

**ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK**  
**Quarterly Report, January - April 2019**

This quarter, AABANY continued to host a variety of engaging events, panels, and networking opportunities in addition to its signature Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street on February 27th. AABANY proudly celebrated New York City's 2nd annual Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution with a reenactment of *Korematsu v. United States* at the New York County Lawyers Association. At the Annual Meeting of Members at Wachtell Lipton on February 13th, AABANY held elections for the 2019 Board Officers and Directors and also presented the Committee of the Year, Program of the Year, and Member of the Year Awards.

**Special Events**

On January 30, 2019, AABANY's Military & Veterans Affairs Committee and NYCLA's Asia Practice Committee co-sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution. At this celebration, AABANY presented its trial reenactment, "Fred Korematsu and His Fight for Justice," recounting Fred Korematsu's refusal to report for incarceration in an internment camp during World War II, the legal proceeding that culminated in the United States Supreme Court, and his fight decades later to overturn his conviction based on newly discovered facts that were suppressed by the government. The reenactment was followed by a panel discussion moderated by AABANY Board Director and Issues Committee Chair Chris Kwok on "Why the Korematsu Case Still Matters Today." Attendees continued their conversations during the reception that followed. The event was covered on NHK World News and WNYC-FM.

On January 31, AABANY presented a road show and conducted mock interviews at New York Law School for members of the law school's AALSA (Asian American Law Students Association). AABANY members and leaders, including President James Cho, Executive Director Yang Chen, Student Outreach Committee Co-Chair Jonathan Li, and Intellectual Property Committee Co-Chair Jeffrey Mok, visited New York Law School and met with AALSA members to talk to them about AABANY and how they can get involved. Following the meet-and-greet, attorneys and law students met one-on-one for mock interview sessions, to practice their interview skills and get feedback from attorneys.

On February 7, 2019, the Women's Committee held another successful brown bag lunch, featuring Joyce Lai from ConsenSys. Members learned about blockchain

technology and alternative organizational structures, and were also able to share their own experiences working at law firms, transitioning into the tech industry, and balancing family and work.

On Wednesday, February 13, 2019, AABANY held its Annual Meeting of Members at Wachtell Lipton. Elections were held for the 2019 Board Officers and Directors and President James R. Cho presented the Year in Review. President James R. Cho also announced a new initiative to help AABANY law students find summer internship positions. Executive Director, Yang Chen, presented the report of the Committees and immediate Past President Dwight Yoo and President-Elect Brian Song tallied the votes. At the meeting the Committee of the Year Award was presented to the In-House Counsel Committee, the Program of the Year Award was presented to the AABANY Leadership Development Program, and Member of the Year Award was presented to Edwin Kim.

On Wednesday, February 27, 2019, AABANY hosted its 30th Anniversary Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street. The theme this year is United in Action and Vision: Towards 2020 Together. The dinner attracted over 700 attorneys, judges, prosecutors, in-house counsel, government officials, and dignitaries. At the Annual Dinner AABANY honored Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, with the Public Service Leadership Award; Gabrielle Lyse Brown, Executive Director, Diversity and Inclusion for Morgan Stanley, with the Women's Leadership Award; Deneen Donnley, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of USAA, with the Corporate Leadership Award; and Davis Polk & Wardwell with the 2019 Law Firm Diversity Award.

On March 11, AABANY co-sponsored a book release of Robert Tsai's new book, *Practical Equality*. The event was held at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, and was also co-sponsored by UCLA Alumni New York Tri-State Network and the Association of Asian American Yale Alumni. Professor Tsai's new book discusses a practical approach towards fighting for equality through the lens of legal ideas. It proposes that arguments not directly relevant to equality may achieve the goals of equality. It offers an alternative and more practical approach to the fight for justice.

On March 15, 2019, AABANY and NYU APALSA hosted a conversation with Josh Hsu, Deputy Chief of Staff for Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), and AABANY Board Director Suzanne Kim, Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School, in Furman Hall at NYU Law School. The discussion focused on Asian Pacific American attorneys' engagement in public service. Professor Kim interviewed Josh Hsu about various topics, including

Hsu's professional development, Hsu's experience with working on the Hill and Asian American attorneys' involvement in public service — mainly the lack thereof.

On April 3, 2019, AABANY co-sponsored with the Federal Bar Association and the Fordham Law School APALSA a trial reenactment of *Korematsu v. United States* in the Moot Court Room at Fordham Law School, weaving together photos, documents, and excerpts from court proceedings to recount the story of Fred Korematsu and his fight for justice. Fred Korematsu was a Japanese-American who was arrested and convicted of violating Executive Order 9066 in 1942. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court. The Court, however, deferred to the Executive Order and ruled in a 6-3 landmark decision that internment was based on "military necessity." Four decades later, the conviction was overturned when evidence was uncovered that the government's military necessity rationale was unfounded and rooted in racism.

