FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2022

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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK HONORED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION BAR LEADERS INNOVATION AWARD FOR THE ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

NEW YORK - September 22, 2022. The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) is proud to announce that it has been honored for the third year in a row with the New York State Bar Association Bar Leaders Innovation Award for its Anti-Asian Violence Task Force (“AAVTF”). AABANY received this award in the category of large-sized bar association (2,000 members or more) in recognition of the outstanding work produced by the AAVTF.

The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) presented the award on September 20 during a reception following the Bar Leaders Symposium held earlier that afternoon in Albany, New York at NYSBA’s headquarters. According to NYSBA, the Bar Leaders Innovation Award aims to “recognize how bar associations adapt to the needs of their members and the community at large by introducing new programs, ideas and methodologies that benefit everyone involved.”

AABANY is honored that the accomplishments of the AAVTF were recognized with this prestigious award from NYSBA.

Formed in February 2021, the AAVTF is a joint project of AABANY and the Asian American Law Fund of New York (AALFNY). During the surges of anti-Asian violence in New York, lawyers like many community members felt outrage and upset over the seemingly unending wave of hate and violence and asked what they could do about it. The AAVTF provided information and answers to the community and victims of hate and violence and set out to offer unique contributions as lawyers. The AAVTF served as a think tank and also provided a platform for attorneys to step up and volunteer to help aggrieved community members. The AAVTF developed a three-pronged approach to the crisis: advocacy, research, and education.

In 2021, the AAVTF researched, advocated, and educated in numerous ways. Its members met regularly with community groups, the police, prosecutors, and mayoral representatives, while also directly assisting survivors through its Hate Eradication Active Response Team (“HEART”). The AAVTF also shared the crucial findings in its Rising Tide report with numerous groups, including schools, law firms, and employee resource groups, to ensure that the public was aware of the realities of anti-Asian violence in New York City.

Today, the AAVTF has continued to seek ways to contribute to the fight against hate. For example, the Endless Tide report is AABANY’s second report on anti-Asian violence in New York City. This report follows the legal journeys of incidents reported to law enforcement, making AABANY the only organization to collect such vital information on anti-Asian violence.
“The hard work and dedication of the members of the AAVTF have brought attention to anti-Asian violence in New York and the AAVTF continues to offer solutions and explore ways to protect and seek justice for our community,” stated AABANY President William Ng. “With the support and acknowledgment of NYSBA and other partner organizations, AABANY and its AAVTF are confident that we can create safe and just communities and legal systems for all New Yorkers.”

For more information about HEART, please see AABANY’s website at https://www.aabany.org/page/1016


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*The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the AAPI community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).*

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