

AABANY Quarterly Report: October 2018 - January 2019

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. Our members enjoyed a wide diversity of programs this quarter, which included information sessions, our monthly pro bono clinics, and numerous collaborations with other diverse bar associations.

Special Events

November 8 - 11, 2018 AABANY turned out in force again at the 2018 NAPABA National Convention in Chicago. AABANY was well-represented in various panels, including our renowned Trial Re-enactment. This year we performed “Alice in Chinatown: Chol Soo Lee and His Fight for Freedom,” about a Korean American man wrongly accused of a gangland murder in 1970s San Francisco. Congratulations to Best Under 40 honoree Marianne Chow -Newman and Trailblazer Award recipient Joon Kim. Congratulations to Arnold & Porter for receiving the Law Firm Diversity Award. Past AABANY President Susan L. Shin accepted the award on behalf of the firm.

December 13, 2018 AABANY held its **Annual Holiday Party** at rent24, a co-working space near Bryant Park. More than 100 members and their guests registered for this full capacity event. AABANY had the space to itself and attendees got to enjoy cheese and crudite from Murray’s and delicious Korean food from Woorijip. A professional bartender was on hand to serve and mix drinks for our guests. The atmosphere was festive and lively, as Board members and Committee Chairs interacted with each other and all the members and friends who were in attendance.

December 18, 2018 AABANY’s Prosecutors Committee held its **10th Annual Reception** by honoring Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York, and Jesse J. Sligh, Executive Assistant District Attorney, Queens County District Attorney’s Office, for

their exemplary and established record of public service and their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession and the community. This year's reception also included a touching tribute in memory of Committee Co-Chair Helen Ahn, who passed unexpectedly in November. Helen's parents and family were present to hear and receive the tributes from all the speakers and honorees.

Panels and CLEs

October 16, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored an information session on **going in-house at AmEx**. The event began with a panel discussion moderated by In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair Grace Fu that engaged in a lighthearted and candid discussion about what it is like to work in-house at AmEx. The panelists, which included AmEx General Counsel Laureen Seeger and Senior Counsel Ming-Hsuan Elders, discussed the various types of matters handled by the company's legal department and shared their personal experiences to shed light on the company's culture. The panelists also discussed issues like diversity and steps the company is taking to make the legal field more inclusive for minorities. After the panel concluded, attorneys in attendance were matched with Hiring Leaders at AmEx and given the opportunity to mingle and engage in a more personalized one-on-one discussion.

October 17, 2018 AABANY presented a Diversity CLE in Nassau County, Long Island. Hosted by Flushing Bank at their New Hyde Park Branch, the AABANY Real Estate Committee and Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee presented a CLE entitled "Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace-Respecting and Embracing It." The CLE Event was attended by over 25 Attorneys. It was moderated by Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director and Co-Chair of the Real Estate Committee. Speakers included AABANY's William Ng, attorney at Littler Mendelson P.C. and past AABANY Board Director and Vice President of Development, as well as Leslie DiBenedetto, attorney at Littler Mendelson, P.C.

October 22, 2018 AABANY in collaboration with the Disney Lawyers of Color presented a career information session on what working for the Walt Disney Company and its various

subsidiaries and affiliates, such as Disney Theatrical Group, Marvel Entertainment, and ESPN, is like. The event took place at the New Amsterdam Room in the New Amsterdam Theater on 42nd Street and Broadway. The speakers shared with the audience how each of them got to where they are today and how much they enjoy the work and the colleagues they have at their respective Disney companies.

October 30, 2018 AABANY's Real Estate Committee hosted the CLE and networking event entitled "**Due Diligence and Residential Real Estate Contracts.**" Over 25 attorneys attended the program at Flushing Bank's branch located at 164-20 Northern Boulevard, in Flushing. AABANY's Real Estate Committee co-chair Margaret Ling and Robert Moy, partner at Forchelli Deegan Terana LLP, spoke on best practices for conducting due diligence in real estate transactions. They gave insightful advice on minimizing liability for attorneys and realtors, based on their experience and years of practice. Special thanks to Flushing Bank and its staff for hosting the CLE panel for the evening. Attendees received 1 CLE credit in the Areas of Ethics.

November 14, 2018, AABANY's Academic Committee and Asia Practice Committee presented a roundtable discussion entitled "**A Discussion About Leading Issues in Asia Practice.**" Over 60 professionals attended the program at JAMS, located at 620 8th Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, New York. Panelists included Alex Hao, Partner at JunHe LLP, New York; Ji Li, Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School and author of *The Clash of Capitalisms? Chinese Companies in the United States*; Ruth Jin, Founder of The Jin Law Group; Jian Wu, International Lawyer at Kobre & Kim LLP; and Ann Lee, CEO of Coterie. The panel engaged in a lively discussion on China-US cross-border transactions, disputes, and trends supported by academic research and practical experiences.

November 14, 2018 AABANY's Real Estate Committee presented a CLE and Networking event entitled "**Green Light Go: Title Insurance Clearing Before Closing.**" The CLE was hosted by Flushing Bank at their Bayside, Queens branch. The speakers, Margaret Ling and Cary Chan, Co-Chairs of the Real Estate Committee, discussed an array of issues that can arise with

obtaining title insurance clearance prior to closing and how to resolve them. The speakers also discussed the importance of conducting due diligence and provided attendees with insightful advice, based on their years of experience, on how to minimize liability. Thanks to Flushing Bank and its staff for hosting the CLE panel for the evening.

Committee Meetings

October 9, 2018 The **Tax Committee** held its **quarterly meeting and dinner** at the offices of Ashurst LLP, to discuss the *Wayfair* Supreme Court decision and other state and local tax issues. Presenters Jessika Wong, of Grant Thornton LLP, and Rebecca Midori Balinskas, of Morrison & Foerster LLP, led a lively and informative discussion about the new landscape for sales taxes, particularly the issues for law firms and other service providers when they provide services to residents of other states. The discussion addressed the lack of foreign treaty protection for state sales and income taxes, which may be imposed on Asia-based foreign businesses that sell products online to U.S. residents. The group also discussed various questions related to the effects of the 2017 federal tax reform on state income taxation, such as whether state taxable income includes GILTI. Special thanks to Sharon Kim, partner at Ashurst LLP, for hosting the event.

October 23, 2018 AABANY **Judiciary Committee** held a meeting at Paul, Hastings led by Co-Chairs Linda Lin and Robert Leung. Attendees heard about highlights from events and activities held earlier in the year. The meeting also covered plans for upcoming events and a call for help with the Committee's activities, such as evaluating candidates for the judiciary and sitting on independent screening panels. This meeting included several first-time attendees, and we hope they will be able to participate in the important work of the Judiciary Committee to enhance diversity on the bench.

November 19, 2018 AABANY's Vice Presidents of Programs and Operations, Jeff Ikejiri and Charles Chen, hosted a **Committee Chairs Meeting** at JAMS, in the New York Times Building. Immediately following the meeting, AABANY hosted an **Information Session** for anyone

interested in learning more about what it means to be a Committee Chair and what it entails. We introduced the attendees to all the Committee Chairs in attendance and encouraged everyone to meet and mingle with the Committee Chairs one-on-one. Special thanks to our VPPOs, Jeff and Charles, for their leadership and to all our Committee Chairs for their hard work and dedication. Thanks also to Chris Kwok and JAMS for hosting the meetings.

December 12, 2018 The **Academic Committee** held a **holiday lunch** at Tea & Sympathy in Greenwich Village. Many law professors from area law schools, such as Rutgers, Fordham, CUNY, St. John's and others gathered to celebrate the holidays in an intimate space with a menu that serves traditional British comfort foods.

Networking

October 17, 2018 AABANY hosted its sixth Monthly Membership Happy Hour at Roki Le Izakaya on West 21st Street. The Happy Hour featured AABANY's Immigration, Government Service & Public Interest, Student Outreach, and Pro Bono Committees and lawyers in various other fields. Attendees gathered and mingled while enjoying drinks and delicious Japanese food.

November 5, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored KALAGNY's Second Annual **Veterans and Military Networking Event** at the Museum of Korean American Heritage (MoKAH). Through this annual event, KALAGNY hoped to expand and strengthen a network of and for veteran and military members. The event also provided an opportunity to spotlight and thank each of our veteran and military members and their families for their service and sacrifice. The event included two networking sessions and a panel discussion on "Diversity in the Military: Then and Now." The panelists included: Sung H. Hwang, Venable LLP, Partner, and U.S. Army Reserve, JAG, Major; Barbara St. Martin Cho, Korean American Vietnam War Veterans of NJ and NY at Fort Lee, Foreign Affairs Director and U.S. Air Force, Sergeant; Andrew T. Hahn, Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, Partner and General Counsel, and U.S. Army, JAG, Captain; Darol Tucker, Brooklyn Local Taxpayer Advocate and U.S. Army, First Sergeant, Ret.

November 13, 2018 AABANY officers, directors, leaders and staff attended the **Kings of Queens Awards and Networking Event** at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, New York. We celebrated our Executive Director, Yang Chen, as he walked the red carpet to receive his bronze statue award as one of the "Kings of Queens." Present from AABANY to help celebrate and honor Yang Chen as the recipient of this well-deserved award were: James Cho, AABANY President; Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director; Marianne Chow-Newman, AABANY Board Director; Beatrice Leong, Co-Chair of AABANY's Government Service and Public Interest Committee; Dave Singh, AABANY Program Associate; and Jason Cheung, former AABANY Legal Intern.

Student Outreach

October 16, 2018 AABANY's Student Outreach Committee presented a **resume review workshop and roadshow at NYU**. Practicing attorneys from various fields attended the event to review student resumes and provide useful advice on how to succeed in the legal profession. Right before the resume review workshop, Executive Director Yang Chen addressed NYU's APALSA members to tell them more about AABANY, its missions and members, and how law students can become more actively involved.

October 24, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored **Potential Careers in Immigration Law Practice** with Brooklyn Law School's APALSA in providing law students with an array of career options in immigration law practice. Gathered at Brooklyn Law School, students gained valuable practical career knowledge through panel discussion and individual follow up. The panelists included: Amanda Bernardo, Supervising Attorney, New York Legal Assistance Group, and Immigration Committee Co-Chair; Susan Akina, Managing Attorney, Guerrero Law Firm, and Immigration Committee Co-Chair; and Rio Guerrero, Principal, Guerrero Law Firm, and inaugural Immigration Committee Co-Chair. Special thanks to Professor Catherine Y. Kim for leading the dynamic discussion.

Community Outreach

October 10, November 14, December 12, 2018 Through its Pro Bono & Community Service Committee, AABANY continued holding its Monthly Pro Bono Clinics on the second Wednesdays of the month at Confucius Plaza from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Starting in September, the Clinic has been held at the office of the Asian Mutual Aid Group, on a ground floor location at Confucius Plaza. Since the inauguration of this monthly pro bono clinic in 2015, hundreds of low-income community members have received thoughtful advice and appropriate legal referral from AABANY members. Special thanks to all the volunteer attorneys who gave of their time to help anywhere from 30 to 50 clients each month. Thanks also to Pro Bono and Community Service Committee Co-Chairs Karen Kithan Yau, Ming Chu Lee, and Asako Aiba for their leadership.

January 6, 2019 Members of the Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) spent the afternoon volunteering at Xavier Mission. Over 1450 hot meals were served to less fortunate New Yorkers. Following the event, a few of the volunteers reflected on their experience over tacos and chips at Tortaria. The YLC thanks all of the volunteers for their hard work and looks forward to planning another rewarding community service event soon.