On Thursday, April 11, AABANY hosted a screening of "Blowin' Up," a feature documentary that explores the complex realities of sex work in New York City and the compassionate approach of a human trafficking court in Queens County. The film features AABANY member Honorable Toko Serita, Queens Supreme Court, as well as other heroines of the Human Trafficking Intervention Court, that work with victims of sexual exploitation who face prostitution-related charges. After the screening, Beatrice Leong, AABANY Government Service and Public Interest Committee Co-Chair, led a panel discussion featuring speakers from the NYPD/FBI Joint Human Trafficking Task Force and a Queens Assistant District Attorney who prosecutes human traffickers. The panelists talked about how they worked together to prosecute the traffickers and how one can identify and help a suspected trafficking victim. The panel gave important insight into how gangs and traffickers target their victims, and the audience learned that many victims are new immigrants, local high school students or children in the foster care system.

## **Panels and CLEs**

On January 29, 2019, the IP Committee, along with the Asia Practice and Commercial Bankruptcy and Restructuring Committees presented a panel entitled "A Primer on U.S. Bankruptcy and Intellectual Property Transactions." The panel discussed the basics of intellectual property transactions involving distressed companies in the United States.

On January 29, 2019, GSPI Committee co-sponsored a panel on Access to Justice, Legal Needs and APA Communities at Cardozo Law School with the Academic, Pro

Bono and Student Outreach Communities. The panel was co-moderated by Academic Committee co-chair and AABANY Board Director Suzanne Kim and GSPI Committee co-chair Jonathan Hernandez. The panel consisted of a broad mix of public interest attorneys, law professors and private practitioners including GSPI Committee co-chair Beatrice Leong. The panelists discussed the impacts of the justice gap on access to the courts and in areas such as family law, elder law, housing, employment law, domestic violence and immigration.

On March 6, 2019, AABANY's Real Estate Committee, Northfield Bank, Bay Ridge Lawyers Association, KALAGNY, Brooklyn Real Estate Board co-sponsored CLE and networking event entitled "Real Estate Fraud: Red Flags and War Stories" at Brooklyn Real Estate Board.

On March 19, 2019, AABANY's Real Estate Committee, KALAGNY, and Big Apple Abstract Corp. co-sponsored a CLE and networking event entitled "Real Estate Fraud and Cyber Security" at Flushing Bank, 99 Park Avenue.

On March 27, 2019, AABANY's Real Estate Committee, KALAGNY, and Big Apple Abstract Corp. co-sponsored a CLE and networking event entitled "Issues of Capacity to Sell in Real Estate Transactions" at Flushing Bank's Bayside branch.

On April 3, 2019, Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director and Real Estate Committee Co-Chair, and Pauline Yeung-Ha, Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair, presented a CLE and networking event entitled "Selling and Purchasing Real Property from an Estate." The event was hosted by Flushing Bank at their Astoria branch and was co-sponsored by AABANY, KALAGNY, and Big Apple Abstract Corp.

On April 11, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee successfully presented a CLE and networking event entitled "Trends in Long Island Real Estate Development – IDA Zoning and Land Use." Over 60 attorneys and real estate professionals were in attendance. The event was held at the Omni Building in Uniondale and was co-sponsored by AABANY, KALAGNY, Forchelli Deegan Terrana, Flushing Bank, and Big Apple Abstract Corp.

### **Community and Student Outreach**

On January 9, February 13, March 13, and April 10, 2018, AABANY held its monthly Pro Bono Legal Clinic at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Inc. to provide walk-in legal assistance to the Chinatown community. Over the course of three months,

volunteers helped over 100 community members. At the January 9 Pro Bono Clinic Amanda Bernardo, Immigration Committee Co-Chair and Supervising Attorney, New York Legal Assistance Group, presented to the community about the Department of Homeland Security's proposed changes to the regulations pertaining to the "Public Charge" ground of inadmissibility. The presentation was translated for the community by Kwok Kei Ng, Esq., Assistant Law Clerk to Hon. Carolyn Wade at New York State Supreme Court.

In February of 2019, Susan Akina and Amanda Bernardo, co-chairs of AABANY's Immigration Law Committee, partnered with AARP and created public service announcements to help prevent immigration fraud in the Chinese and Filipino communities. Both Susan and Amanda provided tips and advice on how to avoid becoming a victim of immigration fraud in short videos produced by AARP.

On March 1, 2019, Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director and Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee, attended Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's State of the State 2019 NYC Region Presentation. The meeting was by invitation only and was in collaboration with the Network of Bar Leaders. Margaret is on the Network of Bar Leaders Executive Council and is the AABANY representative on that Council. The meeting was presented by Alphonso David, Counsel to the Governor and past AABANY Annual Dinner Honoree. Alphonso spoke about the specifics of the Governor's upcoming 2020 New York State Budget and the priorities of education, housing, health and hospital, and environmental issues.

