

AABANY Quarterly Report: February - July 2018

This quarter, AABANY kept active by organizing and hosting a number of CLEs, panels, events, and networking opportunities that engaged both AABANY members and the wider community. Major highlights from the quarter were tied to the celebration of Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month, during which we organized and hosted or collaborated with other community organizations or bar associations to produce events that recognized APAs and explored the issue of diversity in our profession and institutions. Such events included the 2018 Judges' Reception, a General Counsel & Panel Reception, and a trial reenactment of the infamous *Korematsu v. United States* case. In addition, AABANY held its 11th Annual Summer Soiree (formerly known as the Wine Tasting and Networking Reception) for in-house counsel and senior attorneys, as well as a Kickoff Reception for AABANY's Mentorship Program, which aims to partner senior attorneys with younger attorneys and law students for a valuable mentor-mentee relationship.

APA Heritage Month Events

May 15, 2018 The Asia Society and AABANY co-sponsored "**Here to Stay: The Asian American Immigrant Experience**," at the Asia Society, where attendees listened to four speakers' firsthand accounts of their journeys as immigrants to America. Speakers included Antonio Xu Liu, a Resource Coordinator at the National Grid, Xiaodeng Chen, a political science student at Brooklyn College, Stephanie Ji Won Park, a community organizer at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), and Tereza Lee, a pianist and immigrant rights activist who is known to have inspired the creation of the DREAM Act. These personal stories opened up a broader dialogue on the historical context underlying modern immigration, the human impact of the immigration journey, current political tensions, and the immigration debate through a panel moderated by AABANY Board Director, Issues Committee Co-Chair and Asia Practice Committee Co-Chair Chris Kwok.

May 17, 2018 AABANY held a **General Counsel Panel and Reception** at Arnold & Porter, where panelists shared their experiences and expertise on various topics relevant to in-house counsel and how they can be more effective in working with their respective companies. Panelists expressed the importance of cohesion between companies and their in-

house counsel, as well as the importance of ensuring that their roles as general counsels encourage diversity and inclusion within their respective workplaces.

May 20, 2018 AABANY joined many other community groups on Mott Street in Chinatown to celebrate the **39th Annual Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Festival**, which explored the theme “The Year of the D.O.G - Do! Organize! Give!” through activities, outreach events, and entertainment. The AABANY table introduced visitors to our monthly Pro Bono Clinics, handed out “Know Your Rights” business cards in both Chinese and Korean, and met with representatives from other community organizations and government offices that participated in the festival.

May 22, 2018 AABANY and NYU’s A/P/A Institute co-sponsored an **advance screening of “The Chinese Exclusion Act,”** a documentary by award-winning filmmakers Ric Burns and Li-Shin Yu that closely examines the origin and consequences of the 1882 law that banned Chinese immigration. The film screening was followed by a discussion with the filmmakers and special guest Kavitha Rajagopalan, a Senior Fellow at the World Policy Institute.

May 22, 2018 AABANY’s Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, KALAGNY, and NYCLA’s Asian Practice Committee co-sponsored an event celebrating **Asian Americans in Public Service** and APA Heritage Month. The distinguished panelists were Hon. Randall T. Eng, former Presiding Justice of the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, Second Department; Brigadier General Richard C. Kim, Deputy Commanding General, Army North, U.S. Army; and Joon H. Kim, Esq., former Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. The panelists discussed their experiences working in government or public service, encouraging attendees to give back to their communities. To conclude this evening, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Co-Chairs Sung Hwang and Jimmy Kang, together with AABANY Director of Development Margaret Ling, presented the panelists with plaques that honored their contributions to their country and community.

May 30, 2018 AABANY joined the NYS Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to co-sponsor an event featuring guest speaker New York Congresswoman Grace Meng, the first Asian American member of Congress from New York State, in **celebration of Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month**. Attorney General Barbara Underwood delivered the

opening remarks for the event, sharing her thoughts on the importance of moving beyond mere token representation and toward greater levels of inclusion within our institutions. On the podium, Congresswoman Grace Meng discussed the experiences that led her to work in government, as well as highlights from her efforts toward the advancement of minorities as a member of Congress. Although her words pointed to progress, they also reminded the audience of the work that must be done to further empower Asian/Pacific-Islander and other minority communities.

May 31, 2018 AABANY and the Asian Affinity Group at White & Case co-sponsored a **trial reenactment of 22 Lewd Chinese Women: *Chy Lung v. Freeman*** at the New York offices of White & Case. This court case recounted the legal battles of 22 Chinese women traveling alone to San Francisco in the 1870s who were detained and refused admission because they were deemed to be prostitutes. The case went all the way up to the United States Supreme Court and set precedent on principles of federalism and immigration that remain pertinent to the immigration debate today.

