committee chair, spearheaded the organization of this well-attended and successful event.

The AABANY newsletter endeavors to share in a non-partisan fashion information of concern to the Asian American legal community of New York. The officers and directors of AABANY do not necessarily share or endorse any particular view expressed in articles published in this newsletter. Statements published herein are those of persons concerned about the Asian American legal community and willing to share their concerns with their colleagues. Proposed articles or letters to the editor should be sent to AABANY Newsletter, Asian American Bar Association, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 3656, New York, NY 10163-3656 or e-mail: aabany.secretary@gmail.com; submissions may be excluded or edited by virtue of space or other reasons. Private individuals may publish notices and advertisements, which the editors feel are of interest to members on a space available basis at the following rates: 3.75" x 1" - \$25.00; 3.75" x 1" - \$40.00; 3.75" x 4.5" (quarter page) - \$70.00; half page - \$120.00; full page - \$220.00. For advertising information call William Wang at 212-336-2204 or e-mail wwang@pbwt.com.



AABANY Litigation and Young Lawyers Committees Host CLE on Asserting Privilege in Federal Civil Litigation

By Will Chang, Special Advocate Correspondent

On October 28, 2009, the Young Lawyers and Litigation Committees and Kirkland & Ellis LLP co-sponsored a CLE program on *The Art of Asserting Privilege in Federal Civil Litigation*. The program was held at the New York office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Over sixty people attended the event. The Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, moderated a panel consisting of Andrew Genser, partner of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, the Hon. Ramon E. Reyes, United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York, and Will Chang, formerly law clerk to the Hon. Dora L. Irizarry, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, and current law clerk to the Hon. Jennifer Walker Elrod of the Fifth Circuit.

The presentation was informative and engaging, and it covered many recent developments in federal privilege law, including issues pertaining to e-discovery and an attorney's ethical obligations with respect to inadvertent disclosure. In conjunction with the CLE, AABANY and the panelists prepared a comprehensive survey of the law, governing selected topics relating to the attorney-client privilege, work-product doctrine, inadvertent disclosure, and privilege logs. The handout also includes practice tips to facilitate a privilege review and drafting a privilege log. This handout is available to all AABANY members through www.aabany.org. To get involved in AABANY's Young Lawyers Committee (YLC), contact YLC chair Ameet Kabrawala at ameet.kabrawala@gmail.com. To get involved in AABANY's Litigation Committee (LC), contact LC co-chairs, Linda Lin at linda.lin@aabany, Tristan Loanzon at tristan@lawfirms.com, or Umar Sheikh at umar@lawfirms.com.

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In addition to programming, AABANY is engaged in a number of projects. In an effort to improve our internal and external communications, we have created a Communications Committee to develop and implement communications protocols. In this regard, we are currently working on revamping our website and hope to have a new website by the end of the year. We are also exploring ways to better serve the community and advocate for APA interests. On the judiciary front, AABANY continues to work with judicial candidates for various seats and, through its newly-formed Subcommittee on the Federal Judiciary, has formalized its protocols for identifying and assisting APA candidates to apply for open federal judicial positions.

I hope that this issue's recap of events will spark your interest in getting more involved with AABANY. Our wide array of committees provides you an opportunity to explore your interests and spearhead programs. We welcome your participation and your partnership in taking AABANY to the next level of excellence. I hope to see you at AABANY's holiday party, the annual meeting and the annual dinner. JPC



CLE panelists Andrew Genser, Will Chang, Hon. Ramon Reyes, and moderator Hon. Kiyo Matsumoto (L-R).

Thomas Tang Northeast Regional Competition at Fordham Law School

By Samuel Yee, Special Advocate Correspondent

From October 9-10, 2009 at Fordham Law School, AABANY hosted the Northeast Regional for the Thomas Tang International Moot Court Competition. On the first day, seventeen teams from as far west as Chicago, as far north as Boston, and as far south as our nation's Capital, competed to see who would make the "Final Four." The teams that made the cut were Northeastern, Boston University, Syracuse, and Loyola-Chicago. In terms of oral argument, Nina Hong of Syracuse won the best speaker award and Leighton O'Connell-Miller of Loyola-Chicago finished second. As for the written submissions, the best brief award went to Sophia Apostola and Jennifer Chang of Northeastern. Steve Ni and Daniel Choi of Fordham authored the Second Place brief.

The Semi-Finals occurred the next day with Syracuse and Loyola-Chicago successfully advancing to the Finals. In the Finals, Loyola-Chicago came out as the Northeast Regional champions.

AABANY's important role was to obtain judges for this competition. Thanks to the herculean efforts of AABANY members, the regional competition was able to boast three-judge panels for all rounds, despite taking place on a holiday weekend, where volunteer turnout was low. AABANY was fortunate to have the participation of several current and former judges including Judge Jeffery Oing, Judge Sue Ann Hoahng, Judge Marilyn D. Go, and Judge Kiyo A. Matsumoto as well as NY Stock Exchange Chief Hearing Officer Peggy Kuo.

At the NAPABA Convention on November 20-21, 2009, all of the Northeast Regional "Final Four" will again compete (Syracuse, Loyola-Chicago, Boston University, and Northeastern), but this time against teams from the other Regions including tough competitors from California and Texas. And AABANY members again will be taking the lead in helping run and judge the National rounds of the Thomas Tang Competition as well.



(Continued from page 1)

moted. In January 2008, five women, two Hispanic/Latino men, and one African-American man were made Partner (out of 12 Partner promotions) while two women including an Asian woman were named as Counsel. In January 2009, one Asian man was promoted to Partner (out of two Partner promotions) while one African-American man and one woman were named Counsel.

These partners work tirelessly at diversity within the Firm but also within the greater legal profession. Stephen Zack, a partner in the litigation group and a member of the Firm's six-person executive committee will make history by becoming the first Hispanic president of the American Bar Association in 2010. Mike Huang, a partner in the corporate group is a co-chair of the Corporate Law Committee of AABANY.

The Chambers Report also describes minority attorneys at the associate rank. Minorities constitute "a highly respectable 22% of associates, which leaves Boies, Schiller well placed among New York peers." Starting with its recruitment efforts, BS&F aims for candidates that offer both diversity and outstanding accomplishments. Its reputation for excellence and unique compensation system already separates the Firm from its competitors and so minority candidates are attracted to BS&F for being a place for motivated, independent, and critical thinkers and leaders. As one recruiting partner describes, "We have a unique model that the best recruits can identify with. The most entrepreneurial, independent thinking associates can easily see what we have to offer. We've learned that we are able to attract the best talent by setting a high standard – and that the best talent is diverse talent."

What makes BS&F even more distinct is not only its recruitment goals but also its outstanding commitment to the retention of minority associates. BS&F has grown significantly over the last 12 years and is no longer a "small firm." However, the Firm has retained a small firm culture – one that supports mentorship. One associate commented, "In our office, each partner is a mentor to each associate. Each associate is valued, respected and accepted - which means retention rates are much higher for minorities than at peer firms." Once at BS&F, all attorneys are expected to perform – and the partners have a vested interest in training each and every person. As a Firm policy, the teams are staffed leanly to provide the most effective and efficient representation to their clients. Ultimately, it's up to each partner to work closely with each associate to make sure that each and every associate can perform to the high standard expected of the brand that BS&F has built.

Robert Leung's own story at BS&F exemplifies the role of diversity to the success of the Firm. Graduating from Yale Law School in 1994, Robert started his career at Sullivan & Cromwell. Given an incredible entrepreneurial opportunity, he moved over to BS&F to help build its growing corporate practice. Robert was instrumental in recruiting some of the best upcoming minority attorneys in the corporate field. Today the corporate practice at BS&F is an important part of the legal services of the Firm. Among their clients are such companies as Goldman, Sachs & Co., Philip Morris International and the Yankees Entertainment and Sports Network.

AABANY COMMITTEES

The work of AABANY is primarily done through the volunteer efforts of our committees, which you are invited to join.

Corporate Law Committee (Co-Chairs Robert Leung and Michael Huang)
Focuses on issues and opportunities for lawyers who practice corporate law.

Corporate Counsel Committee (Co-Chairs Yvette Chang and Clara Ohr)
Focuses on the concerns of in-house counsels.

Immigration and Nationality Law Committee (Chair Rio Guerrero)

Focuses on all areas related to immigration law, including legislation, community outreach and assistance for immigrants, and continuing legal education.

Issues Committee (Chair Tara Lai Quinlan)

Reviews legal issues and organizes discussions on contemporary topics such as immigration, civil liberties, the war on terrorism, anti-Asian violence, bias crimes, voting rights, redistricting, and wrongful convictions.

Judicial Affairs Committee (Co-Chairs Lai Sun Yee and Christopher Chan)

Seeks to increase the number of APA judges and lobbies for the appointment of Asian Americans to the various judicial screening panels. It has formulated guidelines for the screening of judicial candidates and assists members interested in becoming judges.

Litigation Committee (Co-Chairs Tristan Loanzon, Umar Sheikh, Linda S. Lin)

For attorneys and law students who are interested in litigation, the committee provides a forum and resources for networking and learning, and sponsors events that are of interest to its members.

Pro Bono Committee (Chair Glenn Magpantay)

Encourages member participation in pro bono activities in the Asian Pacific American community.

Professional Development Committee (Chair Francis Chin)

Sponsors activities for the exchange of ideas and the development of professional opportunities and skills. It organizes low-cost accredited CLE seminars and sponsors special events on legal practice and networking opportunities.

Prosecutors' Committee (Co-Chairs Kin Ng and James S. Lin)

Promotes the interests of current and former APA attorneys in the District Attorneys' and United States Attorneys' Offices.

Real Estate Committee (Co-Chairs Margaret Ling and Sandra Ung)

Provide support and development for APA attorneys associated with transacting, managing and developing property.

Student Outreach Committee (Co-Chairs Yang Chen and William Ng)

Sponsors activities to assist law students in their professional development.

Women's Committee (Co-Chairs Jean Lee and Anne Behk)

Recognizing the unique experience and perspective that Asian/Pacific American ("APA") women bring to the practice of law, the committee, through panel discussions, networking events, and coalition building, provides a support network, and discusses issues about building a successful career in the ever changing legal environment. It also addresses the special challenges — both burdens and opportunities — that APA women attorneys face as double minorities.

Young Lawyers' Committee (Co-Chairs William Chang and Ameet Kabrawala)

Focuses on the concerns of lawyers admitted to practice ten years or less, but is open to all lawyers and law students. Activities include networking receptions, panel discussions, and CLE courses of interest to newly admitted attorneys.

Like BS&F, all of their clients value the excellence of top notch legal work but perhaps even more importantly, their clients share in the Firm's belief that diversity is the key to success. Indeed, the *Minority Law Journal's* 2009 Diversity Scorecard ranked the Firm #31 out of the 250 largest law firms in the United States. With the commitment of like-minded leadership, attorneys and clients, BS&F embodies the true value of diversity in the legal profession.

In addition to AABANY, BS&F supports numerous minority legal organizations including the Minority Corporate Counsel Association where BS&F is a sponsor of the Lloyd M. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship Program. Through this program BS&F has selected William Moon a first year student at Yale Law School as its scholarship recipient for 2009.



The Fashionable Side of the Law, Networking at Saks Fifth Avenue

By Anne Behk-Chung, AABANY Special Correspondent

On August 20th, 2009, from 6 to 9pm, over 100 guests attended the fashion-networking event at Saks Fifth Avenue, located at 611 Fifth Avenue. The event was co-sponsored by the Women's & Young Lawyers' Committees of AABANY and hosted by Saks Fifth Avenue.

The night began with a private fashion show featuring men and women's business and cocktail attire. The models displayed various outfits suitable for both work and evening wear. During the soiree, guests were treated to wine and hor d'oeuvres, including mini cheeseburgers and crab cakes. Towards the end of the night, a raffle was held where one lucky guest won a fabulous Jo Malone gift set. After the fashion show, guests were given a ten percent discount card to privately shop at Saks after the store was closed. Event attendees reported having a marvelous time at this professional and upscale shopping and fashion event.

Overall, the event was a great opportunity to have fun shopping while networking with members of the Women's and Young Lawyers' Committees of AABANY. Robert Leung, AABANY's President-Elect was also on hand to deliver welcoming remarks on behalf of AABANY. For more information about the Women's Committee, please contact Anne Behk-Chung (eunesq@gmail.com), or Jean Lee (jlee@milberg.com). To get involved in AABANY's Young Lawyers Committee (YLC), contact YLC chair Ameet Kabrawala at ameet.kabrawala@gmail.com.



Photo by Yang Chen

AABANY President-Elect Robert Leung delivers welcoming remarks to guests of the Fashion and the Law event held at Saks Fifth Avenue.



AABANY's Latest Photo Gallery



Photos courtesy of Gabarron Foundation

Special Thanks to our 2009 AABANY Annual Banquet Sponsors

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For more information about sponsorship for the 2010 AABANY Annual Banquet, please contact Robert Leung, (rleung@bsflp.com)

If you would like to donate Silent Auction Items to be sold at the AABANY Annual Banquet, please contact William Wang, at wwang@pbwt.com.



Photo by Yang Chen

Above: A view of the Corporate Law Committee and Corporate Counsel Committee's 2nd Annual Wine Tasting Event held at the Gabarron Foundation Carriage House. Our event attendees enjoyed complimentary lighthors d'oeuvres and samplings of various selections of wine.

Below: The Women's Committee and Young Lawyers Committee register guests for the Fashion and the Law Networking Event at Saks Fifth Avenue. Upscale fashion, trendy new looks, and networking all available at this AABANY event, and also a 10% discount at Saks and private shopping.

If you would like to submit photos for the AABANY ADVOCATE, Please Email: aabany.newsletter@gmail.com





Photo by Francis Chin



Photo by Francis Chin

AABANY Takes Roadshow to Upstate New York Law Schools

On September 19 and 20, 2009, James Chou, Rob Leung, Francis Chin, Chris Chan, Will Ng and Yang Chen traveled throughout Upstate New York to introduce AABANY to law students from Albany Law School, Syracuse University School of Law and Cornell Law School. Many students from each law school attended weekend meetings to learn about AABANY and their response was enthusiastic. Thanks to Lillian Moy (Albany), Cliff Tsan (Syracuse) and Donna Chin (Cornell) for helping to make these visits possible. We are pleased to welcome many new members from Upstate New York and we look forward to working with them to expand AABANY's mission Upstate. The trip was part of AABANY's goal to expand its membership and reach throughout the state of New York.

Above: Francis Chin and Yang Chen pose with students from Syracuse Law School

Below: Yang Chen addresses law students at Albany Law School.

AABANY Hosts Judicial Clerkship Informational Session

By Will Wang, Advocate Editor

On July 21, 2009, the Litigation Committee, Young Lawyers' Committee and Student Outreach Committee sponsored a Judicial Clerkship Informational Session at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Some 90 students and lawyers attended. The Hon. Denny Chin gave some remarks about his experience on the Madoff case in addition to tips on applying for a clerkship. The Hon. Richard Sullivan (S.D.N.Y.), the Hon. Andrew Peck (S.D.N.Y.), and the Hon. Dora Irizarry (E.D.N.Y.) were also present and shared their insights. Thanks to the terrific panel of former clerks who participated in the program and to Litigation Committee co-chair, Linda Lin, for moderating. The distinguished panelists were: Ameet Kabrawala, Law Clerk to the Hon. Kiyoo Matsumoto, E.D.N.Y., Kristin Mattiske, Formerly Senior Court Attorney, New York Court of Appeals, Jennifer Schecter, Principal Law Clerk to the Hon. Eileen Bransten, New York State Supreme Court and Formerly Principal Law Clerk to the Hon. Judith S. Kaye, New York State Court of Appeals, and David Ziff, Formerly Law Clerk to the Hon. Dennis Jacobs, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit.





NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2009

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 I would like to join/renew my membership with AABANY. I am enclosing my annual dues of:

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Includes voting privileges and membership with National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
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