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Message from the President

March 2020

Dear AABANY members and supporters:

It has been my privilege and honor to have served as the 26th President of the Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”). With over 1200 active members, AABANY continues to be a leading voice for Asian Pacific Americans (“APA”) in New York, and is instrumental in advocating for positive changes in the legal sector and the broader APA community.

This past year was especially meaningful as AABANY was recognized for its achievements by two prominent bar associations. In November 2019, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) recognized AABANY as its Affiliate of the Year at NAPABA’s Annual Convention. In January 2020, the New York State Bar Association’s Committee for Bar Leaders of New York State selected AABANY as the winner of the 2019 Bar Leaders Innovation Award for our Pro Bono Legal Advice and Referral Clinic.

I invite you to learn more about the many accomplishments we have achieved individually and collectively over the past year, which are described in detail in AABANY’s 2019 Year End Report, and on our website (www.aabany.org). We continue to work to diversify the bench; mentor law students and junior attorneys; and support our local community through our award-winning Pro Bono Clinic.

As our membership and interest in our community continues to grow, it is critical that we continue to develop programs that meet the needs of our expansive membership. I am awed by the significant interest expressed by our members and supporters to lead and participate in our many initiatives. I am especially proud of the AABANY Leadership Development Program that is designed to address the disproportionate underrepresentation of APAs in law firm partnerships and senior in-house positions.

I want to thank our talented and driven Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Executive Director and staff. AABANY is in a position of strength today because of the countless volunteer hours that all of you have spent. I look forward to seeing AABANY’s continued growth next year under the leadership of Sapna Palla, our incoming President. Thank you again for your support and commitment to AABANY.

Respectfully,

Brian W. Song
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 Gim, Professor Sharon Hom, 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 approximately 1,200 members, including practicing attorneys in the private and public sectors, in-house lawyers, judges, professors and law students.
**Hon. Dorothy Chin Brandt**, former justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Queens County, was honored at the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration hosted by the Queens District Attorney’s Office of Immigrant Affairs.

**Judge Pamela Chen**, U.S. District Court Judge at the Eastern District of New York, was honored by the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association and the Asian American Judges Association of New York during an Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration held at the Brooklyn Bar Association building in downtown Brooklyn.

**Kathy Hirata Chin**, Partner at Crowell & Moring LLP and longstanding member of AABANY, was presented with the Inaugural Hong Yen Chang Award by the Columbia Law School Association and Asian Columbia Alumni Association at the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) at the Inaugural Hong Yen Chang Reception.

**Kenneth Chin**, Partner at Kramer Levin and AABANY member, was elected to be a member of The American Law Institute (ALI). He was also presented with the New York State Bar Association’s Diversity Trailblazers Award.

**Sylvia Chin**, Past President of AABANY (1994-96) and current President of AALFNY, AABANY’s 501(c)(3) affiliate, was recognized by the Women’s World Banking for her pro bono work on behalf of White & Case over four decades, since its founding.

**Hon. Denny Chin**, United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, received the Honorable Harold Baer Jr. Award from the Network of Bar Leaders.

**James R. Cho**, Immediate Past President and Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of NY, and **Linda S. Lin**, Past President 2011 and Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at QBE North America, were presented with the 2019 CUP Law Catalysts award at the Council of Urban Professionals (CUP) 10th Annual Lawyers Forum and Law Catalyst Recognition Ceremony.

**Hon. Randall T. Eng**, retired Presiding Justice of the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, received the Charles W. Froessle Award from Queens County Bar Association at its Annual Dinner.

**Gurbir S. Grewal**, Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, and **Gilbert C. Hong**, Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, were honored for their exemplary and established record of public service and their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession at the Prosecutors Committee’s 11th Annual Reception at the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA).

**Diane Gujarati**, former Board Director of AABANY, was renominated to serve as a United States District Court Judge in the Eastern District of New York.
**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

**Poonam Gupta,** AABANY Immigration Committee Co-Chair and Counsel and Director of Immigration Services at White & Case LLP, was presented with The Legal Aid Society Pro Bono Publico Award at The Prince George Ballroom.

**Dale Ho,** Director at the ACLU Voting Rights Project, was honored with the Presidents Award during the Gala at the NAPABA Convention in Austin, Texas.

**Joon Kim,** Partner at Cleary Gottlieb and AABANY member, was presented with the Hon. George Bundy Smith Pioneer Award at the New York State Bar Association’s “Smooth Moves: Career Strategies for Attorneys of Color” program at Lincoln Center.

**Karen King,** Counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, was presented with NAPABA’s Pro Bono Award during the Gala at the NAPABA Convention in Austin, Texas.

**Glenn Lau-Kee,** Partner at Lau-Kee Law Group PLLC and former AABANY President (1997-99), received the American Bar Association Solo and Small Firm Lifetime Achievement Award at the ABA Solo and Small Firms Award Luncheon.

**Carol Lee,** Special Counsel at Taconic Capital Advisors, was honored with the American Law Institute's Distinguished Service Award at their 96th Annual Meeting.

**Margaret Ling,** AABANY Development Director and Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee, was given the Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Defense of Legal Rights & Exemplary Community Service by the Brooklyn Real Estate Board at their Annual Holiday Party & Community Recognition Awards Presentation.

**Glenn Magpantay,** the Executive Director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) and current Co-Chair of the LGBT Committee, was honored with Brooklyn Law School’s Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service at Brooklyn Law School’s Public Service Awards Ceremony.

**Will Ng,** Shareholder at Littler Mendelson P.C., was recognized as a Top 40 Young Lawyer by the American Bar Association (ABA) Young Lawyers Division.

**Hon. E. Grace Park** was sworn in as a judge in the Manhattan 4th Municipal Court District of the Civil Court of the City of New York.

**Hon. Michael H. Park,** United States Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, was presented with a robe by AABANY at his chambers at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse to commemorate and celebrate him as the first Korean American to serve on the Second Circuit.

**Susan L. Shin,** Past President of AABANY, received the Community Role Model Award at the Korean American Association of Greater New York (KAAGNY) 60th Anniversary Fundraiser at the Ziegfeld Ballroom.

**My Chi To** was appointed as Executive Deputy Superintendent of the Insurance Division at the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS).

**Hon. Lillian Wan,** Acting Supreme Court Justice of the New York Court of Claims in New York County, received the first-ever Diversity Award from the Brooklyn Bar Association at its annual meeting.

**Karen Yau,** Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair, was honored for her work in support of the community at the 40th anniversary gala for Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) Brooklyn Community Services, held at Affable Eatery in Brooklyn.

**The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY)** received the Affiliate of the Year Award in 2019 at NAPABA’s National Convention in Austin, Texas.
New York Metro Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

Congratulations to the AABANY members who made the New York Metro Super Lawyers and Rising Stars list in 2019!

New York Metro Super Lawyers
Kenneth Chin, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Kirby Chin, Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP
Sylvia Chin, White & Case LLP
Andrew T. Hahn, Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP
Benjamin C. Hsing, McGuireWoods LLP
Glenn Lau-Kee, Lau-Kee Law Group, PLLC
Lisa S. Lim, Akerman LLP
Kyoko Takahashi Lin, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Gilbert Liu, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Tiffany Ma, Young & Ma LLP
Tai H. Park, White & Case LLP
Vinoo Varghese, Varghese & Associates, P.C.
Lawrence G. Wee, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
Tsui H. Yee, Law Offices of Tsui H. Yee, P.C.
Pauline Yeung-Ha, Grimaldi & Yeung LLP
Andrew Yoon, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

New York Metro Rising Stars
Shruti Chopra, Morrison Cohen LLP
Anthony K.C. Fong, Anthony K.C. Fong, Esq.
Yin Huang, Zuber Lawler & Del Duca LLP
Joyce E. Kung, Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C.
Simon Lee, Maron Marvel Bradley Anderson & Tardy LLC
Olivia Sul Ki Lee, Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP
William Ng, Littler Mendelson, P.C.
Claudia Pak, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Sun Ah (Michelle) Park, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
Anna Jinhua Wang, Robinson & Cole LLP
Stacy Wu, Law Office of Stacy L. Wu, P.C.
Tai H. Park, White & Case LLP
Vinoo Varghese, Varghese & Associates, P.C.
Korean Community Services (KCS)

2019 Partners
During FY 2019, AABANY was privileged and honored to work with many organizations, community groups and bar associations that served the APA community and the community of APA legal professionals.

2019 Community Partners
A Plus Academy in Brooklyn
Asia Society
Asian American Journalists Association of New York
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian Cinevision
Asian Health & Social Service Council
Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) Brooklyn Community Services
Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans
Forest Hills Asian Association
Korean Community Services (KCS)
Legal Services NYC
Museum of Chinese in America
Visiting Nurse Service of New York

Bar Association Partners
Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA-NJ)
Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York (FALA New York)
Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association
New York City Bar Association
New York County Lawyers Association
New York State Bar Association
South Asian Bar Association of New York
Annual Dinner 2019 Sponsors

**Diamond**
Summit-Broadridge

**Platinum**
BakerHostetler
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Fried Frank
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

**Gold**
Charter Communications
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Levine Lee LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP

**Silver**
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Alston & Bird LLP
Arnold & Porter
Boies Schiller & Flexner LLP
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Cooley LLP
Crowell & Moring LLP
Dechert LLP
Greenberg Traurig LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Kobre & Kim LLP
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Littler Mendelson P.C.
Mayer Brown LLP
McCarter & English, LLP
Morgan Stanley
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Proskauer Rose LLP
Ropes & Gray LLP
Shearman & Sterling LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Thompson Hine LLP
USAA
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
White & Case LLP
Wiggin and Dana LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
WilmerHale
Winston & Strawn LLP

**Bronze**
Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu, P.C.
Julie J. Kim and James R. Cho
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Parkin Lee, The Rockefeller Group
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

**Corporate**
Century Development
Consilio LLC
East West Bank
Flushing Bank
MassMutual
Rivkin Radler LLP
Fall Conference Sponsors

**Elite Level**
Counsel Press
Fried Frank
Jowers | Vargas
Summit Financial Printing

**Gold Level**
BakerHostetler
Perkins Coie LLP

**Silver Level**
Big Apple Abstract Corp.
Day Pitney LLP
Kobre & Kim LLP
Shearman & Sterling
Zetlin & De Chiara LLP

**Bronze Level**
APALA-NJ
Axinn
Borchert & Laslina, P.C.
Capital One
Fish & Richardson
IPX 1031
Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York
LEAP
National Arbitration & Mediation
Piermont Bank
Rivkin Radler
White & Case LLP

Summer Soiree Sponsors

**Headline Sponsors**
Summit-Broadridge
Prosperian

**Sponsors**
Consilio LLC
Davis & Gilbert LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Reed Smith LLP
According to AABANY’s by-laws, the Membership Committee shall consist of the Membership Director and at least three Active Members appointed by the President. The Membership Committee develops recommendations for programs and services that meet the needs of the membership and encourages new members to join the AABANY. During FY 2019, Beatrice Leong, and Christopher Bae, Co-Chairs of Membership Committee held various membership events, and Monthly Membership Mixers aimed to encourage members to participate, spend time meeting other members, and provide them with a memorable experience. The purpose of the events and mixers is to offer additional venues for members of various backgrounds to meet, network and make meaningful connections. For further details, read the Membership Committee Report in the Committee Reports section.

The Membership Committee also continued to support the law school road shows, whereby prominent AABANY members meet with local APALSAs to encourage participation and membership in AABANY. Anyone interested in bringing an AABANY presentation to their APALSA, firm, or other venue should contact the Membership Director. Done in conjunction with the Student Outreach Committee, the Student Discount Initiative, which we started in 2016, continued in 2019 to attract law student memberships. For the last few years, student members have constituted nearly a quarter of AABANY paid members. We continue to work closely with the Student Outreach Committee to provide meaningful programming to assist with the transition between law school and professional life. During FY 2019, AABANY membership surpassed 1,200. Please help us keep our numbers strong by renewing your memberships and inviting others to join. AABANY’s foremost goal is to offer each member continuous benefits and interactions with our community.

In 2019, AABANY encouraged its members to be united in action and vision so that we can move towards 2020 together.

For the 2019 fiscal year (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020), the Board approved a general operating budget of approximately $695,000, including a committee budget of about $50,000. Year after year, our budget has steadily increased, reflecting the continuous organizational growth of AABANY. Along with the expansion of committee activities, we have also seen a rise in attendance at our networking, community outreach, and CLE Events.

As of January 29, 2020, our investment account balance is $1,015,745.06 and our operating account balance is $369,418.47. Under a conservative investment policy, AABANY’s total performance return as of December 31, 2019 (including cash and investments) year to year was 10.1%.

We thank you for your continued support and involvement this year and as we head into our fiscal year in 2020, we encourage you to unite in action and vision as we move towards 2021 together.
Year in Review
During fiscal year 2019, AABANY embraced our theme of United in Action and Vision: Towards 2020 Together, embodying the need for collaboration to advance diversity and inclusion in the legal profession for Asian Americans and all under-represented communities.

Throughout the year, we held various social events, such as outings to baseball games and a night at the opera to connect with our members and prospective members in informal settings. We also co-sponsored numerous events to support and engage other groups and organizations in the wider community such as the Asian American Journalists Association – NY Chapter’s Trivia Bowl and KALAGNY’s Third Annual Veterans and Military Networking Event.

In addition, the Pro Bono Clinic was presented with the New York State Bar Association Bar Leaders Innovation Award, which is especially fitting because our Pro Bono Committee has been working diligently to expand access to justice for low-income clients and began holding Pro Bono Clinics in Brooklyn in September. Furthermore, AABANY was honored to be presented with NAPABA’s Affiliate of the Year award at NAPABA’s National Convention in Austin, Texas.

We thank our members, sponsors, and community partners for their support in making 2019 a very successful year for AABANY and their continued support of our mission. Our theme for 2020 is Stronger Together: Unity In Diversity, which we introduced at our 2020 Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street on February 26, 2020.

Below, we offer major highlights from the past year, starting from last year’s Annual Meeting through the start of 2020.
February 13, 2019 AABANY held its Annual Meeting of Members at Wachtell Lipton. President James R. Cho presided over the proceedings. Elections were held for the 2019 Board of Officers and Directors and President James R. Cho presented the Year in Review. Executive Director, Yang Chen, presented the Report of the Committees and then presented awards honoring several members for their dedication to AABANY over the past year. The Committee of the Year was presented to the In-House Counsel Committee, the Program of the Year was presented to the AABANY Leadership Development Program, and the Member of the Year Award was presented to Edwin Kim.

February 27, 2019 AABANY hosted its 30th Anniversary Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street. The dinner attracted over 700 attorneys, judges, prosecutors, in-house counsel, government officials, and dignitaries. It was sponsored by more than 55 law firms and corporations. AABANY honored the following individuals at the event: Hon. Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, with the Public Service Leadership Award; Gabrielle Lyse Brown, Executive Director, Diversity and Inclusion for Morgan Stanley, with the Women’s Leadership Award; Deneen Donnley, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of USAA, with the Corporate Leadership Award. AABANY also presented Davis Polk & Wardwell with the 2019 Law Firm Diversity Award.

APA Heritage Month Events
May 13, 2019 AABANY co-sponsored the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association and the Asian American Judges Association of New York’s celebration of APA Heritage Month. Hon. Pamela K. Chen, U.S. District Court Judge at the Eastern District of New York, was the Special Honoree at the celebration. We were joined by many State and Federal Court judges who came out to celebrate with Judge Chen. She has been an active AABANY member for many years, and we proudly followed Judge Chen’s path to the bench and her rise over the years. The celebration also included a lion dance, which may have been the first time this Chinese tradition was observed at the Brooklyn Bar Association.

May 13-14, 2019 In coordination with the Robert H. Jackson Center and the Asian American Bar Association of New York, Phillips Lytle LLP presented a two-day event at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, New York. On May 13, 2019, the film “Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story” was screened after a reception, and on May 14, 2019, Karen Korematsu (Fred’s daughter) introduced the powerful reenactment of “Korematsu v. U.S.: Justice Denied,” which was led by the Hon. Denny Chin of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Kathy Hirata Chin, partner at Crowell & Moring LLP. Thomas Loftus, a retired lawyer and Justice Jackson’s grandson, played the role of Justice Jackson. Prof. John Q. Barrett of St. John’s University, a Jackson biographer, closed out the program by speaking about the legal issues and historical events that led up to, and followed, the Korematsu v. U.S. decision.
May 15, 2019 In celebration of APA Heritage Month, led by the Honorable Denny Chin, AABANY’s trial reenactment team retold the story of Chol Soo Lee, a young Korean American who was wrongly accused and imprisoned for a gangland murder in San Francisco’s Chinatown, at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP. The effort to free him represented the beginning of Asian American activism in the 1970s.

May 19, 2019 AABANY was proud to participate in The Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans’ (CAPA’s) Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Festival. It is the longest continuously running Pan-Asian American Festival on the East Coast and this year’s celebration was particularly special because 2019 marked the 40th anniversary of the Festival. This year’s theme was celebrating Asian American heroes, and AABANY was proud to be involved. We gave out our 2018 Year End Reports, spreading the word about the impactful work that AABANY does every year.

May 22, 2019 AABANY joined APALA-NJ, McCarter & English and KALAGNY for a networking reception and a screening of the documentary Abacus: Small Enough to Jail, which tells the story of the Chinese immigrant Sung family’s resilience against injustice when their bank was the only one pursued by prosecutors in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse.

May 23, 2019 AABANY co-sponsored with SABANY a trial reenactment of two Supreme Court cases, Takao Ozawa v. United States (1922), and United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind (1923) at the Ceremonial Courtroom in 225 Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn. In Ozawa, a Japanese man who immigrated to the United States as a teenager, sought to be naturalized under the Naturalization Act of 1906 which allowed only free white persons and persons of African descent to be naturalized. He argued that he was a “free white person” because he came to the United States at a young age, was educated in American schools, converted to Christianity, built a business and raised a family in the United States. However, relying on scientific evidence, the Supreme Court found that the term “white persons” in the Naturalization Act of 1906 only includes persons of the “Caucasian race.” A year later, in Thind, a man born in India argued that he was a “free white person” because scientific evidence established that South Asians are classified as Caucasians. The Supreme Court rejected the argument, backtracking on its rationale in Ozawa, and held that common-sense definition of “free white person” prevailed. These twin cases serve as reminders of how race and color were used legally to exclude East Asians and South Asians from gaining citizenship in the United States, a situation that continued into the 1960s.

May 29, 2019 AABANY co-sponsored the Diversity and Leadership Network’s presentation entitled “Breaking Through: A Look Beyond the Bamboo Ceiling” in celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The Diversity and Leadership Network hosted an informative conversation with guest speakers, including the Honorable Justice Jeffrey K. Oing, Lawson Huynh, Associate at Lowenstein Sandler, Blossom Kan, Assistant General Counsel for MetLife, and Sonia Low, General Counsel of Jacob J. Javits Center, about the challenges and successes of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the legal profession.

May 30, 2019 AABANY’s Judiciary Committee hosted its third annual Judges’ Reception at the Surrogate’s Courthouse, 31 Chambers Street. The reception honored newly inducted, elevated and retiring judges in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The honorees were Hon. Shababuddin Ally, Hon. Karen Cortes, Hon. Shorab Ibrahim, Hon. Donald Leo, Hon. Ushir Pandit-Durant, Hon. John Zhuo Wang, Hon. Wendy Changyong Li, Hon. Archana Rao, Hon. Lillian Wan, Hon. Karen Bacdayan, and Hon. Michael H. Park. The honorees recognized at the event were individuals who represent the significant strides that Asian Pacific Americans have achieved, as well as the ongoing fight for diversity within our leading institutions. New York State Senator John C. Liu was slated to be the keynote speaker for the reception, but due to pressing matters in Albany he was not able to attend. The Honorable Phillip Hom, Civil Court of the City of New York, delivered remarks on his behalf. Judge Hom is a friend of Senator John C. Liu from their days at Bronx High School of Science and Binghamton University.

New York Asian, Pacific Islander and South Asian judges were recognized at our Judges’ Reception.
Summer Events

June 27, 2019 AABANY held its 12th annual Summer Soiree, formerly known as the Wine Tasting and Networking Reception, at the Castell Rooftop Lounge located atop AC Hotel New York Times Square. The In-House Counsel Committee and the Corporate Law Committee once again co-organized this event, and around 130 senior in-house lawyers and senior law firm attorneys and partners attended this year. Attendees networked with one another as they enjoyed an abundant selection of drinks paired with signature items prepared by the chef, with views of the Manhattan skyline from the terrace. To get our attendees to actively mingle and mix, we played an icebreaker game in which attendees had to find at least one other person in the room that matched them on various things, like where they went to school, area of legal practice, and where they have lived before coming to New York City. The attendees represented 51 companies from a variety of industries, such as banking, media, finance, and real estate, and 30 top global and regional law firms with offices in New York City.

July 11, 2019 At the Museum of Korean American Heritage, AABANY, along with KAAGNY and KALAGNY, co-sponsored the robing ceremony for the Hon. Michael H. Park, United States Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The event was held to commemorate and celebrate Judge Park as the first Korean American to serve on the Second Circuit.

July 25, 2019 AABANY presented Hon. Michael H. Park with a robe on Thursday, July 25, at his chambers, at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse. President Brian Song, joined by Judiciary Committee Co-Chairs Will Wang and Rena Malik, were on hand for the presentation.

August 17, 2019 AABANY members and their family, friends, and pets gathered at the Heckscher Picnic Area in Central Park for the AABANY Annual Picnic. The weather was fantastic the entire day, and everyone enjoyed mingling and connecting with old and new friends.
Tenth Annual Fall Conference

September 21, 2019 AABANY held its 10th annual Fall Conference together with NAPABA for the 2019 NAPABA Northeast Regional/AABANY Fall Conference, “United in Action and Vision: Towards 2020 Together.” For the third year in a row, the conference took place in Fordham University School of Law. This year marked our biggest yet, with about 450 attendees throughout the day. On Friday evening, September 20, we held a Welcome Reception at Supernova, a rooftop bar in the Novotel Hotel on West 52nd Street, to kick off the Conference, open to all attendees from New York and the Northeast region.

This year, many programs throughout the morning and afternoon offered CLE credits to attending attorneys. Twenty CLE programs were available, covering many different topics ranging from Asian American Voter Protection to Pro Bono Clinics. Also available were non-CLE programs such as the In-House Counsel Forum and “Asian American Women Corporate Counsel in Television.” In addition to all the programs offered at the Fall Conference, we had Pitch Sessions, a Trial Advocacy Program (TAP), Professional Development Coaching sessions, and a Diversity Career Fair and Expo. Numerous employers from all over New York City and State set up informational tables at the Diversity Career Fair to speak with prospective candidates. This was a great way for law students, recent graduates, and practicing attorneys to learn more about the employers and their different areas of practice. Employers also set up onsite interviews to speak with Fall Conference attendees who submitted resumes in advance.

In one of our morning programs, the Pro Bono Committee hosted “The Art and Science of Interviewing Pro Bono Clients.” The program addressed how to communicate with and educate the clients, collect information, and manage clients’ frustrations. This included a necessary discussion regarding proper translation issues that would arise as well as establishing a reliable relationship with an interpreter.

Another program entitled “State and Federal Clerkships: A Primer on Seeking, Landing, and Succeeding in the Right Clerkship for You,” was organized by AABANY’s Judiciary Committee, which discussed the benefits of a clerkship, steps to landing a clerkship, and some tips on how to be successful at a clerkship.

In the middle of the day, we held a Plenary Lunch Session featuring a Special Screening of the award-winning documentary “And Then They Came for Us.” This documentary reflects on the story of Executive Order 9066 and the internment of 120,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II. It also highlighted the landmark Korematsu v. United States case and its relation to the civil rights issues people of color and under-represented communities face today. The screening was followed by a discussion with NAPABA Trailblazer Dale Minami, who was Fred Korematsu’s lawyer, and the filmmaker, Abby Ginzberg.

In the afternoon, additional programs were presented, including “Opioids and the Courts,” which was organized by the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association. The program discussed the national opioid epidemic created by certain pharmaceutical companies and how states and individuals are bringing lawsuits against them. We heard directly from William Tong, Attorney General of the State of Connecticut, and his approach to the multidistrict litigation in Ohio that was scheduled for trial in October 2019. (Since then, several pharmaceutical companies in the litigation have been ordered to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in fines to settle the claims against them. Cases against other companies are still pending.)

Another insightful program presented during the afternoon was “Cybersecurity: 20/20 Hindsight Not Good Enough in 2020,” organized by AABANY’s Commercial Restructuring and Bankruptcy Committee, which discussed the cybersecurity industry today, and how lawyers can help prevent data breaches and safeguard against bad actors. The panelists gave advice on how attorneys can stay...
After the programs concluded, a Cocktail Reception was held in the Bateman Room and the terrace outside the Soden Lounge. Attorneys and participants connected and reconnected with peers, friends and colleagues from AABANY and NAPABA. Connecticut Attorney General William Tong offered opening remarks to all in attendance, followed by President Brian Song presenting AABANY’s Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award to Parkin Lee, Chief Legal Officer of the Rockefeller Group. Parkin Lee is a pillar of the Asian American legal community who has paved the way for generations of Asian American attorneys in New York and across the country.

The night didn’t stop there as we continued the festivities in the heart of New York City at the Ascent Lounge to enjoy a Post-Conference Dinner. Located in Time Warner Center in Columbus Circle, the lounge was the celebratory finale to the Conference, and participants got to mix and mingle over a dinner buffet, drinks and dessert, with views of Central Park at night.

Fall and Winter Events

November 7, 2019 AABANY celebrated its 30th birthday at Cooper’s Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que, just around the corner from the JW Marriott in Austin, Texas, at which the NAPABA Convention was taking place. AABANY members who were attending the Convention came out in force and brought friends from various affiliates from around the country. Over 60 attendees filled a section of one of the event rooms on the second floor. Among the attendees were members who were there at the start of AABANY, including Rocky Chin, Hon. Marilyn Go, Hon. Denny Chin (who served as President from 1992-93) and his wife Kathy Hirata Chin. Past Presidents Vincent Chang, James Chou, and Dwight Yoo also attended, as did current President Brian Song. Thanks to Membership Director Beatrice Leong for organizing the celebration.

November 8, 2019 During the Plenary Lunch Session at the NAPABA Convention in Austin, Texas, AABANY’s Trial Reenactment Team performed “Fred Korematsu and His Fight for Justice,” reenacting Korematsu v. United States. AABANY had performed an earlier version of this reenactment at the NAPABA Convention in Washington, DC, in 2017, to mark the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 which sent some 120,000 Japanese American citizens to internment camps without any due process. This year, to mark Fred Korematsu’s 100th birthday, AABANY’s Trial Reenactment Team performed an updated script which took into account the developments that occurred since 2017. The Korematsu case was nominally overruled in a footnote by Chief Justice Roberts in Trump v. Hawaii (2018), which upheld the Muslim Travel Ban in part. This reenactment included modifications that featured text from the majority and dissenting opinions in that case, and concluded with words from an Op-Ed written by Fred’s daughter Karen, lamenting that the United States Supreme Court had replaced one bad precedent with another.
November 9, 2019 AABANY was honored to be presented with NAPABA’s Affiliate of the Year award at NAPABA’s 31st Anniversary Gala Dinner. AABANY was selected to receive this award for its best practices and accomplishments in our community. President Brian Song accepted this honor at the Dinner Gala, but he did not do so alone. He called upon Board members, Past Presidents, and founders, including Rocky Chin, Hon. Marilyn Go (Ret.), and Sylvia Chin to join him on stage to accept the award together on behalf of everyone at AABANY. For three decades now, AABANY has been working tirelessly to support Asian Americans in the legal profession in New York. We are humbled and gratified that the hard work of AABANY’s Board Members and Committee Chairs, the dedication of our members, and AABANY’s commitment to the Asian American, Pacific Islander and South Asian community was recognized by NAPABA.

November 14, 2019 The Membership Committee together with the Asia Practice, Intellectual Property, and Real Estate Committees hosted a Night at the Opera, gathering about 30 AABANY members with friends and family to see a performance of “La Bohème” at the Met in Lincoln Center. The AABANY contingent took up nearly three rows of seats. The sets were breathtaking and the score by Puccini was classic and timeless. The performances were excellent, and the main cast included two Asian Americans, with Hei-Kyung Hong playing the tragic character Mimi. By all accounts, this event was a hit among those who attended.

December 3, 2019 AABANY’s Prosecutors Committee held its 11th Annual Reception by honoring Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, and Gilbert C. Hong, Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, for their exemplary and established record of public service and their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession. Approximately 150 Prosecutors Committee members and guests filled to capacity the main auditorium at the New York County Lawyers Association, 14 Vesey Street, to celebrate this special event. In addition, the family of NYPD Det. Wenjian Liu, who made the ultimate sacrifice when he was killed in the line of duty in 2014, made a special visit to the Reception. Det. Liu’s family received the Prosecutors Committee’s posthumous award on Det. Liu’s behalf at the 2015 reception. The family was recognized with a heartfelt standing ovation and a message that Det. Liu will not be forgotten.

November 13, 2019 AABANY held its Annual Holiday Party once again at rent24, the site of last year’s holiday party. The venue, near Bryant Park, serves as a co-working space during the day. Over 100 AABANY members and their guests took over rent24 on Friday night to celebrate the holiday.
season. We enjoyed a variety of Korean dishes plus sushi and sashimi. A well-stocked bar staffed by two bartenders kept the drinks flowing as Board members and Committee Chairs interacted with each other and all the members and friends who were in attendance. During the party, Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair Karen Yau also addressed the attendees to ask for donations to support low-income Asian American New Yorkers who were in need of quality legal services but were barred by cultural, linguistic or financial barriers. We asked attendees to use text-to-donate via Give Lively to make their donations, and by the end of the party, we were able to exceed $2500 in donations, reaching the 10% mark of our $25,000 goal.

January 21, 2020 Over 20 people attended the first general interest meeting of the proposed Family and Elder Law Committee at the Kleyman Law Firm. The Family and Elder Law Committee seeks to provide legal practitioners and the community with valuable resources, networking opportunities, and CLE workshops that address issues related to divorce, custody, support, child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, long-term care planning, advanced directives, and guardianship. We were honored to have Alvin Tsang, who wrote and directed a documentary film about immigration and divorce, Reunification, join us. We hope to co-sponsor the screening of his film in March or April. We discussed many great ideas, including providing mediation trainings, holding Know-Your-Rights workshops, and reaching out to other not-for-profit organizations for sponsorship and collaboration.

January 22, 2020 AABANY co-hosted a Lunar New Year party with the Financial Services Network of NAPABA at the offices of Mayer Brown. Over 50 attendees enjoyed food, wine and drinks. Kendrick Nguyen, founder of Republic Bank, spoke briefly about his journey from being a lawyer to CEO of a start-up with 60 employees. We thank Mayer Brown for hosting the event at their office.

February 1, 2020 AABANY co-sponsored the 5th Annual Madison Avenue Lunar New Year Shopping Celebration. The Madison Avenue Business Improvement District celebrated the Year of the Rat with a centuries-old tradition by installing a wishing tree on Madison Avenue. Since ancient times, hanging wishes on trees for the New Year is synonymous with luck and good fortune, and is believed to encourage dreams to come true. Guests enjoyed warm hospitality at participating stores, ranging from special programming, refreshments, personalized styling, cultural entertainment, special displays to exclusive discounts. One lucky participant won a red envelope containing a $488 cash prize.

February 16, 2020 A group of AABANY members and friends, including AABANY Co-Founder Rocky Chin, Executive Director Yang Chen, Board Director Chris Kwok, Director of Technology Francis Chin, GSPI Committee Co-Chair Kevin Hsi, and Women’s Committee Co-Chair Yan Sin, went to see “Cambodian Rock Band.” The play is written by Lauren Yee, currently in residence at Signature Theater off-Broadway, steps away from the bright lights of Times Square. The all-Asian cast features six talented performers who play multiple roles, including as band members of a fictional band, the Cyclos. While the band is made up, the music they play is not, featuring Cambodian pop songs from the ’60s and ’70s. The story flashes back and forth between Cambodia in the 1970s, when the Khmer Rouge came to power, and modern day Cambodia, as a father and daughter come to grips with the legacy of a country torn apart by trauma, tragedy and war crimes.
Panels and CLEs

April 29, 2019 AABANY co-sponsored the “Third Annual Consilio APAC NYC Conference: Caught in the Crossfire: Navigating Regulatory, Transactional and Regulatory Risk in Light of Current US-China Relations” at Fordham Law School. The panel was comprised of several experts in the field: Karen King of Paul Weiss, Che Lai Chang of East West Bank, Brian Burke of Shearman & Sterling, Bill McGovern of Kobre & Kim, and Jon Shaman from Consilio, moderated by Geoffrey Sant of Pillsbury Winthrop. AABANY was the CLE provider and attendees were able to receive 1.5 credits in the Areas of Professional Practice requirement.

July 15, 2019 AABANY, along with SABANY, co-sponsored a panel on Careers in Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) at the JAMS office in the New York Times Building. The panelists spoke on how those interested in ADR can get involved and the key skills needed for thriving in a career in ADR. These skills include patience, engaged listening, an entrepreneurial spirit, the necessity of robust legal writing skills, and a genuine passion for the work. Other topics discussed during the well-attended panel included improving diversity in ADR, domestic ADR vs. international ADR, and predictions on future trends in the career pathway.

October 22, 2019 AABANY members attended an information session about going in-house at Amex. AABANY member Henry Chen attended the same program in the previous year and joined the AmEx legal team a few months later. The event started with a panel that included General Counsel Laureen Seeger and other Amex managing counsel discussing their experiences working as in-house counsel. Afterwards, AABANY attendees networked with members of various practice groups on Amex’s legal team. The event was very well-attended and offered a unique opportunity to learn what working as in-house counsel at Amex is like.

Community Outreach and Advocacy

April 1, 2019 The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), joined by sixty-four bar associations and AAPI-serving community organizations, submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in Department of Commerce v. New York (18-966) opposing the addition of a proposed citizenship question to the 2020 Census. AABANY was pleased to be a co-signatory to NAPABA’s amicus brief in the Supreme Court opposing the addition of a proposed citizenship question to the 2020 census. The addition of the citizenship question would have negatively impacted the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. It would have depressed response rates from Asian Americans, the fastest growing racial group and the largest segment of new immigrants in the country, and impact our ability to protect our rights and ensure political representation. On June 27, 2019, in a deeply fractured opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court’s four liberal justices in ruling that the justification offered by the government for including the citizenship question was just a pretext and the court blocked the question from being included in 2020 census.

April 3, 2019 AABANY co-sponsored with Fordham APALSA and the Federal Bar Association a trial reenactment of the historical case, Korematsu v. U.S. in a packed Moot Courtroom at Fordham
Law School. As every seat in the spacious Moot Courtroom filled up and audience members began to stand along the sides, Dean Matthew Diller of Fordham Law School delivered passionate opening remarks. The Dean noted that the reenactment is vital to this time, for we not only need to remember the best of this nation, but also the worst of it. Judge Denny Chin, United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and his wife Kathy Hirata Chin played their usual roles of Narrators 1 and 2. The cast of the reenactment consisted of students and faculty from Fordham and a few members of the AABANY Trial Reenactment Team. The last part of the reenactment struck a thought-provoking and alarming note when the Korematsu case was overruled in a footnote in the Supreme Court’s decision in Trump v. Hawaii, but the decision itself served as justification for the travel ban targeting Muslims, raising the question of whether one injustice was exchanged with another. The reenactment ended with a wave of prolonged and warm applause from the audience.

April 11, 2019 AABANY hosted a screening of “Blowin’ Up,” a feature documentary that explores the complex realities of sex work in New York City and the compassionate approach of a human trafficking court in Queens County. The film features AABANY member Honorable Toko Serita, Queens Supreme Court, as well as other heroines of the Human Trafficking Intervention Court, that work with victims of sexual exploitation who face prostitution-related charges. A panel discussion followed the screening, featuring speakers from the NYPD/FBI Joint Human Trafficking Task Force and a Queens Assistant District Attorney who prosecutes human traffickers. The panelists talked about how they worked together to prosecute the traffickers and how one can identify and help a suspected trafficking victim. The panel gave important insight into how gangs and traffickers target their victims, and the audience learned that many victims are new immigrants, local high school students or children in the foster care system.

April 28, 2019 AABANY co-sponsored the annual Asian Pacific American Women’s Conference at Pace University. Hosted by the Organization of Chinese Advocates and Families with Children from China, the Conference was a full day of fruitful panel discussions that revolved around the sociopolitical issues that affect the Asian Pacific American woman—from #MeToo to mental health. As part of the conference, AABANY hosted a pro bono clinic and several AABANY members gave community presentations on immigration law, protection from wage theft and employment discrimination, family law, and landlord-tenant law. AABANY also had the opportunity to table at the resource fair and spread awareness about our monthly pro bono clinic.

April 30, 2019 The Asia Society and the Asian American Bar Association of New York co-hosted a lively discussion on the lawsuit Students for Fair Admission vs. Harvard University, a case challenging Harvard University’s admissions process and its consideration of race and ethnicity when reviewing applications for undergraduate admission. The discussion, moderated by Issues Committee and Asia Practice Committee Co-Chair Chris M. Kwok, revolved around how Asian Americans and affirmative action have become a point of focus in contemporary political debate. Within the Asian American community itself, a grassroots Asian American conservative movement has emerged in the last decade, in an attempt to end affirmative action. This conservative movement alleges that admissions discrimination in the name of diversity is wrong. Asian American liberals believe that conservative Asian Americans are being used as cover to abolish affirmative action, and fear a defeat of affirmative action means a loss for diversity in all of higher education. Audience members were treated to a deep dive into the issue, with views from both sides represented on the podium. A reception followed, at which attendees got to continue their conversations around this important topic. (Postscript: In October of 2019, a Federal judge held that while Harvard’s admission process was not perfect, the court will not dismantle the program solely because it could do better.)
May 10, 2019 AABANY once again competed in the Asian American Journalists Association – NY Chapter Trivia Bowl against other area news and Asian American organizations. Since its inception, AABANY has sent a team to the trivia bowl almost every year. This event raises money for journalism student scholarships. Five rounds covered such topics as spelling, current events, Asian American history, sports, and science and technology. Led by our intrepid captain Chris M. Kwok, we placed a respectable 8th in the AAJA-NY trivia bowl, tying with CBS and MSNBC. Returning champions the New York Times recaptured the Tea Cup, followed by NBC and Newsday. We enjoyed having the help of our new friends from JetBlue!

May 17, 2019 Sandra Ung, New York State Committee Woman, and Chris Kwok, AABANY Board Director, Issues Committee Chair and Asia Practice Committee Co-Chair, presented a legal seminar for small business owners at Flushing Library. The speakers were Tiffany Ma, Young & Ma, LLP, and William Ng, Littler Mendelson P.C., and they addressed a wide array of issues faced by small business owners in both Mandarin and English. The discussion centered around how small business owners can take steps to make sure they comply with Federal, State, and City employment laws to avoid liability. In particular, the speakers addressed the minimum wage requirements, the importance of maintaining unemployment insurance, the prevention of anti-discrimination and anti-harassment claims, compliance with ADA accommodation requirements and the New York State Paid Family Leave Act. The speakers also discussed the pressures small businesses face within the legal regulatory framework, with the additional language and cultural barriers faced by first generation immigrant business owners.

July 30-31, 2019 AABANY co-sponsored film screenings with Asian CineVision for the 2019 Asian American International Film Festival, including a special event honoring Jeff Adachi, the San Francisco Public Defender and filmmaker who passed away earlier in 2019. He was a pioneer in the justice system and APA cinema.

September 3, 2019 AABANY’s Pro Bono and Community Service Chair Karen Kithan Yau and Vice-Chair Kwok Ng had an opportunity to meet with the Commissioner of Law from Taipei City, Hsiu-Hui Yuan, and her staff in a meeting arranged by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NY Inc., a long-time community partner for the Monthly Pro Bono Legal Advice and Referral Clinic in Manhattan at Confucius Plaza. Commissioner Yuan and her team had expressed interest in learning from the AABANY Pro Bono Clinic’s experience to best meet the legal needs of the ordinary citizen. The discussion with Commissioner Yuan and her staff members was substantive and far-reaching, ranging from overcoming barriers to justice that community members experienced, to legal policies and mechanisms to encourage positive use of the law, effective distribution of legal resources, use of mediation to protect consumers, and ways to encourage more volunteerism among extraordinarily busy lawyers.

September 26, 2019 AABANY’s Pro Bono Committee organized and held its first ever Brooklyn Pro Bono Clinic at the A Plus Academy in Brooklyn. At the clinic, a total of 30 volunteers, including attorneys, interpreters and a benefits counselor, provided legal assistance and referrals to 27 clients from the New York community. In just a few years, our Manhattan clinic has assisted many hundreds of low-income clients and the new Brooklyn clinic provides us the opportunity to grow those numbers and ensure that many more will be able to receive free legal advice and referrals to high-quality, culturally sensitive, and linguistically competent legal services.

AABANY participated in Trivia Bowl to support scholarships for APA journalism students.

AABANY Pro Bono Committee leaders met with Taipei’s Commissioner of Law.

Thanks to all our Pro Bono Clinic volunteers!
October 21, 2019 AABANY Executive Director Yang Chen and Board Director Chris Kwok visited the High School of American Studies on the campus of Lehman College of the City University of New York, in the Bronx. The trip was arranged through Jonathan Halabi, a teacher at the school, and was done as part of the New York State Bar Association’s request to bar leaders to visit local high schools to speak about the Constitution and Citizenship as part of this year’s Constitution Day, which was marked on September 17. Chris and Yang spoke to two classes of seniors about Korematsu v. United States to teach about the Constitution and Citizenship. Both classes had heard the name Korematsu and knew the basic facts and context of the case. Chris and Yang provided additional details about how Fred Korematsu fought for justice and ultimately had his wrongful conviction overturned. The students engaged Chris and Yang in thoughtful and well-informed discussion about Korematsu’s case and how it relates to the Constitution, citizenship and current issues facing immigrants and the nation. The visit concluded with Chris and Yang being called into the principal’s office to meet with the school’s principal, Alessandro Weiss. (Fortunately, they didn’t get into too much trouble.)

October 18, 2019 AABANY co-sponsored Project by Project New York’s Plate by Plate annual tasting benefit. This year Project by Project New York partnered with Rescuing Leftover Cuisine to advocate for Asian & Pacific Islander American representation in the movement to feed the homeless in NYC.

October 27, 2019 AABANY participated in a gold open screening of the critically acclaimed new Korean film, “Parasite.” A block of tickets was announced on Friday morning, October 25. In less than 10 minutes that entire block was snapped up. Chris Kwok, who was handling the screening for AABANY, asked for more tickets and got them. Ultimately, 60 people showed up on a rainy Sunday to catch the show at AMC25 in Times Square.
Committee Chairs

ACADEMIC
Elaine Chiu
Suzanne Kim
Donna Lee

ASIA PRACTICE
Conlynn Chan
Alex Yong Hao
Chris Kwok
Jian Wu

CAREER PLACEMENT
Sapna Kishnani
Christina Nguyen
Kevin Yim

COMMERCIAL BANKRUPTCY
AND RESTRUCTURING
William Hao
Vincent Roldan

CORPORATE LAW
Ting Chen
Ed Lee
Larry Wee

GOVERNMENT SERVICE &
PUBLIC INTEREST
Jonathan Hernandez
Kevin Hsi
Beatrice Leong

IMMIGRATION LAW
Poonam Gupta
Annie Wang

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL
Duane Morikawa
Blossom Kan
Grace Fu

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Ben Hsing
Jeff Mok
Greg Pan

ISSUES
Chris Kwok

JUDICIARY
Dai Wai Chin Feman
Rena Malik
William Wang

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW
Eric Su
Edwin Kim

LGBT
Glenn Magpantay
John Vang

LITIGATION
David Choi
James Lee
Jenny Wu

MEMBERSHIP
Christopher Bae
Beatrice Leong

MENTORSHIP
Shruti Chopra
Tristan Loanzon

MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS
Jimmy Kang
Dong Joo Lee

NEWSLETTER
VACANT

PRO BONO &
COMMUNITY SERVICE
Asako Aiba
Judy Lee
Karen Yau
Pauline Yeung-Ha

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
Francis Chin
Marianne Chow Newman

PROSECUTORS
Myongjae Matthew Yi
Maria Park

REAL ESTATE
Margaret Ling
Amol Pachnanda
Wendy Yu (partial year)

SOLO AND SMALL FIRM
PRACTICE
Tsui Yee
Dave Lu

STUDENT OUTREACH
Cecilia Kim
Jonathan Li
Aakruti Vakharia

TAX
Sharon Kim
Rich Williams
Libin Zhang

WOMEN’S
Jayashree Mitra
Yan Sin
Samantha Sumilang
Jennifer H. Wu

YOUNG LAWYERS
Cynthia Lam
Darley Maw
Ada Wang
Standing Committees

Audit Committee
Committee Chair: Edward Kim

According to AABANY’s by-laws, 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 Association; and
(xii) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

Compensation Committee
Committee Chair: Pauline Yeung-Ha

The Compensation Committee annually reviews the salary, bonus (if any), and benefits that AABANY provides to its staff and makes necessary recommendations. It will be the Committee’s responsibility to review and recommend to the Board any salary or benefits for new staff hires. The Committee seeks to create policies that ensure all staff works together as seamlessly as possible in their respective roles.

Finance Committee
Committee Chair: William Hao

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.

Membership Committee
Committee Chair: Beatrice Leong

According to AABANY’s by-laws, the Membership Committee shall consist of the Membership Secretary and at least three Active Members appointed by the President. The Membership Committee develops recommendations for programs and services that meets the needs of the membership and encourages new Members to join AABANY.

Nominations Committee
Committee Chair: Brian Song

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.

Awards Committee
Committee Chair: Naf Kwun

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 for 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.
Committee Reports
Academic Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Elaine Chiu
Suzanne Kim
Donna Lee

The Academic Committee’s mission is to serve AABANY members who are in the legal academy and to foster greater interaction between the legal academy and practicing attorneys. This Committee also oversees the publication of the AABANY Law Review. This past year has been a busy and productive season for the Academic Committee.

It started with a wonderful, well-attended event on March 15, 2019. In collaboration with APALSA at NYU, we hosted a conversation with Josh Hsu and Suzanne Kim in Furman Hall at NYU School of Law. The lively discussion focused on Asian Pacific American attorneys’ engagement in public service. Josh Hsu is the deputy chief of staff for Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-CA). Suzanne Kim is a Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School and also co-chairs AABANY’s Academic Committee.

For the 2019 Fall Conference on September 21, the Committee helped organize a dynamic panel entitled “In The Room Where It Happens: Diversity, Inclusion & Leadership.” Co-hosted with the Professional Development and Real Estate Committees, the event featured Marina Lao, a Professor of Law at Seton Hall Law School, Brant Lee, a Professor of Law and Director of Diversity and Social Justice Initiatives at Akron Law School and Ajay K. Mehrota, the Executive Director of the American Bar Foundation. While law schools in general have made progress, some continue to struggle with diversity and inclusion issues. Meanwhile, law firms and in-house legal departments have lagged behind in attracting, retaining and promoting diverse attorneys. Inclusion programs also remain a challenge, particularly in light of the complicated and continually evolving legal landscape governing these issues. “How have law professors, administrators, law firms and in-house legal departments addressed the persistent bias and ongoing need for diversity in the legal profession? What are the implications for Asian American lawyers, law professors, administrators and students?” were the pressing questions discussed by panelists and audience members.

On December 17, 2019, the Academic Committee convened for their Annual Holiday Lunch at Dim Sum Palace in the East Village. Academic Committee Co-Chairs, Prof. Elaine Chiu (St. John’s), Prof. Suzanne Kim (Rutgers), and Prof. Donna Lee (CUNY) played hosts to a full table of members of friends who came to meet the Committee’s leadership and find out what events and plans they have in store for the balance of the 2019 fiscal year and beyond. The fare at Dim Sum Palace was plentiful, varied, and delicious, and everyone enjoyed the dishes that were served. The weather outside was gloomy and damp but around our very full table, we were able to share a warm and satisfying meal among good company.

We closed out the year with a final gathering on January 24, 2020 at Fordham Law School. Along with Professor Youngjae Lee, the Co-Chairs of the Committee led an informative session on the ins and outs of getting a job in legal academia. Whether participants were looking to get an adjunct position or perhaps make a full-time move, they all learned a lot about the process, the preferences and the politicking. We encourage anyone who is curious or ready to make a move to get in touch with us at the Committee.

Finally, the Academic Committee enjoyed collaborating with its fellow committees throughout the season and we co-hosted multiple additional events. For example, on September 25, 2019, the Academic, Military and Veterans and Membership Committees hosted a mixer at Atwood restaurant. Non-members learned about how to get more involved with AABANY and the participating Committees. On January 29, 2020, we joined the Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring, Corporate, Military and Veterans Affairs & Membership Committees for a Lunar New Year celebration at the Madison Square Garden for a game between the New York Knicks and the Memphis Grizzles.

We look forward to the next year and are already planning a series of great events including a movie night and a showcase of the tireless and important work of the Monthly Pro Bono Advice and Referral Clinic.
Asia Practice Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Conlyn Chan
Alex Yong Hao
Chris Kwok
Jian Wu

Started in 2015, the Asia Practice Committee is dedicated to attorneys and law students who are interested in Asia practice. The Committee provides a forum and resources for networking and learning, and sponsors events that are of interest to its members.

In addition to the Consilio CLE program in April, described above in the Year in Review section, the Committee took part in the following activities:

On August 6, 2019, some two dozen members of the Asia Practice Committee enjoyed various high quality cuts of steak, lamb, and pork as well as a market table salad bar filled with a colorful palate of fresh and flavorful ingredients at the legendary Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse in Midtown West. Taking advantage of the great deals being offered during New York City Restaurant Week, the Committee gathered to dine and chat about its mission and upcoming events, including a joint event with Supchina on December 4, 2019. We connected with old and new friends and enjoyed an amazing and very filling dinner.

On Monday, November 14, 2019, the Membership Committee together with the Asia Practice, Intellectual Property, and Real Estate Committees hosted a Night at the Opera, gathering about 30 AABANY members with friends and family to see a performance of “La Bohème” at the Met in Lincoln Center.

On January 21, 2020, in collaboration with the NYC Bar Association, the Asia Practice Committee co-sponsored a panel on Chinese investment projects in emerging markets and trends in Latin America. The panel gave an overview of China’s major transactions and discussed the potential opportunities for investors in the U.S. and how to navigate risks and other strategic considerations.

On January 27, 2020, Henry Chen, a senior partner of the Dentons Shanghai Office gave a presentation at JAMS that discussed bribery risk management in China.

On Thursday, September 6, 2019, AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee was pleased to host the Annual Law Student Mixer at District Social in midtown Manhattan, co-sponsored by the Asia Practice Committee. Local APALSA leaders, law students, and AABANY members gathered to mingle and foster new connections. Following in the footsteps of last year’s Law Student Mixer, the entire private cellar of the venue was specifically reserved for this event. Despite the weather, there were 60 attendees present, filling out the venue space. Attendees were treated to an assortment of delicious gastropub foods including flatbreads, sliders, and parmesan fries.
The primary purpose of the Career Placement Committee is to match qualified AABANY members with available legal positions. The 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 Committee Co-Chairs.

On May 28, 2019, AABANY’s Career Placement and Student Outreach Committees hosted the first Membership Mixer of the new fiscal year at Cajunsea on West 33rd Street. Well over 30 attendees gathered and mingled while enjoying drinks, oysters, and snacks. Co-Chairs from the Career Placement Committee and Student Outreach Committee were present to meet with attendees and introduce them to the work of those Committees.

On October 24, 2019, AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee and Career Placement Committee co-sponsored a resume review/interview skills workshop at Fordham Law School. Students had the opportunity to have their resumes reviewed and practice interview questions with attorneys from a variety of different fields including, but not limited to, Intellectual Property, Antitrust, Corporate, Litigation and Criminal Law. There were about 25 students and 10 reviewers in attendance. Attendees also enjoyed dinner from Panda Express.

On October 24, 2019, AABANY’s Women’s Committee and Career Placement Committee co-sponsored a sip and paint social at The Painting Lounge – Midtown Studio. Attendees had the opportunity to paint their version of the Eiffel Tower while mingling with other attendees. Attendees also enjoyed some cheese and meat charcuterie along with their own bottles of wine or prosecco.

On October 29, 2019, AABANY’s Government Service & Public Interest Committee, Career Placement Committee, Student Outreach Committee, and New York Law School’s APALSA teamed up to present the Pathways to Government Service and Public Interest Career Panel. Panelists included: Mihea Kim, Staff Attorney, Homicide Defense Task Force, The Legal Aid Society; Hon. Donald Leo, New York City Criminal Court Judge, New York Supreme Court; Nelson Mar, Senior Staff Attorney, Education Law Unit, Bronx Legal Services; Kin Ng, Bureau Chief of the Red Zone Trial Bureau, Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office; Won Shin, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York. The moderator was Hon. Grace E. Lee, Administrative Law Judge, New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

The panelists shared what experiences led them to their current position in the public interest/government sector. Fun tidbits were also revealed – two of the panelists litigated cases against each other, while two other panelists went to high school together. Attendees and panelists enjoyed friendly banter and discussion after the panel.

On November 9, 2019, AABANY’s Career Placement Committee along with the Immigration, Women’s, Bankruptcy, Membership, and Young Lawyers Committees co-sponsored Apex For Youth’s Casino Night at the Rubin Museum. A number of attendees were dressed in black-tie and enjoyed pseudo-gambling for raffle prizes, an open bar, and amazing food.

On November 19, 2019, AABANY’s Career Placement Committee presented its inaugural Dress for Success event with the Government Service & Public Interest Committee, Litigation Committee, Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee, Student Outreach Committee, and Women’s Committee. The event took place at J.Crew Fifth Avenue. The event was attended by over 20 people. The event provided attendees personal styling advice, an opportunity to shop, and wardrobe demonstrations that would allow each attendee to put their best foot forward in dressing. The event was catered by Flavor Fuzion and a generous donation was made by Ashvini Persaud, Sr. Business Banker at Capital One.

As the fiscal year draws to a close, the Committee is planning to host a dinner with a few of its members.
Commercial Bankruptcy and Restructuring Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
William Hao
Vincent Roldan

The Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring Committee was formed in order to raise awareness of bankruptcy-related issues to non-bankruptcy practitioners, as well as to provide networking opportunities for APA bankruptcy/restructuring professionals. The Committee is currently planning various networking events and CLE programs for professionals in related fields.

On Friday, June 14, 2019, AABANY’s Membership and Bankruptcy Committees co-sponsored a Mets Game outing with members, friends, and family at Citi Field. We took up two rows of seats in the upper decks, with an expansive view of the stadium from left field. The Mets played the Cleveland Indians, and we all got free t-shirts, but no one was sure whose face was on it. Our crowd included both fans and non-fans, and some very young future fans.

On September 21, 2019, the 2019 NAPABA Northeast Regional/AABANY Fall Conference included “Cybersecurity: 20/20 Hindsight Not Good Enough in 2020,” a program organized by AABANY’s Commercial Restructuring and Bankruptcy Committee, which discussed the cybersecurity industry today, and how lawyers can help prevent data breaches and safeguard against bad actors. The panelists gave advice on how attorneys can stay ahead of data breaches and protect their clients – mainly through diligent pre-breach planning, training staff on signs of a breach, and preparing a response plan in case of a breach. The panelists also offered some advice on the ethical concerns that arise when a breach occurs, and how to best handle them.

On January 29, 2020, we joined the Academic, Corporate, Military and Veterans Affairs & Membership Committees for a Lunar New Year celebration at the Madison Square Garden for a game between the New York Knicks and the Memphis Grizzlies.

For 2020, we plan on continuing to collaborate with other committees and proposing educational CLE panels for upcoming AABANY events and conferences.
The Corporate Law Committee consists of law firm attorneys who are interested in sharing their ideas and experience as law firm practitioners on a variety of issues facing APA lawyers through conferences, CLE classes, and social networking 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 in the New York region.

On Thursday, June 27, 2019, AABANY held its 12th annual Summer Soiree, formerly known as the Wine Tasting and Networking Reception, at the Castell Rooftop Lounge located atop AC Hotel New York Times Square. The In-House Counsel Committee and the Corporate Law Committee once again co-organized this event, and around 130 senior in-house lawyers and senior law firm attorneys and partners attended this year. The Summer Soiree is a marquee event for AABANY, and more details appear in the Year in Review section above.

On Tuesday, July 22nd, AABANY’s Corporate Law Committee and Student Outreach Committee hosted an insightful Pre-OCI Information session, “What do corporate lawyers do?”, at Paul, Weiss. More than 30 law school students and undergraduates attended. The panelists comprised both in-house attorneys from top firms in the industry and corporate law lawyers at prestigious law firms, each with a different specialty practice area within the landscape of corporate law: Jasmine Ball, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; Parkin Lee, Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, The Rockefeller Group; Marianne Chow-Newman, Counsel, The Hearst Corporation; Lawrence G. Wee, Partner, Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP; Terry Shen (Moderator), Partner, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP.

Addressing the question “what do corporate lawyers do?”, the panelists talked about why they chose corporate law, their daily role as a corporate lawyer, the interaction and relationship with corporate clients, the kind of tasks a junior associate will encounter, and interview techniques for the upcoming OCI (on-campus interview) season on campus.

On January 29, 2020, we joined the Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring, Academic, Military and Veterans Affairs & Membership Committees for a Lunar New Year celebration at the Madison Square Garden for a game between the New York Knicks and the Memphis Grizzlies.

On February 19, 2020, AABANY held its Monthly Membership Mixer that was co-sponsored by the Corporate Law, Issues, Litigation, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Professional Development Committees. The mixer was held at the Atwood Bar and Lounge, where a crowd of current members and future members mingled over food and drinks and learned about our upcoming events.
Government Service and Public Interest Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Jonathan Hernandez
Kevin Hsi
Beatrice Leong

AABANY’s Government Service and Public Interest Committee looks to promote a greater number of APA lawyers to join public interest law and public service and address the concerns of APA lawyers working in these areas. The Committee thus organizes and presents programs geared toward these concerns through CLE seminars, career panels, networking events, and other programs. The Committee actively seeks to work with and co-sponsor events and activities with other Committees and other public interest organizations that further AABANY’s mission.

For the Government Service & Public Interest Committee (GSPI), 2019-20 was a year of continued growth, collaboration and new ideas under the leadership of Co-Chairs Kevin Hsi, Jonathan Hernandez, and Beatrice Leong. The 2019-20 year saw the continued increase in collaboration between the GSPI Committee and multiple AABANY committees on a wide range of events.

The GSPI Committee continued its partnership with the Pro Bono & Community Service Committee to provide free legal services to the Asian American community. GSPI held three joint meetings with the Pro Bono Committee on June 19, 2019, September 4, 2019, and February 4, 2020. These meetings provided opportunities for all members to network, exchange ideas, and discuss ways to strengthen the monthly pro bono clinic.

On Thursday, March 28, 2019, the Government Service and Public Interest (GSPI) and Pro Bono Committees enjoyed some traditional Chinese delicacies at Bite of Hong Kong in Chinatown. The Committees gathered for a joint year-end celebration to thank and recognize members and volunteers that made the Pro Bono Clinics, trainings, panels, and other activities a success this past year.

On Thursday, April 11, 2019, AABANY hosted a screening of “Blowin’ Up,” a feature documentary that explores the complex realities of sex work in New York City and the compassionate approach of a human trafficking court in Queens County. The film features AABANY member Honorable Toko Serita, Queens Supreme Court, as well as other heroines of the Human Trafficking Intervention Court, that work with victims of sexual exploitation who face prostitution-related charges. After the screening, Beatrice Leong, GSPI Committee Co-Chair, led a panel discussion featuring speakers from the NYPD/FBI Joint Human Trafficking Task Force and a Queens Assistant District Attorney who prosecutes human traffickers.

On Thursday, July 18, 2019, the GSPI Committee, Membership Committee, and Prosecutors Committee hosted a Membership Mixer with members, colleagues, and friends at Stout NYC on West 33rd Street. Members and non-members alike enjoyed reconnecting with familiar faces and building new relationships. We filled an entire side room in the cellar of Stout. The date of the mixer coincided with the birthday of former Prosecutors Committee Co-Chair Helen Ahn, who sadly passed away in November 2018. The Prosecutors Committee brought a birthday cake to mark the occasion and to honor Helen’s memory.

The GSPI Committee was very active during the AABANY Fall Conference that was held at Fordham Law School on September 21, 2019. There, the GSPI Committee co-hosted the panel discussion “Then They Came for Us – Through the Back Door: U.S. Immigration Policy and Practice Changes” along with the Immigration Committee and the Pro Bono & Community Service Committee. This panel addressed the recent court and government policy decisions that have been significantly impacting both immigrants and immigration law attorneys across the country. The panel speakers were Amanda Bernardo (New York Legal Assistance Group), Poonam Gupta (White & Case LLP), Deborah Lee (The Legal Aid
At the AABANY 2019 Fall Conference, the GSPI Committee co-hosted the panel discussion “Count Us All! Fighting the Disenfranchisement of AAPIs in the 2020 Census.” The census panel discussed the recent litigation over the Trump Administration’s unsuccessful attempt to add a citizenship question to the upcoming U.S. 2020 Census. The panel speakers were Meeta Anand (New York Immigration Coalition), Perry Grossman (New York Civil Liberties Union), Glenn Magpantay (National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance), Howard Shih (Asian American Federation) and Steven Wu (New York State Office of the Attorney General). The program chairs were GSPI Committee Co-Chair Kevin Hsi, Immigration Committee Co-Chair Annie Wang and Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair Karen Kithan Yau. The program was moderated by Jerry Vattamala (AALDEF). The census program was a highly successful collaboration between the GSPI, Pro Bono & Community Service, Issues, LGBT and Immigration Committees.

GSPI Committee members were also active in organizing additional programs at the 2019 Fall Conference. GSPI Committee member Evelyn Gong (Perkins Coie LLP) organized and moderated a program on Asian American Voter Protection. GSPI Committee member Nelson Mar (Bronx Legal Services) organized and moderated a program on Rights of Students with Disabilities in Immigrant APA Communities. The GSPI Committee also co-sponsored a program with the South Asian American Bar Association of New York (SABANY) on Pathways to Public Executive Appointments.

On Tuesday, October 29, 2019, AABANY’s Government Service & Public Interest Committee, Career Placement Committee, Student Outreach Committee, and New York Law School’s APALSA teamed up to present Pathways to Government Service and Public Interest Career Panel. Panelists included: Mihea Kim, Staff Attorney, Homicide Defense Task Force, The Legal Aid Society; Hon. Donald Leo, New York City Criminal Court Judge, New York Supreme Court; Nelson Mar, Senior Staff Attorney, Education Law Unit, Bronx Legal Services; Kin Ng, Bureau Chief of the Red Zone Trial Bureau, Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office; Won Shin, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York. The moderator was Hon. Grace E. Lee, Administrative Law Judge.
Immigration Law Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Poonam Gupta
Annie Wang

The Immigration 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.