May 31, 2018 AABANY's Judiciary Committee hosted the **2018 Judges' Reception** at the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse to recognize recently inducted and retired APA judges. The honorees were Hon. Deepa Ambekar, Hon. Sanket Bulsara, Hon. George Chew, Hon. Randall Eng, Hon. Phillip Hom, Hon. Laurie Lau, Hon. Charles Liu (posthumously), Hon. Jeffrey Oing, Hon. Jonathan Shim, Hon. Anil Singh, Hon. Richard Tsai, and Hon. Ona T. Wang. The Judges' Reception also featured NYS Attorney General Barbara D. Underwood as the keynote speaker, who discussed the ongoing fight for diversity in public service and the legal profession.

June 4, 2018 AABANY, together with Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, co-sponsored a **trial reenactment of *Korematsu v. United States*** at Cadwalader, which was attended by nearly 400 individuals. In 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which forcibly removed 120,000 Japanese-Americans from their homes and placed them in concentration camps. When Fred Korematsu refused to comply, he was arrested and convicted of violating the Executive Order. This trial reenactment recounted the events leading up to and following *Korematsu v. United States*, weaving together excerpts from transcripts, documents, court proceedings, and photographs to share the full story. Fred Korematsu's daughter, Karen

Korematsu, also attended this event to play herself in the reenactment and speak about her journey as an advocate for social justice and a leader of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute which has the mission of raising awareness about Korematsu's legacy.

Special Events

April 17, 2018 A little more than two weeks into FY 2018, AABANY's Co-Vice Presidents of Programs and Operations, Jeff Ikejiri and Charles Chen, led a **Committee Chairs Kick-off Meeting and Reception** at Dechert's New York office. At this meeting, both new and returning co-chairs of AABANY's various committees convened to discuss ideas for the upcoming year. After an instructive presentation by Jeff and Charles, the co-chairs facilitated collaborative brainstorming to plan for another productive year of CLEs, networking events and community projects for AABANY's 1100+ active members.

June 6, 2018 AABANY held a **Kick-Off Meeting for its Mentorship Program** at Baker & McKenzie LLP. This program is designed to partner younger attorneys with more experienced attorneys to create a mentorship, whereby mentors can share their knowledge or experience and help their mentees navigate the legal profession. At the Kick-Off Meeting, Gabrielle Lyse Brown, Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion at the New York City Bar Association, discussed the enduring effects of mentorships, especially for those who come from minority backgrounds, and offered advice on the various ways in which individuals can maximize the opportunities that may come out of these relationships.

June 13, 2018 AABANY hosted its **11th Annual Summer Soiree**, formerly known as the Wine Tasting and Networking Reception, at the Waterfall Mansion and Gallery on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Co-organized by the In-House Counsel Committee and the Corporate Law Committees, the event provided an elegant space for senior in-house lawyers and senior law firm attorneys to network with one another over hors d'oeuvres and an abundant selection of drinks and appreciate the venue's beautiful artwork. Around 130 attendees came out to this year's Summer Soiree, which included in-house counsel from a variety of industries and attorneys from top global and regional firms with offices in New York City. For more details and a full list of sponsors, see our blog at <http://blog.aabany.org/post/175014923102/on-wednesday-june-13th-aabany-held-its-annual> .

June 28, 2018 AALFNY and AABANY co-hosted its **Annual Summer Reception** at Paul Hastings LLP, featuring esteemed guest speaker Hon. Toko Serita and the three recipients of AALFNY's scholarships and fellowships: Corinne Merdegia (2018 Edward G. H. Chin Memorial Scholarship), Henna Kaushal (2018 AALFNY Community Service Scholarship), and Nishat Bella Tabassum (2018 AALFNY/SABANY Fellowship Award). Justice Serita, who has served as a judge at the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court since 2008, elaborated on the daunting reality of human trafficking in large metropolitan areas like New York City, as well as the work of the Human Trafficking Intervention Court in improving judicial responses to trafficking by redefining female defendants as victims rather than criminals.

Panels and CLEs

May 1, 2018 AABANY's Immigration Law Committee hosted a **CLE panel titled "Secondary Traumatic Stress - Working with Clients with Trauma,"** at Dechert LLP. This panel was moderated by Amanda Bernardo, Co-Chair of the Immigration Law Committee, and included speakers such as non-profit immigration attorneys Amy Hsieh of Sanctuary for Families and former immigration judges Carol King and Jeffrey Chase. At the panel, speakers discussed their personal experiences working through the challenges of immigration law and offered effective strategies to deal with topics related to mental health. This event was extremely well-timed and well-received, given that May was designated as Mental Health Awareness Month.