On March 28, 2019, AABANY's Student Outreach Committee held its annual Resume Review Workshop for law students in collaboration with Fordham Law School. Practicing attorneys from a variety of different fields helped students polish their resumes.

On April 1, 2019, AABANY joined as a co-signatory to NAPABA's amicus brief in the Supreme Court in *Department of Commerce v. New York (18-966)*, opposing the addition of a proposed citizenship question to the 2020 census. The addition of the citizenship question will negatively impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. It will depress response rates from Asian Americans, the fastest growing racial group and the largest segment of new immigrants in the country, and impact our ability to protect our rights and ensure political representation.

## Networking

On January 24, 2019, Intellectual Property Committee members braved the rain to meet up for sushi and drinks and celebrate the start of the new year. Members whose practices focus on different areas of intellectual property such as copyright, trademark, entertainment, and patent exchanged stories about their work.

On February 23, 2019, the Military and Veterans Affairs (“MVA”) Committee and Litigation Committee teamed up to co-host a Laser Tag event at Indoor Extreme Sports in Long Island City.

On February 24, 2019, the Intellectual Property Committee hosted a fun and relaxing evening of Axe Throwing at Kick Axe in Brooklyn. A good mix of members in various stages of their careers and practicing various aspects of intellectual property law attended the event.

On March 14, 2019, the In-House Counsel Committee hosted a very successful networking event at the cozy and upscale Freds at Barneys Downtown. In-house counsel from numerous prominent companies gathered and mingled over drinks and light bites. The attendees took the time to get to know one another and shared insights into what their work entails. The general consensus appeared to be that the in-house counsel legal experience is vastly different from that of any other practice area and to be successful in this role, one has to learn to be a jack of all trades.

On March 20, 2019, our Membership Committee held its last Monthly Membership Happy Hour of the fiscal year at Karaoke City in Midtown Manhattan. Current and future AABANY members gathered to meet and mingle over drinks, delicious Korean food, and karaoke. Both Brian Song, President-Elect, and Yang Chen, Executive Director, commended David Sohn, Membership Director and Membership Committee Chair, for all his hard work in putting together the Monthly Membership Happy Hours as a unique way to let prospective members learn about AABANY and also to show appreciation for current AABANY members.

On March 27, 2019, AABANY’s Intellectual Property Committee members gathered for a year-end dinner in Koreatown. Members networked and discussed their current positions, private practice, the in-house experience, law school, and clerkships. Members also shared stories about their experience as Asian American lawyers.

On March 28, 2019, the GSPI and Pro Bono Committees held a joint dinner at Bite of Hong Kong in the Chinatown/Lower East Side area. At the dinner, both committees thanked and recognized committee members and volunteers that made our Pro Bono Clinics, Trainings, Panels, and other activities a success in the past year.

On March 29, 2019, the Young Lawyers Committee and Women's Committee co-hosted its Axe Throwing Social at Indoor Extreme Sports in Long Island City. Attendees found axe throwing to be a great activity for releasing stress.

## **Honors and Recognitions**

On January 16, 2019, Hon. Kiyo Matsumoto, District Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, was honored at the Conner Inn Annual Dinner. The mission of the Hon. William C. Conner Inn of Court is to promote excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills for judges, lawyers, academicians, and students of law and to advance the education of the members of the Inn, the members of the bench and bar, and the public in the field of intellectual property law. Judge Matsumoto, a long time member of AABANY, was presented with the Conner Inn Excellence Award, at the Union League Club of New York, for her commitment and dedication to the promotion of excellence in the legal profession.

On February 11, 2019, AABANY issued a press release to congratulate James S. Lin on his recent promotion from Supreme Court Deputy for the Green Trial Zone to the position of Bureau Chief of the Green Zone in the Kings County District Attorney's Office. With more than 28 years of public service in the prosecutors' offices of New York City, James is an exemplar of an individual committed to justice and public service.

On Tuesday, April 9, 2019, Glenn Magpantay, the Executive Director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), was honored at Brooklyn Law School's Public Service Awards Ceremony. Glenn Manpantay, a former AABANY Board member and a current co-chair of the LGBT Committee, was presented with Brooklyn Law School's Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service, in recognition of his incredible devotion to educating and fighting for LGBT equality, racial justice and immigrant rights.

On April 16, 2019, AABANY issued a press release enthusiastically supporting the renomination of Diane Gujarati to serve as a United States district court judge in the Eastern District of New York. "We are pleased with the renomination of our former Board Director Diane Gujarati to the bench," said Brian Song, President of AABANY. Ms. Gujarati was first nominated by President Obama in 2016, and subsequently

renominated by President Trump in 2018. Her nomination was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee.