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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Dear AABANY Members and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our 2014 Year-End Report. As you may know, 2014 represented AABANY’s 25th Anniversary, and I am confident in saying that it was one of our most memorable years yet.

Our membership and financial health are at their strongest, and our activities ranging from CLEs to trial re-enactments to networking events to partnerships with other bar and community associations are as varied and plentiful as they have ever been, thanks to the unbridled dedication and passion of our members to AABANY’s mission.

Please feel free to contact any of AABANY’s Officers, Directors or Committee Chairs through www.aabany.org if you have any questions about what you see in this report, suggestions on what AABANY should think about planning in 2015, or requests to become a member. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your President this past year, and I am truly excited to see what lies ahead for AABANY under the leadership of President-Elect William Wang and beyond.

Yours truly,

Clara J. Ohr
AABANY President
MISSION STATEMENT

The Asian American Bar Association of New York was formed in 1989 as a not-for-profit corporation to represent the interests of New York Asian-American attorneys, judges, law professors, legal professionals, legal assistants, paralegals and law students. The mission of AABANY is to improve the study and practice of law, and the fair administration of justice for all by ensuring the meaningful participation of Asian Americans in the legal profession.

HISTORY

In 1988, the New York State Judicial Commission on Minorities, headed by noted African American attorney Franklin Hall Williams, examined the treatment of minority litigants and court employees. Following hearings in New York City on June 29th and 30th of that year, Rockwell Chin approached Commissioner Serene K. Nakano to discuss the need for an organization for Asian American attorneys. While Chinese and Korean American lawyer associations existed, there had never been an association of Asian American lawyers in New York.

Further impetus came when the National Asian American Bar Association (later called NAPABA) Planning Committee invited various attorneys in New York City to Chicago in October 1988. A core group, including Rockwell Chin, Glenn Ikeda, Yat T. Man, Steve Min and Serene K. Nakano, worked to found a formal association of Asian American lawyers: drafting organizational documents, reaching out to New York and nationwide bar groups, and contacting other Asian American attorneys.

Announcing AABANY’s incorporation on October 20, 1989, the group invited attorneys to an inaugural reception at New York University Law School on November 9, 1989. Among the speakers were Judge Dorothy Chin Brandt, Judge Randall Eng, Judge Peter Tom, past president of the American Immigration Law Association Benjamin Gin, Professor Sharon Horn, AALDEF Program Director Stanley Mark, and former NYPD Deputy Commissioner Hugh Mo. All of the speakers emphasized the unfulfilled need for AABANY. The reception was a resounding success, with over 180 attorneys and law students attending. Before the meeting concluded, over 60 people had joined AABANY.

AABANY, operating under an interim board during its first year, hosted further receptions, including evening social events, as well as a meeting at Brooklyn Law School at which Hoyt Zia, then the first President of NAPABA, spoke. Newly formed committees also sprang into action. The Issues Committee, co-chaired by Rockwell Chin and Marilyn Go, began research on redistricting, assisted lobbying for bias crimes legislation and spoke out against bias incidents. The Business Law Committee, co-chaired by Ken Chin and Marilyn Go, established a speaker series of prominent Asian American attorneys. The Events Committee hosted a fall picnic. Prompted by concerns raised by law students at the picnic, Chin Fong and James Minamoto established a student mentor program, presenting a job skills workshop to help law students hone interviewing skills.

On January 12, 1991, AABANY held its first annual meeting, electing Serene Nakano, Doris Ling-Cohan, Steve Min, Glenn Ikeda and Marilyn Go as officers and Rockwell Chin, Sylvia Fung Chin, Merlin Liu, Stanley Mark, Qazi Moid and Judge Peter Tom as directors.

Now one of the most prominent and active minority bar associations in New York, AABANY has well over 1,100 members, including practicing attorneys in the private and public sectors, in-house lawyers, judges, professors and law students.
AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS
Empowering Progress and Unity

AABANY recognizes and congratulates its many members and friends who in 2014 achieved great success and garnered many awards and recognitions across different fields of law. We congratulate these following members and friends:

Hon. Justice Doris Ling-Cohan, a member of AABANY’s first Board elected in 1991, was appointed to the Appellate Term of the First Department. Justice Ling-Cohan is the first Asian Pacific American woman to serve on an appellate panel in New York State.

Hon. Danny Chun, was appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Gail Prudenti to the position of Deputy Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters in Kings County.

Hon. Jeffrey K. Oing was profiled in Law360: “The No-Nonsense New Yorker,” by Gavin Broady, for his efficient methods and fair demeanor.


Hon. Toko Serita, New York City Criminal Court, Queens County, was heavily featured in The New York Times article, “In a Queens Court, Women in Prostitution Cases are Seen as Victims,” by Liz Robbins, in which she discussed at length the strides that New York Courts are making to protect victims of human trafficking.

Sapna Palla, Women’s Committee Co-Chair, joined Wiggin and Dana as Partner in the Intellectual Practice Group in the firm’s New York Office.

Karen Lim, AABANY Director and founding co-chair of the Intellectual Property Committee, was named a Partner at Fross Zelnick. She was named a Rising Star in Intellectual Property by Super Lawyers.

Rio Guererro, founding Chair of AABANY’s Immigration and Nationality Law Committee, was appointed to serve as a Co-Chair of the NAPABA Immigration Committee. Also, as a 1998 Brooklyn Law School alumnus, Rio was invited as a guest speaker for the April 4th APALSA 25th Annual Dinner at Brooklyn Law School.

Eve Guillergan was among six distinguished women honored Saturday, April 5th, at New York City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer’s Annual Open House Celebrating Women’s History Month.

Margaret Ling, was appointed as Co-Chair of the Asia Practice Committee at the New York County Lawyers’ Association.

Helen Wan, AABANY member and author of the novel The Partner Track, was featured in a Washington Post magazine profile published on February 13. Her book was spotlighted in CUNY TV’s “Asian American Life” on May 2, with comments from AABANY President Clara Ohr, AABANY Executive Director Yang Chen, and Baker Hostetler Partner Ona Wang.

She was also featured in Vivia Chen’s article, “Asian-American Lawyers: Doing Great and Unhappy,” in American Lawyer.

Lily Fan was interviewed for the online magazine Woman Around Town about her theatrical production projects.

Don Liu, Advisory Committee member, was named one of the “Legends of Law” by the Burton Awards Program in association with the Library of Congress, receiving the Roderick Palmore Pathmaker Award granted by InsideCounsel Magazine as part of its Fifth Annual Transformative Leadership Awards, and was featured as the cover story of the July issue of InsideCounsel Magazine with Xerox CFO Kathryn Mikells. He was also recognized as being among America’s 50 Outstanding General Counsel in The National Law Journal. He was profiled in Tim Harper’s “Diversity, not Divinity” in Super Lawyers, with special emphasis on his personal journey and commitment to diversity.

Kevin Kim, was appointed as the first Asian American Commissioner of the New York State Liquor Authority.

Parkin Lee, was recognized as an honoree at the New York Immigration Coalition’s 10th Annual Builders of the New York Gala on June 23, 2014.

Glenn Lau-Kee, was sworn in as the 117th president and first Asian American to lead the New York State Bar Association. He was selected as the Public Service Honoree for the National Association of Asian American Professionals – New York Chapter’s 2014 Most Influential Asian Pacific Islander Americans. He was honored at NAAAP-NY’s Moon Festival Honoree Gala at the Harvard Club of New York City on November 7, 2014.

Vincent Chang, Past President (2007), Gilbert Liu, and Ken Chin were recognized among the Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business 2014 by the Asian American Business Development Center.

Chris Kwok, Labor and Employment Law Committee Co-Chair, was promoted to Supervisory ADR Coordinator at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the New York District Office.

Alice Hsu and Vinoo Varghese were named among the 42 New York Law Journal’s 2014 Rising Stars.

Myung Kang-Huneke, Advisory Committee Member, was honored as a Trailblazer at the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York’s 28th Anniversary Gala on June 10, 2014.

Clara Ohr’s “Helping Every Vote Get Cast” was featured in the New York Law Journal’s “American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters.”

Tristan Loanzon made the front page of the New York Law Journal on May 7 for the unanimous decision he won before the First Department, reversing the lower court and clarifying the scope of automatic renewal clauses in contracts.
Vince Chang was prominently quoted in Law360’s “NY Swap Contract Ruling Means Defenses Hinge on the ‘S-Word,’” by Pete Brush.

Jean Lee, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at JPMorgan Chase & Co. and AABANY President 2012-13, was selected as a 2014 Council of Urban Professionals (CUP) Catalyst: Change Agent 2014 | Law and honored at CUP’s Fifth Annual Lawyers Forum on October 30, 2014 at the Eventi Hotel in New York, NY.

Ona Wang, Baker Hostetler Partner, was awarded and profiled in New York Law Journal as one of the 2014 Lawyers Who Lead by Example: Pro Bono for her efforts as Baker Hostetler’s pro bono vice chair as well as her individual efforts challenging the death penalty and serving LGBT youth.

Katrina Goyco was recognized as one of Legal Services NYC’s Top 30 Pro Bono Attorneys for 2014 and Yang Chen, Executive Director made Legal Services NYC’s Pro Bono Honor Roll.

Susan Shin, Board Director, was recognized by Working Mother magazine as Arnold & Porter’s 2014 Working Mother of the Year and recognized in the October/November issue of Working Mother. Her article, “Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts,” previously featured in our very own AABANY Advocate, was published in Today’s General Counsel’s Dec-Jan edition.

Austin So, In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair, was named one of three finalists of the DELVACCA 2014 Corporate Counsel Excellence Award’s Outstanding In-House Counsel of the Year.

Brian Song, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Chair, was chosen as Council of Urban Professionals Fellow and was Spotlighted on their website.

Lisa S. Lim joined Akerman LLP as a Partner within the Real Estate Practice Group in the New York office.

Kathy Hirata Chin, Partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham, & Taft LLP and driving force behind AABANY’s trial reenactments, was named as one of seven well-qualified nominees for the judgeship vacancy on the New York Court of Appeals, the state’s highest court, by the Commission on Judicial Nominations.

Sandra Leung, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary at Bristol-Myers Squibb and a member of AABANY’s Advisory Committee, was recognized as being among America’s 50 Outstanding General Counsel in The National Law Journal. She was also selected as the Corporate Legal Honoree for the National Association of Asian American Professionals – New York Chapter’s 2014 Most Influential Asian Pacific Islander American New Yorkers. She was honored at NAAAP-NY’s Moon Festival Honoree Gala at the Harvard Club of New York City on November 7, 2014.

Stacy Wu, Associate at Fross Zelnick and AABANY’s Intellectual Property Committee Co-Chair, was named a Rising Star in Intellectual Property by Super Lawyers.

Nelson Mar, Senior Education Law Attorney at Bronx Legal Services, was part of a team of lawyers involved in a landmark settlement with the NYC Department of Education to put an end to unnecessary and harmful practices of escalating conflicts with students’ emotional, behavioral, and psychiatric episodes by sending them to the emergency room.

Glenn Magpantay received the 2015 Haywood Burns Memorial Award, given by the New York State Bar Association at their Annual Meeting, for his work in voting rights and empowering the powerless.

Rosemary Yu, Prosecutors Committee Co-Chair and Co-Director of the Immigrant Affairs Program at the New York County District Attorney’s Office, for receiving the Lifetime Community Service Award from the New York Police Department’s Asian Jade Society for her exemplary work in service of the immigrant and Chinatown community.

Past President Glenn Lau-Kee was jointly honored by NYCLA and AABANY this past summer. From left to right: Lew Tesser, Margaret Ling, Clara Ohr, Yang Chen, and Glenn Lau-Kee.


Judge Doris Ling-Cohan during her May 3rd Press Conference in Chinatown announcing her elevation to New York Appellate Term, First Department.
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Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Korean American League for Community Action
Legal Services NYC
MiniKwon Center for Community Action
The Membership Committee, chaired by the Membership Secretary, develops recommendations for programs and services that will meet the needs of the current membership and encourage new members to join AABANY.

In 2014, the Committee kicked off the year with the successful completion of its “March to 1,000” Membership Campaign. This significant milestone was recognized at the Annual Dinner where AABANY celebrated 25 years of progress and growth and the achievement of exceeding 1,000 paying members. On April 10, 2014, the Committee hosted an event to celebrate its growing membership and to welcome new members to the organization.

Presently, AABANY has more than 1,100 active, dues-paying members. Of the total membership, 24.3 percent identified themselves as lawyers in the private sector and 12.3 percent as lawyers in the public sector. Law students comprise 20.1 percent of the total membership. Compared to 2013, AABANY’s membership grew by approximately 18.2 percent.

The Committee dedicated its efforts this year to developing a formal strategic plan that identifies several new initiatives to increase membership and streamline the administrative process of maintaining AABANY’s large membership roster. The Committee also conducted a benchmarking review of other peer organizations and presented bylaws recommendations pertaining to membership categories and annual fees to the Board. These were approved and will go into effect as of February 13, 2015.

The Committee continues to co-sponsor the “Get-to-Know AABANY” networking series that focuses on increasing membership by promoting selected committees every year. In 2014, the Committee hosted two Get-to-Know AABANY events, which featured the Student Outreach Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, and Mentorship Program in July at the Rubin Museum and the Intellectual Property, Pro Bono & Community Service, and Student Outreach Committees in August at Barn Joo. The Committee plans to host a third event in late March.

In addition, the Committee focused on providing targeted workshops and programs for its membership. This year, the Committee co-sponsored the “Get On Track” Series with the Young Lawyers and Career Placement Committees, which consisted of two well-attended panels that respectively discussed the partnership track and alternative careers for lawyers. The Committee looks forward to growing the organization’s membership base and to improving the membership experience for both current and prospective members.

Irene Tan, Membership Secretary

Jane Chuang, Treasurer

In 2014, with the help of our sponsors, members and other supporters, we increased our membership roll, added new committees and offered a diverse slate of programming to empower and unite our community. These efforts have enabled us to maintain our reserves and expand our budget, as reflected in the state of our treasury.

For the 2014 fiscal year, the Board approved a general operational budget of approximately $570,000.00. With this budget, AABANY hired an additional staff member (our new Program Associate Simone Nguyen), expanded the number of its committees, focused on enhancing its signature events and funded numerous CLEs and other events.

As of February 4, 2015, our investment account balance is $383,113.38 and our operating account balance is $177,312.49. Our Investment Manager Kai Chong Cheng of Merrill Lynch’s Private Wealth Management Group has invested AABANY’s funds in accordance with the conservative approach set forth in AABANY’s Investment Policy. For 2014, AABANY’s total performance return (including cash and investments) was 0.30%.

We thank you for your help and involvement this year and hope you will continue to join us in our efforts to chart new frontiers next year.
YEAR IN REVIEW

True to our theme of Empowering Progress and Unity, 2014 marked yet another year of tremendous growth and energetic activity for AABANY. Thanks to the generous efforts of our friends and members, we were able to engage the AABANY community and the community at large, collaborating with bar associations and community partners to present our premier flagship events, educational panels and CLE programs, to perform community outreach, and to provide social and networking opportunities.

This year, we were pleased to announce the formation of three new Committees: the LGBT Committee, the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Tax Committee. The Litigation Committee formed and appointed a chair for a new ADR Sub-Committee. More details about these committees appear in the Committee Reports. Our AABANY administrative family also grew with the addition of a full-time Program Associate.

AABANY granted a posthumous membership to Hong Yen Chang, first Chinese immigrant admitted to any bar in the United States, in support of UC Davis’ APALSA’s efforts to posthumously admit him to the California State Bar, where he was denied admission in 1887 due to his race and lack of United States citizenship.

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, AABANY revised its by-laws to change the fiscal year, so our fiscal year 2014 ends on March 31, 2015. Upcoming noteworthy events in February and March 2015 include several events and panels run by our various committees, such as the Tax Committee’s 2015 Kickoff Event and Women’s Committee ‘Kicking Glass’ Video Project. We look forward to our Annual Meeting, which takes place on February 12, 2015, where we will be holding our elections as well as voting on changes to the AABANY bylaws. On February 25, 2015, we will be celebrating our 26th Anniversary Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street, at which we will be introducing our theme for next year: Charting New Frontiers.

Below are some highlights from 2014 that illustrate how AABANY empowered progress and unity in the APA legal community and beyond.

DON H. LIU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Among notable accomplishments in 2014 was the tremendous growth of the Don H. Liu Scholarship Fund, announced at last year’s Annual Dinner. The Don H. Liu Scholarship Program focuses on developing a pipeline for Asian Pacific American lawyers, and seeks to identify and cultivate future leaders. Each Don H. Liu Scholar will receive:

- A financial scholarship of $15,000;
- Access to numerous AABANY programs;
- Opportunities for summer employment and internships; and
- Mentoring, guidance and support by the Scholarship Committee and others throughout his/her law school and legal careers.

The purpose of the Don H. Liu Scholarship Program is to:

- Identify, cultivate and inspire future Asian American leaders of the legal profession;
- Bring together national and local leaders of the Asian American legal community (the “Scholarship Committee”) to select, mentor, guide and support Scholarship recipients throughout their law school and legal careers; and
- Provide financial support during law school to Scholarship recipients.

Scholarships are awarded to first-year law students.
SPECIAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 26, 2014 — On its 25th Anniversary Annual Dinner, AABANY celebrated past and present accomplishments while looking forward to the next quarter-century. See sidebar.

APRIL 10, 2014 — In celebration of reaching our goal of 1,000 paying members by the time of AABANY’s Annual Dinner, the Membership Committee headed by Irene Tan hosted a 1,000 Members Happy Hour at People Kitchen & Lounge, attended by new members and veterans alike. AABANY raffled Yankee tickets, symphony tickets, Beats headphones, and much more to new members.

MAY 15, 2014 — In addition to assisting the Asian American Journalists Association of New York secure currently sitting APA judges on the New York bench to keep score at the event, AABANY participated in AAJA-NY’s biggest fundraiser of the year, The Trivia Bowl. At Broad Street Ballroom in the Financial District, teams of up to ten people from different news organizations and community groups competed in five rounds of 12 questions each. After a tumultuous journey fraught with close calls and second guesses, AABANY almost emerged victorious, but was forced to settle for second place and the chance to try again next year.

JUNE 17, 2014 — The In-House Counsel Committee and Corporate Law Committee held their 7th Annual Winetasting and Networking Reception at La Fonda Del Sol in Midtown Manhattan. As one of AABANY’s premiere events, in-house counsel and corporate attorneys had the opportunity to network over hors d’oeuvres and wine. See the In-House Counsel Committee and Corporate Law Committee Reports.

AABANY 2014 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS TAKE OFFICE

January 28, 2014 — AABANY held its Annual Meeting at Dechert LLP’s New York offices. At the meeting, 2013 President Mike Huang and Executive Director Yang Chen gave an overview of AABANY’s activities in 2013. An election also took place for the offices and directors who took office in April 2014 under President Clara Ohr. The Fiscal Year was changed to end March 31 instead of January 31.

JULY 16, 2014 — NYCLA and AABANY held a Joint Reception for Glenn Lau-Kee, honoring his historical accomplishment of becoming the 117th President of the New York State Bar Association and the first Asian American to hold this position. Representatives from the many organizations Glenn has impacted or been part of shared personal stories of their work with or connection to Glenn. Representatives from Federal, State and City government were on hand to honor Glenn. All of the speakers extolled Glenn for his outstanding record of leadership and status as a significant role model for Asian American, minority and under-represented groups. Glenn urged everyone, especially young lawyers, to get involved in bar associations as a way to develop as lawyers and serve the profession.

AUGUST 16, 2014 — AABANY and KALAGNY joined their Annual Picnics together for the first time to 

25th Anniversary Dinner

February 26, 2014 — On its 25th Anniversary Annual Dinner, AABANY celebrated past and present accomplishments while looking forward to the next quarter-century. Over 850 attendees gathered for a joyous evening at Cipriani Wall Street, a new record. With about 30 honorees from past annual dinners in attendance, the AABANY community offered warm congratulations to this year’s recipients: AALDEF, recipient of the Public Advocacy Award; Randal Milch, GC of Verizon, recipient of the Corporate Counsel Leadership Award; and Vernon Jordan, recipient of the 14 (Icon, Ideals, Impact, Inspiration) Leadership Award. Julie Kwon, our Mentorship Program Coordinator; won the AABANY MVP award. Mike Huang, in his Outgoing President’s Speech, publicly announced the Don Liu Scholarship Program to award career-long mentorship and a financial scholarship of $15,000 each to one or more Asian Pacific American law students. AABANY was pleased to be joined by federal and state court judges, bar association leaders, representatives of elected officials and dignitaries, attorneys from large and small firms, corporate law departments, prosecutors’ offices, and government agencies, and law students. MSNBC news anchor Richard Lui once again served as our MC.

6th Annual Prosecutors Reception

June 18, 2014 — The Prosecutors’ Committee celebrated its 6th Annual Prosecutors’ Reception at the New York County Lawyers Association with over 100 prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and friends in attendance. The Committee was pleased to honor two Asian American women trailblazers in law enforcement: Wen Ting Cheng, NY ICE Chief Counsel, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Belle Chen, Assistant Special Agent in Charge NY FBI, U.S. Department of Justice. Some of the city’s best prosecutors and law enforcement agents gathered to honor their fellow colleagues. US Attorney Preet Bharara, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson, Richmond County District Attorney Daniel Donovan, New York County District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan and Queens Executive Assistant District Attorney Jesse Sligh also attended and delivered uplifting and inspiring remarks. Each speaker delved into the importance of having a diverse staff, one that reflected the community of which they had dedicated their lives to serving. We were also grateful that Hon. Pamela Chen, Hon. Doris Ling Cohan and Hon. Gilbert Hong were among the dignitaries to join us for this occasion.
At our Annual Meeting at Dechert, we elected the incoming Board Members and said goodbye to our outgoing members! Pictured here: Will Ng, Jean Lee, Naf Kwun, Rob Leung, James Chou, James Yu, Dev Sen, Mike Huang, Pauline Yeung-Ha, Bobby Liu, Jane Chuang, Clara Ohr, Karen Lim, Will Wang, Irene Tan, Steve Chung, Francis Chin, Yang Chen, and Vinoo Varghese.

great success. Additional firsts for an AABANY picnic: banh mi sandwiches (versus a 6-foot sub) and bocce ball (versus tug of war and chubby bunny). Friends and family from AABANY and KALAGNY alike met in Central Park by the Diana Ross playground for a day of leisure. Members, friends, family (and even a pet) from both AABANY and KALAGNY were present. The picnic ran from noon until about 5 pm, and included some sixty attendees at its peak. See Litigation Committee and Young Lawyers Committee Reports for more.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2014 — AABANY and the Asian American Law Fund of New York (AALFNY) hosted an exclusive In-House Counsel/Partners dinner at Vermilion in Midtown Manhattan to raise funds for the Don H. Liu Scholarship Program. During his address, Don spoke about his personal journey as an attorney and what this scholarship opportunity means for future Asian Pacific American law students – a unique answer to the troubling question of Asian American advancement in the law. The proceeds from the dinner helped the program to exceed its fundraising goals for the year.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 — With over 260 people in attendance for our Fall Conference 2014: Empowering Progress and Unity hosted at Morgan Lewis, the full day of CLE programs and Trial Advocacy Program (hosted at Alston & Bird LLP) were highly informative, productive, and engaging with something for everyone. See sidebar on page 14.

OCTOBER 18, 2014 — As part of the recently opened “Chinese American Inclusion/Exclusion” exhibit at the New York Historical Society, AABANY performed a shortened version of its highly engaging “22 Lewd Chinese Women” Trial Reenactment, led again by Hon. Denny Chin. In yet another performance of this popular trial reenactment since the 2013 NAPABA Convention, we examined important issues of immigration, federalism, human trafficking, and civil rights in the case of *Chy Lung v. Freeman* via performance, narration, discussion, and photography. Following the shortened version of the script, Hon. Denny Chin, Kathy Hirata Chin, Vince Chang, and David Weinberg led a discussion about the historical impact of anti-Asian discrimination and the unknown fate of the 22 Chinese women, exposing the many ironies of the case, including the fact that the women had indeed won their freedom in court and yet were still probably forced into lives of prostitution. The audience did not consist primarily of lawyers and the program was recorded for later broadcast on New York Historical Society’s website and podcast, showing the widespread impact of the case not just in the legal community, but the community at large.

NOVEMBER 6-9, 2014 — Many AABANY members and leaders spoke on or served as moderators or program chairs for various NAPABA and NAPALSA panels, during NAPABA’s Annual Convention: Convergence, held in Scottsdale, Arizona. The AABANY Re-enactment Team, led by Hon. Denny Chin, Kathy Hirata Chin and Vincent Chang, performed “Justice Denied: Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio” to a capacity room. AABANY member Ivy Suriyopas, Director of AALDEF’s Anti-Trafficking Initiative, was honored among the recipients of NAPABA’s Best Under 40 awards. AABANY members Lawson Huyhn and Kristina Lee of St. John’s University School of Law argued their way through several rounds of the Thomas Tang Moot Court competition, finishing second in the nation, winning top brief.
From left to right: Immediate Past President Mike Huang, President Clara Ohr, Board Director Karen Lim, Executive Director Yang Chen, and NAPABA Northeast Governor Judy Kim at the VIP Reception at the 25th Anniversary Annual Dinner. Photograph by Dick Kranzler.

AABANY Members on the KALCA Public Interest: Law Panel shed some light on how you can use the law in service of others. Photograph by Kevin Wong.

Fall Conference

September 20, 2014 — With over 260 people in attendance for our Fall Conference 2014: Empowering Progress and Unity hosted at Morgan Lewis, the full day of CLE programs and Trial Advocacy Program (hosted at Alston & Bird LLP) were highly informative, productive, and engaging with something for everyone. We had panels addressing topics from Asian Americans in the Civil Rights Movement to How to Make it Rain and Keep It Raining. The invite-only In-House Counsel and Judicial Forums provided environments for open and candid discussion. We were honored to present the inaugural Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award to Hon. Marilyn Go (EDNY) and the inaugural Law Firm Diversity Award to Perkins Coie LLP. Helen Wan spoke about her book *The Partner Track*, recently released in paperback, and of Asian Americans in law navigating the corporate world. We were happy to welcome over 185 attendees at the Cocktail Reception hosted one block away at Park Avenue Tavern. This year, there were five Committee Dinners hosted: Government Service & Public Interest Committee, Litigation Committee, Labor and Employment Law Committee, and Young Lawyers Committee’s dinner at Aperitivo; In-House Counsel Committee’s dinner at Izakaya NoMad; Real Estate Committee and Small & Solo Firm Practice Committee’s dinner at Clino; Intellectual Property Committee’s dinner at Radiance Tea House and Fine Asian Cuisine; and Tax Committee’s and Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring Committee’s dinner at Capital Grille.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May 16, 2014 — Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP hosted a Diversity Luncheon and Book Discussion for AABANY member Helen Wan on *The Partner Track*, currently in its second printing since being published last September, interviewed by Executive Director Yang Chen. As a former corporate lawyer herself, she drew from her own experiences as a natural introvert navigating relatively uncharted waters to create protagonist Ingrid Yung, a female Chinese American lawyer working at fictional corporate law firm Parsons Valentine LLP. Helen advises young associates of color to learn the unwritten rules of corporate culture early, and in fact, *The Partner Track* has become the guidebook that she and so many others desperately needed.

May 20, 2014 — AABANY had the privilege to host a Reception for Judge Pamela K. Chen, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, with the Kings County District Attorney’s Office. D.A. Kenneth Thompson presented a citation to Judge Chen. In her remarks, she shared her thoughts about the importance of promoting and celebrating diversity in our society, and the role of the judiciary in advancing the values embraced by diversity. She read from Justice Sotomayor’s dissent in the United States Supreme Court decision in *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, reminding us why race matters and matters still.

May 21, 2014 — Led by Judge Denny Chin, AABANY collaborated for the first time with the New York City Bar Association to present a trial re-enactment of “22 Lewd Chinese Women: Chy Lung v. Freeman,” the 1876 case in which a state official determined 22 women on a ship carrying some 600 Chinese passengers to be ‘lewd,’ i.e. prostitutes. The women were not allowed to disembark unless a bond of $500 was paid on each. Legal proceedings ensued, including a four-day trial and appeals reaching the United States Supreme Court, raising issues of immigration, sex trafficking, federalism, and human and civil rights. The reenactment featured a dramatic performance of the trial proceedings, accompanied by narration, illustrated with historic photographs. The re-enactment was videotaped by Planet Depos, one of the event’s sponsors, which also used real-time transcription that appeared on projected screens. New York City Bar made the video available on its website as a CLE program.
On April 28, the AABANY Re-enactment Team met at Baker Hostetler to practice the APA Heritage Month performance at the New York City Bar Association.

From left to right: President-Elect Will Wang, Immediate Past President Mike Huang, Former Board Director Vinoo Varghese, and David Weinberg at the AABANY/NYCBA APA Heritage Month re-enactment on May 21.

During the Kings County APA Heritage Month Celebration, Judge Pamela Chen read from Justice Sotomayor’s dissent in Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action: “Race matters because of the slights, the snickers, the silent judgments that reinforce that most crippling of thoughts: ‘I do not belong here.’”

Executive Director Yang Chen interviewed Helen Wan on her book at Cleary Gottlieb during APA Heritage Month.

The “22 Lewd Chinese Women” AABANY/NYCBA re-enactment team after their successful performance on May 21.

Among our cast of “lewd women” at the AABANY/NYCBA re-enactment for APA Heritage Month were Board Director Linda Lin (far left) and Litigation Committee Co-Chair Connie Montoya (far right).
**MARCH 8, 2014** — At the Third Annual Columbia Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, “On the Shoulders of Giants: New Horizons for Asian Americans in Law and Politics,” AABANY Immediate Past President Mike Huang, President Clara Ohr, and Board Member Karen Lim, joined Helen Wan (author, *The Partner Track*) and Vivia Chen (blogger, The Careerist) on a panel entitled “Navigating the Career Ladder: Professional Development Strategies for Asian American Attorneys.” The event focused on Immigration Reform, Minority Identity, and Professional Development. The keynote speaker was former New York City Comptroller John Liu.

**MARCH 25, 2014** AABANY co-sponsored the New York State Bar Association’s “Achieving Diversity in the ADR Field: Overcoming Old Challenges and Seeking New Opportunities.” A panel of renowned ADR providers, scholars, and administrators discussed their practices for recruiting and selecting neutrals, the efforts they have undertaken to diversify their rosters of neutrals, and their efforts to further expose the users of their ADR services to racially and ethnically diverse panels of arbitrators and mediators. Another panel, moderated by AABANY member Theo Cheng, and comprising distinguished ADR neutrals, provided perspectives on how to navigate a successful career as a neutral; recommended specific networking, marketing, and promotional activities; discussed how best to leverage diversity issues; and provided practical tips for increasing the opportunities for being selected as a neutral. Finally, there was a discussion about strategies for addressing cross-cultural issues in dispute resolution, followed by a networking reception.

**MARCH 30, 2014** — Along with the Coalition for Asian American Children & Families, AABANY co-sponsored “An Endangered Species – The NYC Department of Education’s Specialized High Schools Admissions Test: Perspectives from the Asian American Community,” organized by AABANY members Chris Kwok and Nelson Mar. At the Flushing Library, members of the Asian American and Specialized High Schools (SHS) community, including education activists, SHS alum, parents, and students, met to address the NAACP complaint leveled against the single test criteria for admission to the NYC high-performing Specialized High Schools, backed by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. This discussion brought together the community by giving voice to all sides of the argument and illuminating the depth of the issue in New York public schools.

**APRIL 1, 2014** — In his “Uncovering Talent: The Case of Asian Americans,” part of the 14th Annual Korematsu Lecture Series, presented by the NYU Asian-Pacific American Law Students Association, Chief Justice Earl Warren Professor of Constitutional Law Kenji Yoshino described the phenomenon of ‘covering,’ discussed at length in his first book, *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights.* The Korematsu Lecture Series, since 2000, has recognized Asian Americans whose work challenges legal boundaries and serves as an inspiration to all people of color. AABANY has been featured as part of this lecture series and continues to support all partners involved in making the education and access to Asian American history possible.

**APRIL 29, 2014** — The Asian American Judges Association of New York held a panel on “How to Become a State Court Judge, from the APA Perspective.” Hon. Doris Ling Cohan served as moderator. On the panel were the Hon. Lillian Wan, Hon. Gilbert Hong and Hon. John Lansdell. All the judges present spoke about their individual paths to the judiciary and the challenges encountered along the way. Judge Ling Cohan posed questions to the panelists about the process of becoming a judge and how those who aspire to become judges can navigate their careers to reach their goal.

**JUNE 5, 2014** — At “Why Choose International Arbitration?” our co-hosted CLE and reception with Alston Bird, AABANY member Lou Russo moderated panelists Micheleina Hallie (Viacon, Inc.), Suzanne Ulicny (ICC International Court of Arbitration), John D. Roesser (Alston & Bird LLP), and AABANY member Charles Yoon (Yoon & Kim LLP). The panel emphasized the importance of keeping in mind possible conflicts in the midst of celebrating a closed deal. “Why Choose International Arbitration?” discussed international courts, choosing international arbitration as an alternative to time-consuming litigation, and effective arbitration clauses.

**JULY 23, 2014** — The Korean American League for Civic Action held a Law Career Panel, as part of their Public Interest Panel Series, at Kobre & Kim, LLP followed by a short networking session. Former Recording Secretary of AABANY Karen Kim moderated the panel consisting of the Honorable Gilbert C. Hong (New York Criminal Court, Kings County), Jane C. Kim (Deputy Bureau Chief, Crime Strategies Unit at the King’s County DA’s Office), AABANY Labor and Employment Law Committee Co-Chair Christopher Kwok (United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), AABANY In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair Austin So (Associate General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Heraeus), Jihee Suh (Assistant Attorney General, NYS Office of Attorney General), and Jimmy Yan (Chief Deputy General Counsel, Office of NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer). Panelists expressed the need to expand one’s network, pursue risks, and challenge the convention that there is only one set method of success in the profession. The panelists shared that true success happens when a successful attorney helps the advancement of others in reaching success in their careers. Judy Kim, former AABANY Membership Secretary and NAPABA North-east Regional Governor, organized this panel.

**DECEMBER 15, 2014** — AABANY took part in the Historical Society of New York Courts’ Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Program entitled “Asian Americans and the Law: New York Pioneers in the Judiciary,” with an audience of over 300 attendees. The program was preceded by a reception at which most of the currently sitting APA judges in New York were in attendance. In addition to the APA judges, leaders from AABANY, KALAGNY, SABANY and FALANY were present at the reception. Judge Denny Chin and Kathy Hirata Chin presented a history of Asian Americans and the law, touching on four seminal cases that helped shape not only the Asian American experience but also the legal landscape of America. The cases were subjects of trial re-enactments that Judge Chin and Kathy Chin spearheaded for AABANY. They discussed the following cases: *Chy Lung v. Freeman* ("22 Lued Chinese Women"), Heart Mountain, Tokyo Rose and Vincent Chin. The presentation was accompanied by a slideshow of historic images, many of them reflecting the racism and anti-Asian sentiment that was prevalent at the time. After the presentation, Judge Chin led a conversation with three APA pioneers on the New York bench: Hon. Peter Tom (Justice, 1st Dept. Appellate Division),Hon. Randall Eng (Presiding Justice, 2d Dept. Appellate Division), and Hon. Dorothy Chin-Brandt (Justice, New York Supreme Court, Queens Co.). The lively and freewheeling discussion chronicled the trailblazing careers of each judge, showing the great strides each made for Asian Americans in the law and the judiciary, providing strong inspiration for those who would follow the paths they cut for future generations.
COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

MARCH 1, 2014 — In conjunction with the MinKwon Center and Open Hands Legal Services, AABANY members provided free legal assistance in immigration matters in Manhattan Chinatown. A total of 26 walk-in and by-appointment members of the community were able to find and seek support from the free legal clinic.

MAY 1, 2014 — AABANY was pleased and privileged to be part of a special screening of “Documented: A Film by an Undocumented American” at the Asia Society. Jose Antonio Vargas, the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who revealed in a 2011 essay in the New York Times Magazine that he was undocumented, created a moving, powerful, poignant and thought-provoking film following him in his public and personal struggle with the aftermath of his coming out as an undocumented American.

MAY 3, 2014 — Community groups in Chinatown gathered at Hok Shan Association on Mott Street for a Press Conference for Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan’s Appointment to the New York State Appellate Term. Judge Ling-Cohan is the first judge of APA descent in that court. Chinese press and media were out in full force.

MAY 17, 2014 — The Joint Minority Bar Judicial Internship Program 2014 Orientation Program took place at the New York City office of Littler Mendelson, P.C. This year, JMB JIP helped place 27 law students in judicial internships with various federal and state judges/judges in New York. JMB JIP Co-Chair William H. Ng, Labor and Employment Law Committee Co-Chair and Associate at Littler Mendelson, provided an overview of the New York State and Federal court systems. JMB JIP Founder and Co-Director Linda S. Lin, AABANY Past President and Board Director, then Senior Counsel, Liberty International Underwriters, taught a legal writing and research course entitled “Tackling Assignments Successfully.” The JMB JIP interns also participated in an interactive writing assignment that required them to review, analyze and edit a legal brief. The orientation program concluded with a career panel with current and former law clerks, including AABANY President-Elect William Wang. JMB JIP’s 2014 partners include the Asian American Bar Association of New York, Asian American Law Fund of New York, Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, New York Women’s Bar Association Foundation, Inc., Puerto Rican Bar Association, and South Asian Bar Association of New York.

MAY 31, 2014 — A group of attorneys from Skadden’s Asian Affinity Group volunteered their time as part of the Playground One Restoration Project organized jointly by community partners the Dynasty Project and Apex for Youth. Spearheaded by associate Sunjay Mathews, more than a dozen Skadden attorneys and their family members spent their Saturday morning cleaning up the playground and repainting the basketball courts that are a popular summer destination for local community youth. Former AABANY President and current AALFNY Board Member Alec Chang and AABANY Corporate Law Committee Co-Chair Dwight Yoo were on hand and getting their hands dirty. The project also included the Skadden attorneys getting together to add a new dimension to the basketball court, namely a 3-point line. AABANY member Charles Chen also participated in the project as part of a group of professionals from TAP NY (Taiwanese American Professionals NY). AABANY President-Elect, William Wang, a board member of the Dynasty Project and Apex for Youth volunteer, was among the project’s organizers. The restoration project also included the addition of a community mural by Asian American artist Sahra Vang.

JUNE 6, 2014 — AABANY hosted a table for the 11th Anniversary of the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Program at 60 Centre Street, presented by the Cultural Diversity Committee and the Gender Fairness Committee of the Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County, and the New York County Clerk’s Office. Executive Director Yang Chen, Program Associate Simone Nguyen, and Summer Intern Jules Shackman manned AABANY’s table. To the crowd’s delight, patriotic bagpipes, songs, and a heartfelt remembrance of Caren Aronowitz kicked off the event with ethnic food to follow. AABANY brought food from Nom Wah Tea Parlor (a huge hit!) and took note to order more shrimp rice rolls for next year. Judge Doris Ling-Cohan and her interns shared the first meal from the AABANY table during this joyous event.

JUNE 7, 2014 — AABANY co-sponsored Minkwon Center’s Voter Engagement Training at the Robin Hood Foundation. James Hong (Civic Participation Project Manager for Minkwon Center), Jennifer S. Pae (Project Manager for Voter Service and Education at the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund), and Parag Mehta, (Communications Director for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs) led an audience of over 20 people through Civic Engagement and Political Organizing Training. They shared their own experiences to speak more broadly on the marginalization, erasure, and social and political issues affecting Asian Americans. In addition to complicating the “model minority” myth, they illuminated the importance of Asian Americans as a political force, emphasizing the need to make our voices heard by organizing and voting in our interests.

JUNE 16, 2014 — AALFNY and AABANY held its Annual Summer Reception at Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP. The Summer Reception featured networking over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres followed by presentations of the AALFNY scholarships and JMB JIP internship stipends. L. Lynnette Sarno, AALFNY President, spoke of AALFNY’s history and goals and presented the AALFNY Community Service Scholarship awards and AALFNY/SABANY scholarship. Linda Lin, Co-Chair of the JMB JIP and Director on both AALFNY and AABANY Boards, spoke of JMB JIP’s history and goals and presented the JMB JIP stipends to eligible Judicial Interns. Clara Dhir, President of AABANY, then spoke of the Don H. Liu Scholarship Program for rising 1Ls, designed to seek out and cultivate future APA leaders.
in the legal profession.

**OCTOBER 15, 16, and 28, 2014** — AABANY was proud to yet again partner with AALDEF as a co-sponsor for Poll Monitoring Training Sessions. In past elections, Asian Americans have faced a series of barriers in exercising their right to vote. When the news media reported on election results, Asian Americans were overlooked. In response, AALDEF along with several partners will monitor the elections for bilingual ballots under the federal Voting Rights Act and to document instances of anti-Asian voter disenfranchisement. At the Poll Monitoring Training Sessions, volunteers will be learning to monitor elections and conduct non-partisan voter surveys in Asian American neighborhoods. Attorneys can receive 1.5 CLE credits, including .5 ethics credit, and are required to work a 3-hour shift.

**JANUARY 16, 2015** — The Joint Minority Bar Judicial Internship, of which AABANY has proudly been a part of for many years, solicited applications from law students of color for the 2015 Summer Program. JMB JIP was founded in 2010 to offer law students with a strong commitment to diversity an opportunity to enhance and complement their legal education as summer judicial interns in New York area courthouses. Judicial internships are exceptional learning opportunities that offer tremendous insight into the process of judicial decision-making, as well as an opportunity to strengthen analytic and legal writing skills. Each year, JMB JIP partners with various bar associations to offer the program, providing a stipend to eligible interns, in a position that traditionally has been unpaid.

**JUNE 5, 2014** — Held in conjunction with Advisory Committee’s first meeting of fiscal year 2014, AABANY hosted a Welcome Dinner at Pampano as part of NAPABA’s In-House Counsel Summit. The evening included a cocktail reception followed by a delicious dinner. The meeting included remarks from Simone Wu and Alan Tse, Co-Chairs of NAPABA’s In-House Counsel Committee. Clara Ohr, AABANY President, spoke about the status of 2014 initiatives and activities, Gurinder Singh, AABANY Vice President of Programs and Operations, discussed upcoming AABANY events, and Don Liu asked for support for the Don H. Liu Scholarship Program, designed to seek out and cultivate future APA leaders in the legal profession. AABANY Past President Jean Lee organized outstanding professional advancement opportunities for those who attended the invite-only In-House Counsel Summit on the following day.

**JULY 1, 2014** — AABANY held its Annual Summer Reception and July Board Meeting at Kenyon & Kenyon LLP. More than 70 AABANY members, board officers and directors, committee chairs, staff, and guests met friends old and new over a delectable assortment of food, wine, and refreshments graciously provided by the firm. AABANY members filled both reception rooms and balconies on the top floor, with a beautiful (and windy) view of Battery Park and the Bay stretched out before us.

**DECEMBER 10, 2014** — AABANY held its Annual Holiday Party at Smithfield NYC. With over 100 people, many gathered to kickoff the holiday season, catch up with old friends, make new friends, and enjoy some good food and drinks. Our members and friends looked absolutely spectacular, and it was a much-needed and informal retreat during the hectic holidays.
AABANY does its work through its many committees. Below is a current list of committees and email addresses to reach the various committee chairs. Each chair is appointed by the President to serve one-year terms.

Committee Reports from various active committees follow, detailing their events and programs during FY 2014.

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ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Sarah Seo and Linda Lin

The Academic Committee’s mission is to serve AABANY members in legal academia and to foster greater interaction between the legal academia and practicing attorneys.

The Academic Committee also strives to encourage Asian American law students to consider careers in law teaching, to offer assistance to those going on the job market, and to provide a support network for Asian Americans in legal academia. To meet these goals, the Committee is planning to host an end-of-the-year mixer that brings together Asian American law students and academics for socializing and networking.

The Academic Committee also oversees the publication of the AABANY Law Review. The Law Review is designed to act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and to inspire scholarly debate on matters of concern to the APA community. It also provides a means through which AABANY members and friends can publish scholarly works and law students can gain valuable journal experience. The next issue of the AABANY Law Review will be the Second Special Edition slated for publication in late 2015 and will include annotated scripts of AABANY’s historical trial reenactments led by Hon. Denny Chin, US Circuit Judge, Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Please visit www.aabanylawreview.org for more information.
AUDIT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Karen Lim and Susan Shin

According to AABANY’s bylaws, the duties of the Audit Committee shall be to:

i. supervise the financial affairs of the Association;
ii. annually prepare for submission to the Board a proposed income and expense budget of all activities of the Association for the Fiscal Year;
iii. meet with the Treasurer to discuss and review the system of internal controls and procedures;
iv. recommend to the Board the selection of independent auditors of the Association for the Fiscal Year;
v. meet with the Association’s independent auditors to discuss the scope of the annual examination;
vi. review the annual report from the Association’s independent auditors and any reports on any material recommendations made concerning management of funds or recommendations on internal control and recommend to the Board what actions should be taken with respect thereto;
vii. review with such auditors any material questions or problems with respect to accounting records, procedures or operations of the Association that have not been resolved to their satisfaction after having been brought to the attention of management and recommend to the Board what actions should be taken with respect thereto;
viii. review and recommend to the Board investments for the Association’s assets;
ix. regularly review the existing investments of the Association’s assets and recommend to the Board whether such investments should be terminated and recommend to the Board possible new investments for such assets;
x. report to the Membership at the Annual Meeting the status of all investments of the Associations; and
xi. perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

The Audit Committee, consisting of members Karen Lim, Susan Shin, Bobby Liu, Jane Chuang, Yang Chen, and Clara Ohr, oversaw review of AABANY’s 2014 Form 990 tax filing. The Audit Committee drafted a conflict-of-interest policy to comply with New York not-for-profit law. It will also oversee the partial-year “stub filing” in 2015 to account for the shift in AABANY’s fiscal year (approved in 2014) from a February 1st to an April 1st start.
The mission of AABANY’s Awards Committee is to seek out opportunities for our members and friends to be recognized for their exemplary work and leadership in the APA legal community and communities it serves. In addition to seeking out opportunities for our members to be recognized, the Awards Committee advocates and offers full support to our members during the nomination process. Identifying the need for APA leaders in our community to be recognized for their achievements and contributions, the Awards Committee is committed to raising the profile of APA attorneys whose work and service have made a meaningful impact.
CAREER PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Marianne Chow, Robert Leung, and Michael Park

The Career Placement Committee runs the AABANY Career Exchange, which serves as a clearinghouse for all legal positions brought to its attention and proactively seeks to match qualified AABANY candidates with such open positions. AABANY members who are aware of open legal positions or who are actively seeking or considering seeking a new position are encouraged to contact one of the Career Placement Committee co-chairs.

In addition, the Career Placement Committee conducted several well-attended programs that focused on different aspects of career development.

On September 11, 2014 the Career Placement Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, and Membership Committee hosted Part I of the “Getting on Track” Series: Getting on the Partnership Track, at Dechert LLP. Attendees were reminded of the reality that becoming partner is much more than working hard, being responsive, and getting things right. The candid roundtable discussion addressed the political landscape of the partner-track for Asian Pacific Americans, the value of business-building, and judgment calls a person has to make when he or she prioritizes his or her legal career. With about 30 people in attendance, Board Director Steve Chung (Vice President, NBC Universal Media LLC) humorously and expertly moderated four unique and talented panelists: Terrence Shen, Corporate Partner, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP; Litigation Committee Co-Chair Concepcion Montoya, Litigation Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Board Director Karen Lim, IP Partner, Fross, Zelnick, Lehrman & Zissu, PC; and Board Director and Past President Robert Leung, Corporate Partner, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP. The program chair and moderator for this discussion was Duane Morikawa, Co-Chair of the In-House Counsel Committee and Director & Senior Counsel, Natixis North America, LLC.

Finally, on February 4, 2015, the Career Placement Committee, Young Lawyers Committee and Membership Committee hosted Part II of the “Getting on Track” Series: Switching Tracks: Alternative Careers for Lawyers, at Dechert LLP. “You can do anything with a law degree,” is the oft-repeated statement that many hear in law school and in the workplace. What really happens when you no longer want to practice law? What are your options? This 60-minute roundtable discussion included a panel of former attorneys offering candid advice to the audience on what it takes to make the transition from a legal to a non-practicing or a non-legal career. The panelists included Chia Kang, Senior Lateral Legal Recruiting Coordinator at Ropes & Gray LLP; David Lat, Founder and Managing Editor, AboveTheLaw.com; Author, Supreme Ambitions: A Novel; Peter Kim, Executive Director of Museum of Food and Drink and John Schowengerdt, Senior VP-Ethics Officer at Citibank. The moderator for this discussion was Gurinder Singh, Founder and CEO at Lean Lex.

On September 20, 2014 the Committee, together with the In-House Counsel Committee hosted “Navigating an In-House Career” at AABANY’s 5th Annual Fall Conference. This program focused on issues related to training and experience prior to going in-house, the transition from law firm to in-house, requirements and qualifications for in-house counsel, non-legal skills to develop once in-house and advancement. Panelists included Austin So, Associate General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Hearsus Incorporated; Susan Moon, Vice President in the Global Legal Team at Wyndham Worldwide Co.; Prasanth R. Akkapeddi, Associate General Counsel, McGraw Hill Financial, Inc. and Sarah G. Marshall, Esq., Managing Director, The PeterSan Group. The Program Chair and Moderator for this discussion was Karen Lim, Co-Chair of the In-House Counsel Committee and Director & Senior Counsel, Natixis North America, LLC.
COMMERCIAL BANKRUPTCY AND
RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Lige Gu, Vince Roldan, and Jessica Liou

At the start of the 2014 fiscal year, the Bankruptcy Committee welcomed Jessica Liou, a restructuring senior associate at Weil Gotshal & Manges, as committee co-chair.

The Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring Committee was formed in order to raise awareness of bankruptcy related issues to non-bankruptcy practitioners, as well as provide networking opportunities for APA bankruptcy/ restructuring professionals.

In 2014, its second year as a committee, the Bankruptcy Committee continued to further those goals. In September 2014, the Bankruptcy Committee partnered with the AABANY Corporate Law Committee and sponsored a CLE program at the AABANY Fall Conference entitled “Debt Restructuring Master Class.” The panelists were experts in the field of capital markets, distressed investing, and debt restructuring, including hedge fund general counsel (David Hong, Associate General Counsel at King Street Capital Management and Hugh Hill, General Counsel at Southport Lane), as well as attorneys / AABANY committee chairs (Lawrence Wee, Partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP and co-chair of the AABANY Corporate Law Committee and Vincent Roldan, Partner at Ballon Stoll Bader & Nadler PC and co-chair of the AABANY Bankruptcy Committee). At this CLE program, the panelists discussed in an interactive point-counterpoint format how debt documents are not only heavily negotiated but are also the subject of high-stakes restructuring and litigation.

Bankruptcy Committee also collaborated with the Tax Committee and organized a dinner after the AABANY Fall Conference at Capital Grille in midtown. This dinner was a success, and members of both committees dined together as well as with in-house counsel. The dinner was generously sponsored by Donlin Recano & Co., Epiq Systems, and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

In the meantime, the Bankruptcy Committee has been busy planning new events for 2015. As always, we welcome and encourage new and existing members to join our committee and share with us their experiences, feedback, and ideas.

Please feel free to contact us at

• ligeu.gu@aabany.org
• jessica.liou@aabany.org
• vincent.roldan@aabany.org

The Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring Committee teamed up with the Tax Committee to host a delicious Fall Conference dinner at the Capital Grille, sponsored by Epiq.
The Compensation Committee annually reviews the salary, bonus (if any, based on performance) and benefits that AABANY provides to its staff and makes necessary recommendations, if any. It will be the Committee’s responsibility to review and recommend to the Board any salary or benefits for new staff hires. This year, we had a full review of the employee benefits and were able to improve the quality of benefits offered to employees while saving 27% on costs to AABANY. We also reviewed employee efficiencies and were able to fix costs.

In addition to reviewing salary and benefits, the Committee is working on developing human resources policies such as paid time off, sick days, employee grievance, to name a few, to ensure best practices as AABANY grows. Another project we are discussing is developing a clear description of employee roles and responsibilities to cross-train staff. We are developing policies to ensure all staff knows each other’s roles and responsibilities to ensure no gaps. Our goal is to have all of these policies finalized in 2015.

The Compensation Committee meets at least once a month to discuss all of the above-mentioned items and is comprised of Jean Lee, James Lin and Pauline Yeung-Ha. Naf Kwun serves as recording secretary for all our meetings to ensure decisions are captured and saved for record-keeping purposes. Clara Ohr (President) and Mike Huang (Immediate Past President) served as a resource for this committee to ensure we had all of the necessary information to make appropriate compensation decisions and to make recommendations to the Board for approval.
COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Lawrence Wee, Dwight Yoo, and Charlotte Kim

AABANY’s Corporate Law Committee consists of attorneys and law students who are interested in sharing their ideas and experiences with respect to the practice of corporate law as well as a variety of issues facing Asian Pacific Islander American (APA) lawyers practicing corporate law, through conferences, panel discussions, continuing legal education (CLE) classes and social networking and volunteering events. Our goal is to establish a forum in which our members can exchange ideas with and learn from one another, and we seek to help our members establish stronger relationships with other APA lawyers and law students in the New York region. The Co-Chairs of the Committee for 2014-2015 were Charlotte Kim (Partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati), Lawrence Wee (Partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP) and Dwight Yoo (Partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP).

On June 17, 2014, the In-House Counsel Committee and Corporate Law Committee held their 7th Annual Winetasting and Networking Reception at La Fonda Del Sol in Midtown Manhattan. Blossom Kan and Austin So, Co-Chairs of the In-House Counsel Committee, kicked off the invitation-only event by welcoming all the attendees and introducing the Co-Chairs of the Corporate Law Committee. Following the welcomes, Clara Ohr, the AABANY President, introduced and thanked all the sponsors for the event, especially the anchor sponsors, Planet Depos and Summit Financial Printing. As one of AABANY’s premier events, in-house counsel and corporate attorneys had the opportunity to network over hors d’oeuvres and wine. The event featured an evening of wine, tapas, paella and extensive networking opportunities. Many prestigious legal departments and General Counsel, including Don Liu (General Counsel of Xerox), Farkin Lee (Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer of Rockefeller Group), Bobby Liu (Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel of M.D. Sass), Vernon Chu (General Counsel of BBC Worldwide Americas) and Michael Yap (Chief Legal Officer, International Investments of Prudential), attended the event. The event was met with
overwhelmingly positive feedback and has become one of AABANY’s signature events connecting a broad community of lawyers and vendors.

At the AABANY Annual Fall Conference, the Committee once again worked with the In-House Counsel Committee to organize the second annual Law Firm/In-House Pitch Sessions, which provided law firm participants an opportunity to engage in live pitch sessions to in-house counsel. This year, the Committee and the In-House Counsel Committee introduced a number of innovations to the matching process in an effort to more closely match law firms with in-house counsel based on the practice areas of the firms and the needs of the in-house counsel. The Pitch Sessions provided law firm participants with opportunities for developing business and fostering relationships to develop future business while providing in-house counsel with the opportunity to network with new law firms.

Also at the Fall Conference, the Committee collaborated with the Women’s Committee and the In-House Counsel Committee to host a practical negotiation panel and workshop for APA corporate lawyers, titled “Controlling a Room: Negotiation Strategies for APA Corporate Lawyers.” During the session, the panel, moderated by Jannie Lau (Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of InterDigital, Inc.), consisting of Marianne Chow (Counsel at the Hearst Corporation and Co-Chair of the Women’s Committee), Ellen Ching (senior M&A associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP), Charlotte Kim, Bobby Liu and Lawrence Wee, discussed the importance of negotiation skills and the actual and perceived ability to “control a room” in advancing to partnership at a law firm or to senior positions in in-house legal groups. The panel members also discussed hurdles that APA attorneys often face in a negotiation setting (whether due to cultural differences, stereotypes or other factors) and shared how they have overcome such hurdles and found their own unique “voice” as successful APA attorneys. The panel also provided participants with concrete advice on how, as APA attorneys, they can set the tone and more effectively control a room in a negotiation and get clients what they need. The panel members then participated in a mock negotiation to demonstrate their negotiating styles, with commentary with respect to the how’s and why’s of the negotiating strategies and techniques used, focusing on effective lawyering to get clients what they need. The session was very well-attended and was met with positive feedback.

At the Fall Conference, the Committee also collaborated with the Commercial Bankruptcy and Restructuring Committee to host a panel and discussion, titled “Debt Restructuring Master Class,” dealing with tips and tactics in debt restructurings. The panel for this discussion consisted of Hugh Hill (General Counsel of Southport Lane Management, LLC), David Hong (Associate General Counsel of King Street Capital Management, L.P.), Vincent Roldan (Partner at Ballon Stoll Bader & Nadler, P.C. and Co-Chair of the Commercial Bankruptcy and Restructuring Committee) and Lawrence Wee. The panelists provided participants with an overview of the issues that arise in debt restructurings, practical advice for practitioners and a discussion of “dirty tricks” and traps for the unwary in debt restructurings. This session was also well-attended and received positive feedback.

In November 2014, Committee Co-Chair Dwight Yoo chaired and moderated a panel discussion at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Conference, which was held in Scottsdale, Arizona. The panel discussion, titled “Private Equity-Backed IPOs & Venture Capital Space,” also featured Committee Co-Chair Lawrence Wee, Benjamin Aronovitch (Deputy General Counsel at Taylor Morrison Home Corporation, a sponsor IPO company that was represented by Lawrence Wee) and Clinton Foy (General Partner and Managing Director of CrossCut Ventures). The panel discussion was lively and informative and touched on developments in the venture capital space and various trends in sponsor IPOs, including an in-depth discussion of the “Up-C” structure used by Taylor Morrison and practical tips for in-house counsel for sponsor portfolio companies considering IPOs. Dwight and Larry were happy to help carry the AABANY flag at the Conference, along with the other members of the sizable AABANY contingent.

The Committee looks forward to presenting and sponsoring additional programs in 2015-2016 that it hopes will be relevant and helpful to APA corporate lawyers and law students interested in corporate law practice.
According to AABANY’s bylaws, the Finance Committee shall:

a. supervise the financial affairs of the Association,
b. annually prepare for submission to the Board a proposed income and expense
   budget of all activities of AABANY for the Fiscal Year,
c. review and recommend to the Board investments for AABANY’s assets,
d. regularly review the existing investments of AABANY’s assets and recommend
   to the Board whether such investments should be terminated and recommend
   to the Board new investments for such assets,
e. report to the Membership at the Annual Meeting the status of all investments
   of AABANY and
f. perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

The Finance Committee, consisting of Jane Chuang, Bobby Liu, Yang Chen, and
Clara Ohr, reviewed the third-party discretionary spending budget allocation for
the 2014–2015 Fiscal Year.
GOVERNMENT SERVICE & PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Karen Kithan Yau, Yuslin Hong, and Katrina Goyco

During 2014-15, co-chairs Katrina Goyco, Yuslin Hong, and Karen Kithan Yau continued to bring public interest subjects to Government Service & Public Interest (GSPI) Committee programming, expanded pro bono opportunities to AABANY members, and provided much-needed pro bono representation to low-income Asian Americans and others. It also sought to develop an active membership and a participatory committee culture, and promote an environment in which lawyers in the government service and public interest sector can connect.

During 2014-15, GSPI Committee launched an important initiative, the U-Visa Pro Bono Project, in collaboration with Legal Services NYC, for immigrant victims of domestic violence. Launched in June 2014, spearheaded by the GSPI Committee, with the support of AABANY’s Pro Bono & Community Service (PBSC) Committee, the initiative matched pre-screened survivors of domestic violence with trained pro bono lawyers and law students on the U-Visa application, as well as how to work with victims of abuse. Dozens of AABANY members provided pro bono services. Ten survivors of domestic violence (and counting) got legal representation that they otherwise would not have. For her leadership, co-chair Katrina Goyco was honored as one of Legal Services NYC’s Top 30 Pro Bono Lawyers of 2014. This exciting project continues into 2015, with potential to branch out to other types of immigration matters and other practice areas in the future.

On Wednesday, August 20th, the GSPI Committee joined forces with the PBSC Committee for a wine and cheese reception and information session on AABANY’s exciting public interest projects. On Wednesday, August 20th at the 30Bat156 Art Gallery at Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP, the GSPI Committee joined forces with the PBSC Committee for a wine and cheese reception and information session on AABANY’s exciting public interest projects. Over 60 attorneys and law students attended the event. James Cho spearheaded the organization of this event.

For AABANY’s Fall Conference on September 20th, GSPI Committee organized a discussion panel on “The Civil Rights Movement: APAs Moving Forward,” which pondered the impact of the civil rights movement on the Asian Pacific American (APA) community in the US and the role of APAs in the civil rights movement. The program provided an overview of the historical experience of Asian Pacific Americans in the realm of civil rights, examined changes in Asian American communities over the past generation, the disparities among those communities, as well as broken barriers and uphill challenges still being addressed today. It also discussed the impact of White House Diversity Initiative in shattering glass ceilings and the connections between contemporary issues of civil, social, and economic rights and the Civil Rights movement. Co-chair Karen Yau moderated the panel. Over 20 AABANY members participated. Katrina Goyco, Chris Kwok, and Karen Yau chaired this program.

On September 28, 2014, the community presentation, “Helping Undocumented Youth Who Qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)” provided community members in Sunset Park information on how to apply for a groundbreaking two-year moratorium on deportation and the opportunity to secure a work permit for eligible immigrant youth under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. It was co-sponsored by the Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund, its undocumented pan-Asian American youth group, Revolutionizing Asian American Immigrant Stories on the East Coast (RAISE), New York Immigration Coalition, as well as the Office of Council Member Carlos Menchaca. Members of the Immigration and Nationality Law Committee provided pro bono legal advice to several community members. Katrina Goyco chaired this program.

On November 18, 2014, GSPI Committee, the Racial Justice Project of the Impact Center for the Public Interest and Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) at New York Law School presented the CLE program, “Shattering the Model Minority Myth: Asian Pacific Americans Facing Poverty in NYC.” Moderated by co-chair (and program organizer) Karen Yau, the panel of speakers included representatives from NYC Human Resources Administration, Housing Court, Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Affairs, and MinKwon Center for Community Action. Andrew Scherer, Policy Director of the Impact Center and Joseph Chung, President of the New York Law School’s APALSA, welcomed attendees. During the program, panelists shared their recent experience with Asian Americans facing poverty, challenged the ‘model minority’ myth, and discussed the burgeoning APA population of NYC and their unique needs. More than 40 participants attended the event. The program offered 1.5 CLE credits.

In late March 2015, working with many other Asian American groups, the GSPI Committee will co-host a discussion and social event at the Chinese Inclusion/Exclusion exhibit at the New York Historical Society. Rocky Chin and Toni Kong are organizing this event.

During 2014-15, the GSPI Committee continued to get together during membership meetings, which drew the attendance of a dedicated group of old and new GSPI members, fostering the development of new leadership.

Exciting programs are already being developed for 2015-16. In early April 2015, the GSPI Committee will co-sponsor with Korean American League for Civic Action (KALCA) a discussion forum on the current debate on changing admission criteria for entrance into the NYC Specialized High Schools.

Legal Services NYC’s Pro Bono Volunteer Reception: Past President Sylvia Chin, who made Pro Bono Honor Roll; Pro Bono & Committee Service Committee Co-Chair June Lee, named one of Legal Services Top Staff Attorneys; Program Associate Simone Nguyen; and Government Service & Public Interest Committee Co-Chair Katrina Goyco, Top 30 Pro Bono Lawyer of 2014.
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Rio M. Guerrero, Tsui Yee, and Amanda Bernardo

The Immigration and Nationality Law Committee promotes and advances the interests of APA attorneys who practice immigration and nationality law. Our goal is to provide support and professional development for immigration practitioners, many of whom are either in solo or small firm practice, by providing CLE seminars, networking opportunities, and other events.

In response to the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the previous year, Co-Chair Rio Guerrero made various efforts throughout the year with the American Immigration Lawyers Association to advocate for Temporary Protected Status for Philippine nationals in the United States.

On September 28, 2014, Co-Chair Tsui Yee and several members of the Immigration and Nationality Law Committee volunteered at a “Know Your Rights: Helping Undocumented Youth Who Qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)” event held at P.S. 24, 427 38th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232. Members of the committee provided intakes and legal counseling to immigrants in the Chinese community who were eligible for Deferred Action pursuant to President Obama’s executive action.

In the first two weeks of December 2014, Co-Chair Amanda Bernardo and other committee members presented information at the Philippine Consulate General about the anticipated Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents pursuant to President Obama’s announcement of the executive action in November.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 18, 2015 — The Immigration & Nationality Law Committee will host a Happy Hour at Woodrow’s.

MARCH 19, 2015 — The Immigration and Nationality Law Committee and the Women’s Committee will host a Book Reading and Academic Talk by author Melissa Schneider to discuss her book, The Ugly Wife is a Treasure at Home: True Stories of Love and Marriage in Communist China. Ms. Schneider (writer, couples therapist, and relationship coach) will present a discussion on the history of love in China from traditional China to the unfolding developments of China’s romantic revolution. She moved to Shenzhen, China, two days after her own wedding, and spent the next two years writing her book. Ms. Schneider has a Masters in Clinical Social Work from Columbia University.

The Immigration and Nationality Law Committee will continue to assist the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund with providing pro bono representation to clients eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents.

The Immigration & Nationality Law Committee teamed up with our Government Service & Public Interest Committee to help our community know its rights! Thank you to the AABANY volunteers and GSPI Committee Co-Chair Katrina Goyco (third from the left), GSPI Committee Co-Chair Karen Kilhan Yau (fourth from left), and Immigration & Nationality Law Committee Co-Chair Tsui Yee (fifth from the left) for their hard work.
Committee Chairs

Blossom Kan, Duane Morikawa, and Austin So

The In-House Counsel Committee (“IHCC”) is comprised of in-house counsels interested in sharing their ideas and experiences as members of corporate legal departments on a variety of issues facing Asian-Pacific American lawyers and providing a support network for in-house counsel members. The IHCC has sponsored networking events, CLE courses, and other programs.

May 28, 2014 — The IHCC held its kick off meeting to introduce Austin So as the new co-chair, discuss the events planned for the year, and meet existing and new committee members.

June 17, 2014 — The main event for the IHCC was the Seventh Annual Wine-Tasting and Networking Reception for In-House Counsel and Attorneys, co-hosted by the IHCC and AABANY’s Corporate Law Committee (“CLC”) at La Fonda Del Sol with the generous support from twelve corporate and law firm sponsors. The invite-only evening provided an opportunity to bring together IHCC and CLC members, their colleagues, potential new members, and some of AABANY’s top sponsors. The attendees represented in-house counsel from over 46 corporations and organizations and attorneys from 31 law firms.

July 31, 2014 — The IHCC and AABANY Women’s Committee co-sponsored the Second Annual Tee Off Your Business Network Golf Outing at Drive495. The event provided an opportunity for women in-house counsels and law firm attorneys to network, as well as receive expert advice on their golf skills.

September 20, 2014 — The IHCC participated in the Annual AABANY Fall Conference by sponsoring or co-sponsoring four programs in addition to the In-House Counsel Forum: Controlling a Room: Negotiation Strategies for APA Corporate Lawyers; Navigating an In-House Career; How to Make It Rain and Keep It Raining; and the General Counsel Roundtable. The IHCC also co-sponsored the pitch sessions with the CLC. General counsels and senior in-house counsels were invited to participate in the In-House Counsel Forum to discuss pressing issues of particular importance to in-house counsel. The pitch sessions provided an opportunity for law firm attorneys to make pitches to in-house attorneys that indicated a current need for legal representation from an outside law firm. The IHCC hosted a committee dinner following the conference generously sponsored by Ford Harrison.

December 17, 2014 — The IHCC hosted a Holiday Happy Hour with the generous sponsorship of Ford Harrison and special arrangements by the One Group.

January 28, 2015 — The IHCC co-hosted a Krav Maga self-defense seminar with the AABANY Women’s and Young Lawyers’ Committees.

The IHCC will continue to develop programs and events to meet the needs and interests of its members.

In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair Blossom Kan (far right) worked tirelessly to make our 7th Annual Winetasting a success. Also pictured: Advisory Committee Member Michael Lewis (far left), Board Director Christina Lee (right), and Advisory Committee Member Michael Kim (far right). Photograph by Kevin Wong.

AABANY @ Krav Maga really kicked our butts!

Pictured here: Metropolitan Black Bar Association President Taa Grays, President Clara Ohr, and Lori Langston from anchor sponsor Planet Depos at our 7th Annual Winetasting. Photograph by Kevin Wong.

Pictured here: In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair Blossom Kan (far right) worked tirelessly to make our 7th Annual Winetasting a success. Also pictured: Advisory Committee Member Dennis Hopkins (middle) of Perkins Coie LLP. Thanks to Perkins Coie for being a premier sponsor of the Winetasting event. Photograph by Kevin Wong.

Photograph by Kevin Wong.
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Jenny Lee and Stacy Wu

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON
Jackie Sitjar

SECRETARY
Shannon Zhu

The Intellectual Property Committee was started in 2011 with the goals of: (1) providing practical skills training, support and opportunities for practicing and aspiring intellectual property lawyers in the New York area; (2) providing resources for artists, authors, and inventors in the Asian American community; and (3) serving as a forum to explore U.S.-Asia intellectual property issues. The IP Committee received the inaugural Outstanding Committee of the Year award for 2011.

MAY 28, 2014 — In view of past popularity of its IP Skills Workshop series, the IP Committee kicked off its year with a skills CLE program. Treasurer Jane Chuang (Partner at Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP) and Committee member Charles Chen (Assistant General Counsel at HICKIES Inc.) led the “Copyright Registration: Part V of the IP Skills Workshop Series” CLE at Bingham McCutchen (courtesy of Committee member Thomas Hou), organized by our Intellectual Property Committee. Participants learned the nuances of registering a work for copyright protection. Using the imaginary FLIPKICK as a hypothetical client, Jane and Charles covered the nuances of protecting its intellectual property against competitors. They covered everything from the litigation benefits, relative cost and speed, and scope of protection to anatomy of copyright registration. Over 20 people attended the event; 1 CLE Credit in Skills was granted.

JUNE 18, 2014 — We held an IP Committee Meeting at McCarter and English, LLP (courtesy of Committee member Alice Pang). The meeting included informal round-table discussions regarding recent hot-topics involving intellectual property. Travis J. (“TJ”) Tu (Partner at Patterson Belknap) joined us as a guest speaker and delivered an interactive presentation on the Supreme Court of the United State’s decision in Pom Wonderful LLC v. Coca-Cola Co. regarding false advertising, in which the Supreme Court reversed the 9th Circuit’s decision of summary judgment for Coca-Cola. Stacy Wu, co-chair of the committee, then provided a brief presentation and led a lively discussion regarding the USPTO’s cancellation of the Redskins trademark as disparaging to a substantial composite of Native Americans. The meeting also included discussions relating to the planning of events for the year and particularly areas of interest by committee members.

AUGUST 25, 2014 — The IP Committee, Student Outreach Committee, and Pro Bono & Community Service Committee hosted a “Get to Know AABANY” Happy Hour at Barn Joo in Manhattan’s Flatiron district, attended by approximately 50 people. During this casual and laid back event, IP attorneys, law students, and other members and friends of AABANY enjoyed great food and the opportunity to meet or catch up with one another. Event sponsor Kaplan Bar Review raffled off a free bar review course, won by St. John’s student Julia Hsieh. Kaplan also graciously extended a $750 discount to all AABANY student members.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 — The IP Committee was also selected to help program the 5th Annual Fall Conference, Empowering Progress & Unity, hosted by Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. We ran a CLE panel about the topic of “Race, Commerce and the Media in the United States: Branding Asian America.” The program examined branding concerns in the wake of racial tension in America, including the REDSKINS trademark cancellation at the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Donald Sterling controversy. The program also discussed various legal issues that arise when creating and branding Asian American themed content, and whether these legal issues are ever related to race. The panelists included Ameena Meer, Creative Director, Take-Out Media, Masahiro Noda, Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP and Steve Chung, Attorney for NBCUniversal and was moderated by past Co-Chair Karen Lim, Partner, Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu, P.C. Following the conference, committee members convened at Radiance Tea House for a delicious meal and networking at our IP Committee Dinner, generously co-sponsored by Thomson Reuters and WestLaw.

a panel consisting of Kari Cohen (Vice President & Associate General Counsel, Brooklyn Nets & Barclays Center) and Guiselle Torres (Legal Counsel, Major League Soccer). Over cocktails and sushi, in a space filled with vintage cars, women attorneys from across our different bar associations mixed, mingled, and connected over the exciting prospects of the specialized and growing field of sports law. Experts Kari and Guiselle shared their personal experiences, provided their specific insight in this field, and underscored the importance of building lasting connections throughout one’s professional life regardless of career path. Over 50 people attended the event.

**JANUARY 15, 2015** — An IP Committee Meeting was held at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and featured a presentation by Stacy Lefkowitz, Director of Legal Services at Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. Stacy spoke about her non-traditional career path and the virtues of ‘not giving up’ and then provided an overview of VLA’s services, case studies and how to get involved. The event provided members the opportunity to learn about gaining pro bono experience and to become involved in a variety of art law matters.

**FEBRUARY 5, 2015** — The IP Committee held a patent CLE seminar titled “Navigating the Maze of What is Eligible for Patent Protection” with speakers Sapna W. Palla, Partner, Wiggin and Dana LLP, co-chair of the AABANY Women’s Committee, Annie Huang, Counsel, Robins Kaplan LLP, Andrew C. Chien, Associate, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP. Now that the Supreme Court has spoken, this CLE seminar revisits issues previously discussed in our “Patents 101: What Can Be Protected by Patent Rights?” seminar from last year. Our panelists discussed the new elevated standard set forth in these recent Supreme Court decisions and its impact, particularly with regards to software, business methods, biologic materials, and medical diagnostics tools. The panelists will further discuss the controversial implementation of these decisions by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and their impact.
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Relic Sun

The principal function of the Issues Committee is to advise AABANY’s leadership on emerging developments in policy, the legal profession, AAPI issues, or other matters on which the organization may contemplate taking a public position. The issues considered by the Committee tend to be of broad interest to AABANY’s members across practice areas or else have a broad impact on APA communities. The Committee’s role is in part responsive—providing advice on developments in issues of standing interest—and in part proactive—identifying and bringing to the leadership’s attention pertinent issues not currently addressed by existing committees.

The Committee also represents AABANY at meetings, workshops, forums, and other events that address issues in which AABANY has an interest but which may fall outside the traditional scope of the subject matter of the other committees. In addition, the Committee participates in advocacy campaigns to which AABANY has made an organizational commitment. Finally, the Committee serves as a vehicle through which AABANY may undertake special initiatives on targeted issues, including research projects on issues of broad potential impact on AABANY’s members.

Issues on which the Committee advised AABANY:
1. NYC Specialized High School Admissions Test (“SHSAT”) — In the fall of 2014, the Issues Committee produced an extensive memorandum briefing the debate on NYC’s Specialized High School Admissions Test and recommending a position for AABANY to take on this issue. The Issues Committee Chair collaborated with interested AABANY members and chairs of the Government Service and Public Interest Committee to set forth a proposed internal system through which AABANY members can provide input on AABANY positions. A subcommittee was formed to organize a town hall addressing the debate on the SHSAT.

2. Akai Gurley — Whether AABANY should issue a statement on NYC Police Officer Peter Liang’s shooting of Akai Gurley.
3. Whole Foods Employee — Whether AABANY should issue a statement on a Whole Foods employee’s calling a Chinese customer “Ching Chong.” The Issues Committee assisted in connecting the customer with a local community board to raise concerns about personnel training with Whole Foods.
4. Uniform Bar Exam — Whether AABANY should comment on New York’s proposed transition to the Uniform Bar Exam.

Events at which the Committee represented AABANY:
1. Sponsored the Voting Rights CLE panel held at the Annual Fall Conference.

In 2015, the Committee plans to do the following:
1. The Issues Committee is helping to organize a panel discussion on the SHSAT issue. Chris Kwok is leading the organizing effort along with KALCA. The event is scheduled to take place on April 3, 2015, at CUNY AAARI.
2. Work to establish a more transparent and member-involved process through which AABANY’s positions on issues are crafted and approved.
The Judiciary Committee leads AABANY’s efforts to increase the number of qualified Asian Pacific American (“APA”) attorneys in the federal, state, and local judiciary and to advocate for the interests of APA judges, including increasing judicial pay and preserving judicial independence.

The Judiciary Committee’s efforts fall into four main categories:

1. It screens candidates for the judiciary to determine whether AABANY should formally support those candidates. The methodology for AABANY’s screening process is posted on the AABANY website.
2. It recruits and prepares candidates seeking their first judicial office, as well as sitting judges seeking higher judicial office.
3. It lobbies for and supports candidates for the judiciary whom AABANY has endorsed.
4. It engages in advocacy (speeches, legislative testimony, public forums, amicus briefs, and editorials) on issues related to judicial independence and judicial selection.
5. The Judiciary Committee seeks internally to increase awareness of issues relating to the judiciary among AABANY’s members.

The past year was another productive year for the Judiciary Committee:

On the state side, we vetted and endorsed two candidates for the New York Court of Appeals. Both candidates made it to the short list submitted to the Governor’s office for separate vacancies. The Judiciary Committee reached out to various APA community groups and organizations to join AABANY in support of an APA candidate’s appointment. We issued a letter to the Governor’s office with 17 signatures representing 17 such organizations.

AABANY’s Judiciary Committee also supported the application of a sitting APA judge for the New York Court of Claims and another sitting judge for the position of Administrative Judge.

Finally, we vetted and supported four candidates’ applications for the New York City Criminal, Family, and Civil courts by the Mayor’s office. We also met with Desiree Kim, Executive Director of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary to discuss and support these candidates.

On July 7, 2014, AABANY’s Judiciary Committee held an organizational meeting at Dechert LLP where we discussed the committee’s short and long-term goals, as well as effective ways to achieve them. Our next committee meeting will be held on February 11, 2015.

During AABANY’s Fall Conference on September 20, 2014, the Judiciary Committee hosted a Judicial Forum. The morning was dedicated to the federal bench and began with a panel discussion entitled “Federal Judgeship - Why you should consider this path and what it takes to get there.” The panelists included Hon. Margo Brodie, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Hon. Pamela Chen, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Hon. Sarah Netburn, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York; and Michael Park, Dechert LLP as moderator. The afternoon was dedicated to the state bench and began with a panel entitled “New York State Judge/Justice – why you should consider this path and what it takes to get there.” This panel featured Hon. Randall T. Eng, Presiding Justice, N.Y. Supreme Court Appellate Division, Second Department; Hon. Jeffery K. Oing, Justice, Supreme Court of the State of N.Y. Commercial Division; Hon. James M. McGuire, Dechert LLP, former Associate Justice, N.Y. Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department; Hon. Lillian Wan, Judge, New York City Family Court; and Linda Lin, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance as moderator.

The Judiciary Committee also recruited and prepared AABANY members to serve on various judicial screening panels, including the New York County Democratic Committee’s Independent Judicial Screening Panels and the Joint Minority Bar Screening Panel.

The Judiciary Committee looks forward to continuing its work in 2015. If you have any questions about the committee or about the judiciary and the judicial selection process, please do not hesitate to contact us.
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Christopher Kwok and William Ng

In 2014, AABANY’s Labor & Employment Law Committee (“L&E Committee”) completed its inaugural year, which was filled with many great educational programs and social and networking events.

The L&E Committee looks to promote the professional development of lawyers and human resources professionals practicing or engaging in Labor & Employment law through CLE programs, career panels, and networking events. The L&E Committee actively seeks to connect the Asian American community with the expertise of the lawyers and human resources professionals in the L&E committee, and to promote the education and discussion of work place issues affecting employees, employers and their families.

On January 22, 2014, the L&E Committee held its kick-off event, “Employment Law Update 2014” at the New York offices of Seyfarth Shaw. More than 20 employment law practitioners attended the program, including representatives from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and New York State Department of Labor. Program speakers included Hema Chatlani (Littler Mendelson), Jane Chung (Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss LLP), Michael Yim (FordHarrison) and Joane Wong (National Labor Relations Board). The panelists discussed New York City’s recently enacted paid sick leave law and pregnant workers fairness act; restaurant delivery workers improperly denied tips ordered via food websites; hot trends in non-compete laws; and recent NLRB decisions and policies regarding use of social media in the workplace. The program was moderated by L&E Co-Chair William H. Ng (Littler Mendelson, P.C.).

On April 15, 2014, the L&E Committee together with the Membership Committee sponsored a Happy Hour at Pranna Bar and Lounge. More than 30 attorneys, law students and friends of AABANY showed up for a wonderful evening of networking and socializing.

On June 4, 2014, L&E Co-Chair Christopher M. Kwok spoke at the New York County Lawyers’ Association’s (NYCLA) Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee at JAMS NY to discuss his experience at the EEOC. Each NYCLA ADR Committee meeting features an ADR expert; Chris spoke to an intimate audience of 15-20 NYCLA members. The EEOC is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person’s race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, disability or genetic information. Chris walked the NYCLA ADR Committee through the process of investigation, cause, and conciliation and how to go forward with a case using the right amount of engagement and emotional investment to effectively resolve and settle. More generally, Chris also spoke about body language, preparation, and looking for facts that cannot be disputed — useful tools in any conflict.

On June 12, 2014, AABANY and EEOC, hosted Lu Jun, a distinguished human rights lawyer from China. Lu Jun is the Chief Coordinator of Beijing Yirenping Center (“Center for Promotion of Equality and Mercy” or “Yirenping”), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting social justice and public well being in China. Yirenping offers education on communicable disease prevention and control, provides community outreach and assistance for patients, and works to eliminate discrimination. Lu Jun spoke about his cases of impact litigation against employment discrimination due to many factors: gender, age, hepatitis B status, appearance, disability, etc. He spoke about the full gamut of prejudice and how Yirenping chooses cases that will garner public attention in the effort to halt the discriminatory practices.

During the roundtable discussion, lawyers knowledgeable about the NLRB, New York State Attorney General’s Office, and the EEOC shared their insights and comparisons to the protection of workers in the United States. The challenges presented to human rights lawyers are multifaceted, as the political and legal landscape within China is
still under development. Without legislation to rely upon in many cases, Yirenping must offer solutions and gain public support in arguing for workers’ rights. In addition to attempting impact litigation, Yirenping also advocates for positive change via seminars on discrimination, survey/research to represent the realities of discrimination, lobbying for legislation, anti-discrimination training, legislative proposals, and public social action.

During the 2014 Fall Conference, the L&E Committee organized a program entitled “Tackling Labor & Employment Issues in Professional Sports and Beyond.” This program addressed recent labor and employment issues that have affected professional sports teams, players, and those individuals who work in the sports industry. Panelists addressed the relationship between professional sports teams as “employers” and players/operations staff as “employees.” Panelists included Alan Chang (New York Yankees), Chul Pak (Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati), Howard Wexler (Seyfarth Shaw) and David Fish (New York Law School). The program also covered general labor and employment topics that are applicable to individuals and organizations beyond those involved in the sports industry, e.g., bullying in the workplace, allegations of discriminatory remarks and retaliatory actions, use of paternity leave, and class actions involving allegations of minimum wage violations and unpaid overtime.

In 2015, the L&E Committee looks forward to working with other AABANY committees, Asian Pacific American organizations and sister bar associations to organize valuable educational programs and provide opportunities for those interested in labor and employment to network and socialize in order to help the committee grow.

For those interested in finding out more about the L&E Committee, please contact Co-Chairs William Ng at william.ng@aabany.org and Christopher Kwok at chris.kwok@aabany.org.

Human rights lawyer Lu Jun, Yirenping Center, spoke about his efforts to fight discrimination and promote social justice in China on June 12 at the EEDC.
LGBT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR
Glenn Magpantay

The Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual / Transgender (LGBT) Committee of AABANY strives to foster the acceptance and advancement of LGBT AAPIs in the law and legal profession. The Committee organizes programs geared toward LGBT attorneys and allies, including our annual networking reception for LGBT Asian American / South Asian Attorneys. The Committee aims to develop and present career and practice development-related programs that cover a variety of practice areas and legal topics. The Committee also seeks to provide a forum for professional and social networking both within and outside of AABANY through unique networking events.

Asian American/South Asian Lawyers Networking Reception
On September 24, 2014 nearly 70 members of the bar “came out” to celebrate the diversity within the LGBT and Asian American and South Asian communities. LGBT and APA lawyers associations and law firms jointly sponsored the event.

Partners and associates at corporate firms, government attorneys, solo practitioners, small firms, and public interest lawyers enjoyed this networking reception which raised money for students to attend the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance conference in Chicago in August 2014.

Attendees lauded State Supreme Court Justice Doris Ling-Cohan for her acumen in her ruling in Hernandez v. Robles, the first case in New York to rule that the prohibition of same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. Her remarks were followed by special video screenings of Public Service Announcements (PSA) of AAPI parents who love their LGBT kids. The Asian Pride Project produced the PSA and NQAPIA is working to have them placed in Asian ethnic television stations next June during Pride Month.

Immigration Executive Action and LGBT Asian Americans: What’s Good, What’s Left Out, and Our Next Steps
On Thursday, February 12, 2015, attorneys and advocates explained President Obama’s immigration executive actions and their impact on LGBT Asian American / South Asian immigrants. Specific emphasis was placed on visas for professional workers, student visa OPTs, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Childhood Arrivals (DAPA). Individual attorneys were on hand to do consultations.

The speakers included:

- Cyrus Mehta, attorney representing corporations and individuals in business and employment immigration, family immigration and asylum.
- Sin Yen Ling, attorney at QLA, the public defender office in Queens focusing on a criminal immigration issues.
- Suman Raghunathan, Executive Director of South Asian Americans Leading Together

Special thanks go to Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP for hosting the reception, as well as LeGaL – The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, and South Asian Bar Association of New York.

On January 20, 2015, Glenn Magpantay received the Haywood Burns Memorial Award from the New York State Bar Association as part of their Annual Meeting.

Guests clink glasses at the Asian American/South Asian Lawyers Networking Reception on September 24. Thanks to Cleary for hosting the event.
The Litigation Committee is dedicated to 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. For 2014-2015, the Committee organized the following events:

On May 19, 2014, the Committee held its first meeting at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP. The meeting allowed members to discuss events and topics for the year and meet fellow members.

On August 16, 2014 together with the Young Lawyers Committee, the Litigation Committee held AABANY’s Annual Picnic in Central Park. Family and friends were invited and many attended and enjoyed getting to know each other.

During the AABANY Fall Conference, on September 20, 2014, the Committee presented its Annual Trial Advocacy Program. For attorneys desiring to learn or brush up on trial skills, AABANY offered a daylong Trial Advocacy Program that trained participants on making opening and closing statements and conducting effective examinations. Among the all-star faculty were the Honorable Marilyn D. Go, United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Ankur Kapoor, James Lin, Tristan Loanzon, and Vinoo Varghese. Melissa Lee and Samuel Yee also provided helpful coaching feedback.

Wrapping up the AABANY calendar year, the Committee will host another Happy Hour and are exploring more programs with other committees that focus on developing litigation skills as well as afford other opportunities for AABANY members to network and socialize.
On May 8, 2014, AABANY President Clara Ohr approved the formation of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Asian Pacific Americans have served in the armed forces as far back as the Civil War, but, according to the US Census, only about 1.3% of the 21.2 million (275,600) United States military veterans are APAs. However, today, APAs are one of the fastest growing demographics in the military and currently make up 3.8% of the 1.3 million active duty forces. The Committee currently consists of eight members, including veterans, current serving military members, and students. We formed this Committee with the hope of addressing issues that are relevant to today’s military and veteran population and provide networking opportunities for APA military veterans.

The Committee has three central missions: (1) Networking and Support; (2) Education and Advocacy; and (3) Pro Bono. The Committee will provide a networking and support platform for current AABANY members with a military background, current military members seeking opportunities outside the military, law students thinking of military careers, and AABANY members interested in issues related to military and veteran affairs. Additionally, the Committee will provide insight to AABANY members on legal issues and legislation affecting military personnel, military families, and veterans, such as the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, sexual assault and military justice, and the suicide of Private Danny Chen. Finally, the Committee will work with the Pro Bono and Community Service Committee on opportunities to provide pro bono assistance to military members, veterans and their families.

The Committee met for the first time on July 9, 2014 to discuss its strategic goals for the year. The Committee has built connections with other bar associations, including the New York City Bar Military Affairs and Justice Committee and is looking forward to expanding its membership and raising its profile both within AABANY and in New York City with successful professional and social events in 2015.
Thank you to Newsletter Committee Chair Naf Kwun and all members of the Newsletter Committee who have contributed their writing, time, and effort into last year’s issues of The AABANY Advocate.

Winter 2014:

- Margaret Fung: Activist to Executive Director
- Letter from Outgoing President Mike Huang
- Letter from Incoming President Clara Ohr
- Vikram Rajan: Enhance Your Practice by ‘Word-of-Mouse’ Referral
- The Long, Winding Road to Immigration Reform in 2013
- Labor & Employment Law Committee has Launched and is Planning Active Inaugural Year
- Real Estate Committee: Fall and Winter Update
- Sponsor Spotlight: Akin Gump

Spring 2014:

- Jimmy Yan: Working in the Public Interest
- Letter from President Clara Ohr: “Helping Every Vote Get Cast”
- ‘22 Lewd Chinese Women’ and Other Courtroom Dramas: A U.S. circuit judge brings historic Asian-American trials back to life
- Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Established
- Tax Committee Up and Running and Ready for Kick-Off
- ‘March to 1,000’ Membership Campaign a Success
- AABANY First Quarter 2014 Rundown & 25th Anniversary Dinner Highlights
- Sponsor Spotlight: BakerHostetler

Fall 2014:

- AABANY Hosts Its 5th Annual Fall Conference
- Letter from President Clara Ohr
- A Conversation with Norman Lau Kee
- AABANY Launches LGBT Committee
- AABANY Second Quarter 2014 Rundown
- Book Review: Haig’s Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts
- Sponsor Spotlight: Morgan Lewis

If you would like to consider writing a feature, submitting an article, or getting involved in the editing process, please contact Naf Kwun at naf.kwun@aabany.org.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Clara Ohr, Will Wang, James Chou, Steve Chung, and Karen Lim

According to AABANY’s by-laws, the Nominations Committee solicits and receives suggestions and recommendations for the offices of AABANY to be filled throughout the year. The President serves as the chair of the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee met to interview all Director and Officer candidates and decided whom to recommend for the Annual Meeting slate.

The AABANY Nominations Committee presented the following slate of candidates for Fiscal Year 2015:

- President-Elect: Susan Shin
- Vice President, Programs and Operations: Marianne Chow
- Vice President, Finance and Development: William Ng
- Treasurer: Naf Kwun
- Recording Secretary: Ligee Gu
- Membership Secretary: Irene Tan

The following persons were nominated for a two-year term as Directors:

- Mike Huang
- Bobby Liu
- Tristan Loanzon
- Sonia Low
- Larry Wee
The Pro Bono & Community Service Committee encourages Asian American attorneys to provide assistance to underserved people and communities. The Committee provides opportunities for pro bono work by developing programs targeting issues affecting low-income people. We also aim to promote AABANY’s partnerships with community organizations and legal service providers.

In 2014, three new chairpersons for the Committee were appointed: June Lee, Staff Attorney from Queens Legal Services; Samuel Lui, Senior Staff Attorney from Manhattan Legal Services; and Vina Ha, Counsel for Google.

In the summer of 2014, the Committee partnered with the Government Service & Public Interest Committee and Legal Services NYC (LSNYC) to launch a program for assisting low-income Asian Americans. The program was designed to provide pro bono assistance to clients seeking U Nonimmigrant Status. U Nonimmigrant Status is commonly known as “U-Visas.” U-Visas are available to victims of certain “qualifying crimes” who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse and have cooperated with law enforcement.

On Wednesday, June 25, AABANY and LSNYC held a joint CLE training on U-Visas entitled “Immigration Relief for Low-Income Survivors of Domestic Violence.” The training, hosted by Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, presented the legal requirements and step-by-step process for filing U-Visas. Volunteers were trained about the many forms of domestic violence and the sensitivity required in representing low-income domestic violence survivors with limited English-speaking abilities. Volunteers who completed the training were placed in teams and assigned clients. Teams were also paired with LSNYC mentors. Many volunteers possessed language skills that matched language needs of clients seeking representation. Through this program, approximately twenty volunteer attorneys and law students have been representing low-income Asian American victims of domestic violence in U-Visa cases.

On August 20, 2014, the Committee co-sponsored a wine and cheese reception and info session with the Government Services and Public Interest Committee. Over 60 people attended the mixer, which took place at an art gallery located at Lee, Anav, Chung, White & Kim LLP. The aim of the event was to create a space for conversations between those interested in the public sector and members who practiced in those areas. A small panel of practitioners in the public sector offered backgrounds on their practice. Overall, from law students to seasoned practitioners, many people enjoyed and participated in the event.

On October 23, LSNYC hosted their Pro Bono Volunteer Reception 2014 at the offices of WilmerHale. Among the “Top 30 Pro Bono Attorneys” named by LSNYC was Government Service & Public Interest Committee Co-Chair Katrina Goyco. The “2014 Pro Bono Honor Roll” included Executive Director Yang Chen and Past President Sylvia Fung Chin (Partner, White & Case). President-Elect Will Wang represented AABANY at the event.

In 2015, the Committee is hoping to create a housing clinic. Volunteers would assist non-English speaking Chinese seniors and people with disabilities sign up for Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE). In NYC, more than 90,000 eligible people have not taken the advantage of this program as of January 2015.

The Committee hopes that it will continue to receive enthusiastic participation from AABANY members.
The continuing mission of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) is to advance the skills and knowledge of AABANY’s members as they advance in their professional careers. We provide opportunities for members to work together through the administration of our continuing legal education programs.

Continuing Legal Education

This year we are proud to have provided a wide variety of free or low-cost Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs for our members and the New York legal community. All of our programs are organized and presented by volunteers and are sponsored by generous law firms, corporations, and community organizations. We seek to provide these resources free or at low cost without compromise in the quality or educational value of our programs.

Programs were sponsored by AABANY’s committees or with one of AABANY’s partners, which included the MinKwon Center for Community Action, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the New York City Bar, and SABANY, as well as the Asian Pacific American law student associations at Brooklyn and Columbia Law Schools. The role of the PDC is to provide guidance in organizing and documenting the programs according to the requirements of the New York State Continuing Education Board, issuing CLE credits to participants, and making the required periodic reports to the Office of Court Administration.

AABANY Fall Conference

The fifth AABANY Fall Conference was held on September 20, 2014 at the law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in New York City. Thirteen 1.5-credit programs were presented by AABANY’s committees in a wide range of subjects, such as negotiation and deal making, tax law, civil rights and voting, APA real estate development, not-for-profit law, and dealing with outside counsel. In addition, a full-day intensive program in trial advocacy was taught by experienced judges and attorneys.

Hon. Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition
Past President Christopher Chan and Samuel Yee assisted law student teams from the Northeast Region in this year’s Hon. Thomas Tang Moot Court competition. This national competition is designed to encourage APA law students to pursue a career in litigation, as well as to give opportunities to experience moot court not available otherwise. Kristin Lee and Lawson Huynh from St. John’s University School of Law were national finalists, and also won the national best brief award.

Legal Reenactments

Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio
Our legal reenactment team, led by U.S. Circuit Judge Denny Chin, Kathy Chin, and Vincent Chang, performed “Justice Denied: Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio” to a capacity room on November 8 at the NAPABA National Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. This presentation dealt with the employment discrimination cases raised by native Alaskan and Filipino cannery workers and heard by the Supreme Court (490 U.S. 642 (1989)), the 1991 Civil Rights Act and NAPABA’s fight against the amendment that exempted the Wards Cove Packing Co. from the relief that would have been given these workers.

22 Lewd Chinese Women
We brought the acclaimed production of “22 Lewd Chinese Women” on October 18th to the New-York Historical Society in conjunction with their exhibit “Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion.” "22 Lewd Chinese Women" is based on the Supreme Court case Chy Lung v. Freeman, 92 U.S. 75 (1875), a seminal case establishing the supremacy of federal law in the realm of immigration, but serves as an equally telling tale of the discrimination against the Chinese of the time, as well as the exploitation and trafficking of women. The production was inspired by an article on the website Slate, and was subsequently covered by The Atlantic magazine and on National Public Radio’s “CodeSwitch” segment on Weekend Edition.

Conclusion
In conclusion, we had a very successful year, providing a wide range of professional development opportunities for our members, and we hope to continue our progress next year. We are truly grateful for the many active members, volunteer presenters, and sponsors who have generously contributed to make this possible.

2014 Continuing Legal Education Programs

CLE Categories:

E = Ethics & Professionalism
A = Areas of Professional Practice
S = Skills
L = Law Practice Management
T/NT = Transitional/Non-Transitional
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The goals of the Prosecutors’ Committee include the advancement and professional development of APA prosecutors, the establishment of a network between former and current APA prosecutors, the recruitment of APA law students to become prosecutors, and the cultivation of trust and communication between the APA community and the local prosecutors’ offices. There are currently over one hundred APA prosecutors serving New York City.

MARCH 11, 2014 — It has become an annual tradition for the Prosecutors’ Committee to attend the NYPD Asian Jade Annual Dinner. We were delighted to take part in this festive event again in 2014 where Commissioner William Bratton was honored as Man of the Year.

APRIL 28, 2014 — The Prosecutors’ Committee was proud to spearhead a CLE on the topic of Hate Crimes. We were hosted by the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office and we heard insightful commentary on this topic from a panel consisting of three veteran prosecutors, Michael Brovner (Queens), Charles Guria (Kings), Mark Palladino (Richmond) and Professor Bennett Capers of Brooklyn Law School who moderated.

MAY 20, 2014 — The Kings County District Attorney celebrated Asian American Heritage Month with The Honorable Pamela Chen as their keynote speaker. Judge Chen was a former prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York.

JUNE 18, 2014 — We hosted our annual marquee event at the New York County Lawyers’ Association where we honored two trailblazing women in law enforcement: Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Belle Chen and Chief Counsel of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Wen-Ting Cheng. We were honored to be joined by our bosses: United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson, Richmond County District Daniel Donovan, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan, and many other distinguished guests. See Year-in-Review Report for more information.

AUGUST 17, 2014 — Several members of the Prosecutors’ Committee attended the annual dinner for Asian Pacific American Public Affairs Association, a group that started in California but has chapters now in New York and Florida. APAPA has supported the work of the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association with which the Prosecutors’ Committee is also affiliated.

The Prosecutors’ Committee was proud to honor Belle Chen and Wen-Ting Cheng, two incredible trailblazers in law enforcement on June 18 at the New York County Lawyers’ Association.
REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Margaret Ling, Wendy Wing Yu, and Edward Kang

The AABANY Real Estate Committee provides support and professional development to Asian Pacific Attorneys of all levels including recently admitted and new attorneys, experienced law firm attorneys, in-house counsels, and solo/small firm practitioners. The Committee also addresses the needs of law students seeking to pursue a career in real estate law.

Specific attention has been focused on community outreach to the real estate attorneys within the Asian community in the outer areas of Queens, Brooklyn, and Long Island in an effort to expand their membership and participation with AABANY. With the global influx of the Asian investor in the New York metropolitan area, the Committee has also connected and partnered with the larger China law firms and Asian corporations who have attorneys working in New York. The Committee addresses topics of concern including transactional, management, and development of residential and commercial real property. The Committee educates its membership on the latest statutes and changes in New York’s Real Property Law. This is accomplished through CLE seminars, discussion and networking sessions with corporate and bank sponsorships.

The AABANY Real Estate Committee has successfully accomplished a great deal of community outreach through joint efforts with its bank and corporate partners which include Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, East West Bank, Baker, Tilly, Virchow Krause, LLP, Herrick, Feinstein, LLP, and Akerman LLP.

Furthermore, the AABANY Real Estate Committee has partnered with many Asian non-profit organizations in the community to effectively address the needs of the Asian community. These organizations include Asian Americans for Equality, Queens Asian Bar Association, Asian Real Estate Association of America, and Asian Real Estate Professional Association.

For the 2014 AABANY Fiscal year, the Real Estate Committee organized and presented the following events:

4. July 16, 2014: AABANY/NYCLA Reception for Emerging Professionals – Panelists included Mary Frank, Partner, Vanchieri & Ferrier, Michael Meyer, President, F and T Group, and Margaret Ling, Esq., AABANY RE Co-Chair, Katie Kao, President of AREAA-New York East.
9. October 11, 2014: AABANY/AAFE/Bank of America/AREAA New York East presented a First Time Home Buyer’s Workshop – At The Flushing Queens Library, Margaret Ling, Esq., Co-Chair of AABANY Real Estate Committee and Cary Chan, Esq., Co-Chair of AABANY Solo Small Firm Committee were panel speakers.
December 2, 2014: AABANY and Akerman LLP present Economic Development in New York State and Beyond – Over 60 attorneys attended with panelists that included Steve Polivy, Esq., Akerman LLP and Joseph Chan, Executive Vice President of Real Estate Development, Empire State Development.

For the 2014 year, the AABANY Real Estate Committee has been successful in presenting its CLE and networking events at minimal cost with the assistance of corporate and bank sponsorships for venue and food. For 2015, the AABANY Real Estate Committee will continue its bank, corporate, and community partnerships.

Planned 2015 events include the following:

1. February 24, 2015 Chase Bank and AABANY Real Estate Committee’s Lunar New Year CLE and Dinner
2. April 2015 Bank of America CLE with AREAA New York East, Bay Ridge Lawyers Association, Brooklyn Board of Real Estate, and Brooklyn Chinese American Association, Changes in the Closing Disclosure Statement
3. April 2015 Citibank: Long Island City and Queens Economic Development
4. May 2015 Baker, Tilly, Virchow CLE, Real Estate Fraud and Ethics CLE
5. May 2015 HSBC: Asian Heritage Month, Foreign Exchanges and Banking
7. June 2015 East West Bank: EB-5 Investments and Real Estate Development
SOLO & SMALL FIRM PRACTICE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Wendy Wing Yu and Cary Chan

The Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee’s continuing goals are providing support and guidance in professional development to newly admitted attorneys, transitioning attorneys, solo attorneys and small APA firms, including practice management, law firm formation, marketing techniques, capital funding, and ethical concerns. Our Committee also organizes CLE and non-CLE programs on topics popular and of interest to attorneys practicing in New York City.

Fiscal Year 2014 was a great year for Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee! Not only were we able to sustain its current members, our membership doubled from last year! Our Committee worked closely alongside with Real Estate Committee to successfully provide AABANY members and attorneys five CLE programs and four social non-CLE events:

- **January 15, 2014** – “Understanding 1031 Exchange” at Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP. Program co-sponsored by Baker Tilly and Real Estate Committee. This program provided 1 CLE credit toward Areas of Professional Practice.
- **June 24, 2014** – “Emerging Trends in Fraud & Forensics” at Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP. This program was a collaboration with the Real Estate Committee and sponsored by Baker Tilly. This program provided 1 CLE credit toward Areas of Professional Practice.
- **July 17, 2014** – “Powerful Real Estate Professionals” at Bank of America. This was a non-CLE event. Bank of American and AREAA-New York East, as well as Real Estate Committee, sponsored.
- **September 20, 2014** – AABANY 2014 Fall Conference Solo & Small Firm Committee and Real Estate Committee Dinner. 60 attorneys attended and Skyline TRG Title Agency, Kee & Lau, Kee, PLLC, Cohen & Frankel, LLP, Law Office of Edward Kang, and Guerrero & Yee, LLP sponsored the event.
- **October 9, 2014** – “Understanding Diversity and the 411 on Foreign Real Estate Investors” at Mudan Banquet Hall. This program was a collaboration with the Real Estate Committee and sponsored by Fidelity National Financial, AREAA-New York East, and Skyline TRG Title Agency. This program provided 1 CLE credit toward Areas of Professional Practice.
- **October 11, 2014** – AABANY/AAFE/Bank of America/AREAA-New York East presented “First Time Home Buyer’s Workshop” at The Flushing Queens Library. This was a community event. Co-Chair Cary Chan was one of the speakers.
- **October 30, 2014** – “Maximizing Air Rights and Zoning – the Changing View of NYC Real Estate Development” at Herrick Feinstein, LLP. This program provided 1 CLE in Areas of Professional Practice and sponsored by Herrick Feinstein, LLP and Real Estate Committee.
- **February 24, 2015** – “New Construction and Renovations – The Process: Legal, Financing, Title and Municipals Approvals” at Mudan Banquet Hall. JPMorgan Chase Bank, AREAA-New York East and Real Estate Committee sponsored this program. This program will provide 1 CLE credit toward Areas of Professional Practice. We will also be celebrating the Lunar New Year.

Our Committee is unique in that it encompasses solo and small APA firms from many areas of law. We continue to welcome and encourage attorneys from all areas of practice to join our Committee and share with us their experiences, concerns, and ideas. We will continue to provide valuable events and programs to meet their needs and interests at minimal costs to AABANY.

For 2015-2016, in addition to marketing and networking programs, our Committee aims to provide more programs in different areas of laws that are of concern to newly admitted attorneys, transitional attorneys, solo attorneys, and small APA firms.

Emerging Trends in Fraud & Forensics, co-sponsored by the Solo & Small Firm Committee and Real Estate Committee on June 24, 2014 at Baker Tilly. Pictured here: Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee Co-Chair Wendy Yu (far left), Real Estate Committee Co-Chair Margaret Ling (middle), YLC Co-Chair David Sohn, Board Director Francis Chin, and Past President Chris Chan (far right).

Career Panel on Powerful Real Estate Professionals on July 17 at Bank of America. Pictured in the back row: Solo & Small Firm Practice Co-Chair Cary Chan, Real Estate Committee Co-Chair Margaret Ling, RE & SSF Co-Chair Wendy Yu, & Real Estate Committee Co-Chair Edward Kang. Photograph by Kevin Wong.
STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Jaclyn Sitjar and Vicki Ger

The mission of the Student Outreach Committee ("SOC") is to equip APA students with concrete skills to excel academically and professionally. In addition, the SOC seeks to serve as a bridge between law students, attorneys and other legal professionals, encouraging APA students to be active in the APA legal community. In this regard, the SOC sponsors and co-sponsors a variety of career programs, networking events, and social activities. Currently, there are more than 200 APA law student members in AABANY, and the SOC works with approximately 18 law schools in the tri-state region.

Throughout 2014, the SOC continued its work to serve and connect with law students by hosting a variety of events and programming.

APRIL 16, 2014 — The SOC joined Executive Director Yang Chen and Director and Real Estate Committee Co-Chair Margaret Ling in speaking with students at New York Law School about the importance of building a professional network and the many opportunities and committees available through AABANY.

JULY 11, 2014 — The SOC, together with the Young Lawyers Committee, led by Amy Ngai, Gabe Arce-Yee, and David Sohn, and the Membership Committee chaired by Irene Tan, hosted a Get to Know AABANY Happy Hour at the noted Rubin Museum of Art in Manhattan. The event was widely attended by members new and old as well as many law students who were pursuing summer internships and clerkships in the city.

AUGUST 25, 2014 — The following month, the SOC joined the Intellectual Property Committee, co-chaired by Stacy Wu and Jenny Lee, in hosting a Get to Know AABANY happy hour at Barn Joo that also featured the Pro Bono Committee. Kaplan Bar Review, one of AABANY’s generous sponsors, raffled off a bar review course to one lucky law student. With many attorneys and students in attendance, the event was a great opportunity to make connections and discuss upcoming programs such as the Fall Conference.

NOVEMBER 4, 2014 — The New York University APALSA invited the SOC to co-sponsor a Job Skills Workshop at the law school. Featuring a distinguished panel including Chris Chan, Esq., former President of AABANY; Kathie Lee, Esq., Global Chief Legal & Administrative Officer at Le Pain Quotidien; Don Leo, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Bureau Chief at the New York State Office of the Attorney General; and Catherine Wilson, C.M.A., the speakers provided practical advice for interview and resume preparation, discussed the do’s and don’ts of networking etiquette, and shared amusing anecdotes from their experiences. Following the event, an informal resume review was held whereby volunteer attorneys had the opportunity to meet with students individually and provide immediate feedback.

We wish to thank our many volunteer students and attorneys, as well as the AABANY team, in making this year a great success. We also want to thank our team of Fall Conference volunteers for their hard work that weekend.

The Student Outreach Committee imparts the practical wisdom of job skills and interviewing at New York University Law School.

Pictured here: Former AABANY Intern and current Brooklyn Law School student Ona Lu at our Get to Know Happy Hour at Barn Joo, co-sponsored with the Intellectual Property Committee and Pro Bono & Community Service Committee on August 25.

The Student Outreach Committee imparts the practical wisdom of job skills and interviewing at New York University Law School.
TAX COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Saahng-Hee Hahn, JoonBeom Pae, and Michael Kam

In 2014, AABANY's Tax Committee completed its inaugural year. The Tax Committee serves as AABANY’s professional network for individuals interested in international, federal, state or local tax matters. Our members come from a variety of backgrounds, including government, corporate in-house, and private firm counsel, as well as non-attorney tax professionals. Its purpose is to provide networking, mentoring, professional development, continuing legal education and public service opportunities for its members, which includes all tax professionals (public or private sector attorneys and CPAs).

This year, the Tax Committee hosted a number of events to advance our members’ goals. Throughout the year, the Tax Committee’s members met regularly to discuss their interests as APA legal professionals and recent developments and issues in tax law. These meetings are the backbone of Committee events, as they provide an opportunity for every single member to share his or her ideas for new events and initiatives. Thanks to the active participation of our members, the Tax Committee was pleased to complete the following events.

• Kick-Off Event – On July 14, 2014, the Tax Committee held its inaugural event, welcoming over 30 members to AABANY’s newly formed Committee. At this event, the Tax Committee welcomed attorneys and law students alike to share in its vision of an active, open, and productive community for those interested in tax law. After the event, the attendees ventured over to Izakaya Mew to share merriment and delicious Japanese food.

• AABANY’s 5th Annual Fall Conference Tax CLE Panel – On September 20, 2014, several members of AABANY’s Tax Committee presented on the CLE panel, “Recent Tax Law Developments and Highlights.” This panel was highly informative, focusing on tax planning in the context of recent cross border transactions, tax accounting, and U.S. corporate tax developments.

• AABANY’s 5th Annual Fall Conference Dinner – On September 20, 2014, we co-hosted a post-conference dinner with the Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring Committee.

• Peer Group Mentoring Events – In order to provide valuable mentor-mentee relationships to our Committee’s members, the Tax Committee formed two peer groups this year: (1) the Subchapter C/M&A/State and Local Tax Group, and (2) the Subchapter K/Executive Compensation and Benefits Group. These Peer Groups enabled Tax Committee members to meet informally to discuss recent developments and issues in tax law, network, and build valuable mentor-mentee relationships. Our Peer Groups are cornerstones of the Tax Committee, and we look forward to building these Groups further through additional events this coming year.

At the close of the current fiscal year, the Tax Committee is pleased to report that it has tripled its membership.

Our 2015 Kick-Off Event took place on Thursday, February 5, 2015. We look forward to another successful year!

We would also like to thank and recognize former Co-Chair Michael Kam, Senior Counsel at Linklaters, for co-founding the Tax Committee and for his hard work in establishing a successful and engaging inaugural year for the tax professionals within AABANY.
WOMEN’S COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Naf Kwun, Marianne Chow, and Sapna Palla

The Women’s Committee (the “Committee”) strives to foster the advancement of women in the law and to organize programs geared toward the APA female attorney. The Committee aims to develop and present throughout the year career and practice development-related programs that cover a variety of practice areas and legal topics. The Committee also seeks to provide a forum for professional and social networking both within and outside of AABANY through unique networking events.

In furtherance of this mission, during this 2013-14 term, the Committee has worked to develop and implement programs responsive to the needs and interests of our membership as well as that of the AABANY community at large.

We held a variety of innovative networking events in an effort to reach out to as many members as possible and create different kinds of settings in which attendees could connect. On June 26, 2014 we held our Annual Kick-Off Dinner at Congee Village, where members met each other and learned more about the Committee over a family-style dinner. On July 31, 2014, we co-sponsored with the In-House Committee our second annual women’s golf clinic, “Tee Off Your Business Network,” a women’s business development event that offers a one-to-one ratio of inside counsel to outside counsel. On August 14, 2014, we held our first-ever perfume-blending event, led by Scenterprise, Inc. Attendees learned about the twelve olfactory families and created a personalized blend to take home. The golf event and perfume event were each subsidized by a corporate sponsor, resulting in revenues to AABANY and a total savings of several thousands of dollars. To help kick off the New Year, on January 28, 2015, we helped organize a Krav Maga Self-Defense Seminar, co-sponsored by the Young Lawyers Committee and In-House Counsel Committee, where attendees learned the basics of Krav Maga, the official self-defense system of the Israeli Defense Forces and the most practical and aggressive form of self-defense. Happily, all of our events have attracted both members and non-members. In fact, later this spring, we may be holding a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu seminar co-organized by a non-member who attended the Krav Maga seminar and as a result wanted to get more involved in AABANY. Also in the works for this spring is a book reading of The Ugly Wife is a Treasure at Home: True Stories of Love and Marriage in Communist China, possibly in conjunction with a local not-for-profit Asian American writers organization.

This past term we also initiated two new member-oriented programs: Member Meet-Ups, to help Committee members connect with one another in an informal and casual setting; and Member Profiles, in which we interview prominent women members of AABANY. Our first meet-up, held last fall, was a success with over twenty attendees and many new faces who were drawn to this event for its low-key feel. Our first profile interview has been completed and is in the process of being finalized.

In addition to networking events, we organized and presented two CLEs this year, one at the Fall Conference in September, 2014, and another at the NAPABA Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona in November, 2014.

Our Fall Conference CLE, “Controlling a Room: Negotiation Strategies for Corporate APA Attorneys,” was co-sponsored with the Corporate Law Committee and In-House Counsel Committee and had the highest number of attendees for that morning panel session. “Controlling a Room” was a mock transactional negotiation and interactive workshop led by a panel of inside and outside counsel of different backgrounds, genders and styles. The aim of this program was to identify the hurdles that APA attorneys face in a negotiation setting, share tips and stories on how some successful APA attorneys have overcome such hurdles, and provide participants with concrete feedback and advice and how they can find their own voice in order to effectively control a room during a negotiation.

Our NAPABA CLE, “Kicking Glass from the Courtroom to the Boardroom: Two Decades and Counting,” was a multi-media panel program that attracted nearly one hundred attendees and garnered many requests to bring the program back to NYC. “Kicking Glass” was a follow-up program to one that was developed in 1995 and addresses the changing experiences and perceptions of APA women attorneys. For “Kicking Glass,” we were able to find a sponsor to underwrite the entire cost of production and post-production of a video—a key component of our program—again resulting in a total savings to AABANY of several thousands of dollars, as well as a committee budget surplus of over one thousand dollars. On the heels of the overwhelming interest in and support for “Kicking Glass,” we are in the process of planning a full-length screening and panel discussion on March 5, 2015 at White & Case LLP’s midtown offices. Plans are also underway for a screening at another national conference as well.
Of course, none of these events would have been possible without the incredible help and dedication of our members and volunteers. This year, we created subcommittees in order to get members more involved in committee work and to encourage those new to AABANY to learn more about the organization. As a membership tool, we enforced special pricing and benefits for AABANY members, which resulted in several individuals either renewing their memberships or joining AABANY for the first time. Through these efforts, the Committee has worked to promote the benefits of AABANY and introduce AABANY to individuals new to the organization.
The AABANY Young Lawyers Committee (“YLC”) 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.

On Saturday, April 12, AABANY’s Young Lawyer Committee teamed up with New York Cares to clean up invasive species in New York’s beloved Van Park. Members Vanessa Fang, Beatrice Bong, Jay Min, Gracie Zhou, and fearless leader Gabe Arce-Yee cleared away invasive Oriental Bittersweet, helping to restore the natural ecosystem of native plant species.

The YLC kicked off the year with its kickoff committee meeting on June 19, 2014 at Duane Morris LLP. Approximately twenty members attended, comprised of both young lawyers and law students. We discussed our plans for the rest of the year, including networking events, workshops and social activities.

On July 11, 2014, we held our first “Get to Know AABANY Happy Hour” at the K2 Lounge at the Rubin Museum. The event was co-sponsored by the Student Outreach Committee and Mentorship Program and allowed young lawyers and law students to learn more about the various committees within AABANY, as well as speak with more experienced practitioners.

On August 16, 2014, we held our annual picnic at Central Park. The event was co-sponsored with the Litigation Committee, as well as the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (“KALAGNY”). Approximately 60-70 people attended, including friends and family. Food included banh mi sandwiches, homemade pasta salad, and cheese and charcuterie. Activities included bocce ball and Frisbee.

On September 4, 2014, we held a financial planning workshop at Ameriprise Financial Services. The workshop, presented by Niraj Chhabra, focused on financial issues important to young lawyers, including student loan repayment strategies, retirement planning, family planning, tax reduction strategies, estate planning, planning for aging parents, and budgeting.

On September 11, 2014, we held the first of our “Getting on Track” career workshops. The event – titled “Getting on the Partnership Track” – was co-sponsored by the Career Placement Committee and the Membership Committee and took place at Dechert LLP. It featured a roundtable discussion by APA partners across law firms and practice areas, and focused on (1) the soft skills that APA associates or associates in general lack in order to be seriously considered for partnership, (2) the political landscape and stereotypes within law firms that work for and against APA associates in particular, and (3) ways to overcome these hurdles and challenges so that APA associates have a better chance to make partner in the post-financial crisis world. A networking reception at Windfall Lounge followed.

On October 18, 2014, we held our fall “Volunteer with AABANY” event. As part of New York Cares Day Fall, we formed a team to help revitalize IS 230Q in Jackson Heights by applying a fresh coat of paint to the school’s perimeter fence.

On January 28, 2015, we held a Krav Maga Self-Defense Seminar at Krav Maga Academy, co-sponsored with the Women’s Committee and the In-House Committee. The seminar involved physical fitness; attendees performed drills to learn tactics to defend against life-threatening situations from an attacker. Afterwards, attendees attended a light networking dinner at Jongro BBQ in Koreatown.

On September 20, 2014, YLC joined the Labor & Employment, Litigation, and Government Service & Public Interest Committees at Aperitivo Pizza Bar for a post-conference dinner following AABANY’s Annual Fall Conference.

For New York Cares Day in October, the Young Lawyers Committee cleaned up I.S. 230Q in Jackson Heights.

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For New York Cares Day in April, the Young Lawyers Committee planted a tree in Van Cortlandt Park named Yang, Jr. after our Executive Director.

On February 1, 2015, we had our winter “Volunteer with AABANY” event. We volunteered at the Welcome Table at Xavier Mission, helping the Mission serve over 1,000 hot meals to hungry New Yorkers.

On February 4, 2015, we had another of our “Getting on Track” career workshops. This workshop – titled “Switching Tracks: Alternative Careers for Lawyers” involved a roundtable discussion where the panelists offered their candid advice on how to make the transition from a legal to a non-practicing or a non-legal career, followed by a reception at Windfall Lounge.
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Julie Kwon

The Mentorship Program was initiated in response to a demand for a more formalized program after a long history of AABANY members engaging in informal mentoring relationships. Currently, over 100 mentors and nearly 300 mentees participate in the program.

The mission of the program is to connect mentors with mentees and provide them with the structure and opportunities to support professional growth and development. When matching mentors with mentees, the program focuses on personal interests and hobbies, in addition to practice areas, in order to facilitate long-lasting relationships that are compatible both personally and professionally.

Paired-up mentors and mentees connected on their own as well as at a variety of AABANY events.

On July 11, 2014, the Mentorship Program, with the Student Outreach and Young Lawyers Committees, held a mid-summer happy hour at the Rubin Museum of Art, as part of the Get-to-Know AABANY series. Mentees had an opportunity to catch up with their mentors and network with fellow colleagues. Attendees included those who were interested in learning more about the Mentorship Program from Julie Kwon, Coordinator of the Mentorship Program, and from participants in this year’s program. The opening of registration for the 2014-15 Mentorship Program was announced on July 23.

The 2014-15 Mentorship Program was launched at AABANY’s Fall Conference, where mentors and mentees from the previous program years were able to reconnect and those from this program year were able to meet and introduce each other. Following the launch of the program, a mentor-mentee orientation was held on November 11 to brainstorm and exchange ideas on cultivating the mentor-mentee relationship. An additional mentor-mentee event will be held in March to give mentors and mentees an opportunity to interact and network.

For the upcoming year, the Mentorship Program will continue to organize networking events and other opportunities to support its participants’ professional growth and advancement. Moreover, it will be developing guidelines to help foster meaningful and rewarding mentoring relationships.
# COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACADEMIC COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Linda Lin, Sarah Seo</td>
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<td><strong>AUDIT COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Karen Lim, Susan Shin</td>
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<td>Mike Huang</td>
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<td>Robert Leung, Michael Park, Marianne Chow</td>
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<td>Lige Gu, Vincent Roldan, Jessica Liou</td>
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<td><strong>CORPORATE LAW COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Dwight Yoo, Larry Wee, Charlotte Kim</td>
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<td><strong>FINANCE COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Jane Chuang</td>
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<td><strong>GOVERNMENT SERVICE &amp; PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Karen Kithan Yau, Yujin Hong, Katrina Goyco</td>
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<td><strong>IMMIGRATION &amp; NATIONALITY LAW COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Rio Guerrero, Tsui Yee, Amanda Bernardo</td>
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<td><strong>IN-HOUSE COUNSEL COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Duane Morikawa, Blossom Kan, Austin So</td>
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<td>Jenny Lee, Stacy Wu</td>
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<td>Glenn Magpantay</td>
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<td>Joey Tsai, Concepcion Montoya</td>
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<td><strong>MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Irene Tan</td>
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<td>Brian Song</td>
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<td><strong>NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Naf Kwun</td>
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<td><strong>NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Clara Ohr, Will Wang, Karen Lim, Steve Chung, James Chou</td>
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<td>June Lee, Samuel Lui, Vina Ha</td>
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<td><strong>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Francis Chin</td>
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<td>Brian Lee, Rosemary Yu</td>
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<td><strong>REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Margaret Ling, Wendy Yu, Edward Kang</td>
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<td><strong>SOLO &amp; SMALL FIRM PRACTICE COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Cary Chan, Wendy Yu</td>
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<td><strong>STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Vicki Ger, Jaclyn Sitjar</td>
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<td><strong>YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>Amy Ngai, Gabriel Arce-Yee, David Sohn</td>
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee serves to (a) assist and support AABANY’s officers and directors in their efforts to increase AABANY’s visibility, (b) raise funds to continue AABANY’s mission, and (c) advise on sensitive issues that may arise.

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YANG CHEN
Executive Director Asian American Bar Association of New York

SYLVIA F. CHIN
Partner White & Case LLP

JAMES P. CHOU
Senior Counsel Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

KATHERINE M. CHOO
Chief Investigative & Anti-Corruption Counsel General Electric Company

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