May 24, 2018 AABANY's Women's Committee hosted its inaugural **Brown Bag Lunch Series** at the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. This series aims to create opportunities for open and honest dialogue on the issues that Asian American women face in the legal community. At this lunch, attendees met with recently inducted United States Magistrate Judge Ona T. Wang, who shared insights from her firsthand experiences as a litigator, partner, and a judge, and discussed some of the challenges that she encountered along the way.

June 19, 2018 AABANY's Real Estate Committee, Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee and KALAGNY co-hosted a CLE and networking event entitled "**Representing an IRC 1031 Exchange Client**" at the Flushing Bank in Bayside, Queens. At the event, David J. Fesser, Esq., Exchange Director for Legal 1031 Exchange Services, Inc, gave a comprehensive and excellent

presentation on this important subject. Also present was Matthew K. Scheriff, CPA, Executive Vice President of Legal 1031 Exchange Services, who addressed the accounting aspects of the 1031 Legal Exchange.

June 20, 2018 The Judiciary Committee held a Q&A Panel entitled “**How to be an Elected Judge,**” at JAMS, moderated by newly appointed judge John Z. Wang (NYC Housing Court) and featuring Hon. Judy Kim (NYC Civil Court), Hon. Anthony Cannataro (NYS Supreme Court), and Suzanne Jacobson (political consultant) as panelists. The event was an excellent opportunity for attendees to better understand the complex process that leads to a position on the bench—including petitions, interviews, networking, and large investments of time—by listening to current judges and a consultant candidly share their personal journeys and words of wisdom.

Community Outreach

February 7, March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13, 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 from AABANY’s active membership helped nearly 80 community members.

Networking

May 1, 2018 The AABANY Tax Committee held its **quarterly Tax Club Dinner**, led by Shu-Ping Shen, Partner at McDermott Will & Emery, at Tang Pavilion. At this dinner, the group gathered to discuss trusts and estates tax issues, with special attention given to different gift and estate tax rules that apply to non-citizen spouses and other foreign relatives.

May 23, 2018 AABANY held its **inaugural Monthly Membership Happy Hour** at Karaoke City, providing an opportunity for AABANY to thank its current members and for members and non-members to learn more about AABANY’s committees. The first Monthly Membership Happy Hour featured the Career Placement Committee, whose co-chairs attended and spoke with both current and prospective members about the work that the Committee does. These monthly mixers are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month.

June 7, 2018 AABANY's Prosecutors' Committee and Government Service & Public Interest (GSPI) Committee hosted their **Late Spring Cocktail Mixer** at Legends on West 33rd Street. At the event, prosecutors from the District Attorneys' offices, public interest attorneys, interns, law students, and others mingled throughout the evening over an abundance of cocktails and appetizers. The accompanying spread of appetizers included wings, sliders, mozzarella sticks, among other dishes.

June 20, 2018 A **Breakfast Meeting** was hosted by the AABANY Women's Committee at Urbanspace Vanderbilt, where attendees got to know Marianne Chow Newman, counsel at the Hearst Corporation and previous Co-Chair of the Women's Committee, over coffee and pastries. Marianne shared candid stories from her legal career thus far, including her journey transitioning from an associate at a large law firm to in-house counsel at the Hearst Corporation and the challenges that she encountered and overcame along the way.

June 20, 2018 AABANY held its **Second Monthly Membership Happy Hour** at Ichi Cellar, this time featuring the Military & Veterans Affairs Committee and their special guest, William Smith, Veterans Benefit Advisor for the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, who addressed the audience with information about the many resources that New York makes available to all veterans. Through this event, attendees had the chance to network over drinks and an ample spread of food, including gyoza, wings, and sushi.

Honors and Recognitions

June 25, 2018 AABANY issued a press release congratulating **Hon. Lillian Wan** on her historic appointment as the first Asian American woman to serve on the New York Court of Claims, having previously served as a judge on the Kings County Family Court, where she heard numerous complex cases related to child custody, abuse, juvenile delinquency, and family offenses. On the Court of Claims, Justice Wan will rule on cases involving claims against the state or its agencies.

June 27, 2018 AABANY issued a press release congratulating **Susan L. Shin**, Partner at Arnold & Porter LLP and former AABANY President (2016-2017) on being named one of three recipients of the New York City Bar Association's 2018 Diversity and Inclusion Champion

Award. Susan and her fellow awardees were honored at the New York City Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion Celebration Dinner on June 27, 2018. This award was established in 2006 to recognize the efforts of attorneys who have created and worked toward more inclusive environments within their organizations, as well as the broader legal community.