The Immigration Committee co-hosted with AABANY’s Pro Bono and GSPI Committees “Then They Came For Us – Through the Back Door: U.S. Immigration Policy & Practice Changes,” a panel discussion on the changes in immigration rules by the Trump Administration that have radically shifted the existing paradigms and recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement actions in and around state courts. This program was chaired by Karen Kithan Yau, Poonam Gupta, and Kevin Hsi and moderated by Annie Wang, Director of Immigrant Justice Project, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Speakers included: Amanda Bernardo, Supervising Attorney, New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) Immigrant Protection Unit; Poonam Gupta, Counsel and Director of Immigration Services, White & Case LLP; Deborah Lee, Supervising Attorney, Immigration Law Unit of the Legal Aid Society; Jane Shim, Advocacy Staff Attorney, Immigrant Defense Project; and Tsui Yee, Founder, Law Offices of Tsui H. Yee P.C.

On November 9, 2019, AABANY’s Immigration Committee along with the Career Placement, Bankruptcy, Membership, and Young Lawyers Committees co-sponsored Apex For Youth’s Casino Night at the Rubin Museum. A number of attendees were dressed in black-tie and enjoyed pseudo-gambling for raffle prizes, an open bar, and amazing food.

At the Fall Conference, Amanda Bernardo spoke about changes to immigration policy.
In-House Counsel Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Grace Fu
Blossom Kan
Duane Morikawa

The In-House Counsel Committee consists of in-house counsel who are 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 with in-house counsel members. The Committee has sponsored CLE courses and networking events.

On April 2, 2019, the Committee co-sponsored with the Tax Law Committee a panel discussion entitled “Tax 101 for the In-House Counsel” at the law offices of Mayer Brown. The panelists included JoonBeom Pae, Tax Partner at Mayer Brown, Sharon Kim, Tax Partner at Ashurst, Richard Williams, Tax Partner at Dentons and Libin Zhang, Tax Partner at Roberts & Holland. The panel was moderated by Shiukay Hung, Committee member and Senior Director at Tishman Speyer.

On June 27th, 2019, AABANY held its 12th annual Summer Soiree, formerly known as the Wine Tasting and Networking Reception, at the Castell Rooftop Lounge located atop AC Hotel New York Times Square. The In-House Counsel Committee and the Corporate Law Committee once again co-organized this event. Approximately 130 in-house attorneys and law firm attorneys attended the event. The attendees represented 51 companies from a variety of industries, such as banking, media, finance, and real estate, and 30 top global and regional law firms with offices in New York City.

The Committee actively participated in the NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference and Annual AABANY Fall Conference on September 21, 2019 by sponsoring or co-sponsoring three programs, as well as hosting the In-House Counsel Forum:

Emerging Technology 101: Adapting to this Brave New World. The panelists, included Aaron Fischer, Commercial Counsel, Datadog, Nichole Sterling, Associate, Baker & Hostetler LLP, and Kate Broderick, Law Clerk, AIG Global Legal Team, and Ariel Risinger, Legal Counsel of Technology and Commercial Transactions, AXA XL served as the moderator. The program addressed topics related to emerging technology, including blockchain, artificial intelligence, smart contracts and distributed ledger technology. The panelists discussed the nuts and bolts of emerging technology, recommended skills in-house attorneys need to develop to stay current with the developing technology and the risks and rewards of adopting the emerging technology.

GC Roundtable: Challenges in Unity Among Diverse Future Visions. The distinguished members of the panel included Sedi Doobay, General Counsel, ISC, Honeywell/ Performance Materials and Technologies, Thomas S. Kim, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Thomson Reuters, Karen Leu, Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Burlington Stores, Inc., Don H. Liu, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Risk Officer, Target Corporation, and David Warren, Vice President, General Counsel, PRADA – North America, and Una A. Dean, Partner, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP served as the moderator. The panel discussed the challenges of advocating for the organization in its quest to achieve unity in its actions among diverse interests and visions for the future. Topics included the political environment, regulatory matters and issues concerning compliance with extra-territorial reach of local regulations, social issues, trade policies, sanctions and economic pressures globally. Finally, the panel discussed the paths taken to the position of GC and advice for becoming a GC.

The Committee co-sponsored the pitch sessions with the Corporate Law Committee during the Fall Conference. The pitch sessions provided an opportunity for law firm attorneys and legal service providers to make pitches to in-house attorneys for legal services on current or future needs.
The IHCC hosted an invitation-only forum: *In-House Counsel Forum*. The Forum offered in-house counsel participants an opportunity to discuss issues of particular relevance for in-house attorneys and build a support network with other in-house attorneys.

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

GC Roundtable panelists offered advice on the path to becoming a GC.
Committee Co-Chairs:
Ben Hsing
Jeff Mok
Greg Pan

The Intellectual Property Committee seeks to:
1. Provide practical skills training, support, and opportunities for practicing and aspiring intellectual property lawyers in the New York area,
2. Serve as a forum to explore U.S.-Asia intellectual property issues, and
3. Provide opportunities for networking and socializing among AABANY members interested in intellectual property law.

On Friday, March 27, 2019, the IP Committee enjoyed classic and unique Korean dishes for dinner at Soju Haus in Koreatown for their year-end celebration dinner. Members networked and discussed their current positions, spanning private practice, in-house, law school, and clerkship. Members also shared stories about their experience as Asian American lawyers.

On Thursday, June 13, 2019, AABANY’s Intellectual Property Committee hosted a Summer Mixer at Gu Japanese Fusion Sushi & Bar on East 52nd Street. IP lawyers, law students, AABANY members, and non-members gathered together to share appetizers of agedashi tofu, karaage, and shrimp tempura at the back of the busy izakaya.

On Wednesday, August 28, 2019, IP Committee members gathered for a Filipino dinner at Mama Fina’s House of Filipino Sisig. A mix of old and new members attended. Some were just learning about IP, while others had years of experience in the industry. We dined on delicious dishes such as pork sisig, crispy pata, and kare-kare as we networked.

On Saturday, September 21, 2019 at the NAPABABA Northeast Regional/AABANY Fall Conference, the IP Committee presented a panel entitled: Far From Home: Cultural and Legal Considerations When Bringing Your Brand To New Territories. The panel featured Co-Chair Greg Pan, (RED)), Co-Chair Ben Hsing (McGuireWoods LLP), Stacy Wu (Law Offices of Stacy L. Wu, P.C.), and Ying Mu, (Labbrand New York), and was moderated by Co-Chair Jeff Mok (Fish & Richardson). The panel discussed intellectual property law considerations when taking one’s brand overseas, and also looked into cultural considerations, in the context of globalization continuing to make it easier for US companies to bring their brand overseas.

On Thursday, November 14, 2019 the Intellectual Property Committee together with the Membership, Asia Practice, and Real Estate Committees hosted a Night at the Opera, gathering about 30 AABANY members with friends and family to see a performance of “La Bohème” at the Met in Lincoln Center. Before the performance a group of attendees mingled and enjoyed drinks and quick bites at the bar outside the Family Circle. Then, at 7:30, everyone went inside to take their seats. The AABANY contingent took up nearly three rows of seats. By all accounts, this event was a hit among those who attended.

On Monday, December 16, 2019, new and regular members of the IP Committee gathered to celebrate the end of 2019 at Nom Wah – Nolita. The group, comprised of a mix of members who are in-house, in private practice, and in law school, networked over juicy pork dumplings, shu mai, and scallion pancakes, among other dim sum delicacies. Members discussed issues they face in their practice, updates on their careers, and plans for the holidays.

For the remainder of the fiscal year, the IP Committee plans to host a discussion about video streaming services, present a Careers in IP event for law students interested in intellectual property, and organize additional social events for members to network with each other.
AABANY’s Issues Committee examines and considers a variety of issues that impact, directly or indirectly, the APA community and provides recommendations to AABANY’s Board on whether or not the association should, consistent with its mission, take action on the issues, and if so, in what way and to what extent. AABANY’s Issues Committee continues to seek motivated legal talent to join this Committee in expanding AABANY’s activity in accordance with its stated mission of advocating for the APA community.

The discussion centered around how small business owners can take steps to make sure they comply with Federal, State, and City employment laws to avoid liability. In particular, the speakers addressed the minimum wage requirements, the importance of maintaining unemployment insurance, the prevention of anti-discrimination and anti-harassment claims, compliance with ADA accommodation requirements and the New York State Paid Family Leave Act.

There was serious discussion on the pressures small businesses face within the legal regulatory framework, with the additional language and cultural barriers faced by first-generation immigrant business owners.

At the AABANY 2019 Fall Conference, the Issues Committee co-hosted the panel discussion “Count Us All! Fighting the Disenfranchisement of AAPIs in the 2020 Census.” The census panel discussed the recent litigation over the Trump Administration’s unsuccessful attempt to add a citizenship question to the upcoming U.S. 2020 Census. The panel speakers were Meeta Anand (New York Immigration Coalition), Perry Grossman (New York Civil Liberties Union), Glenn Magpantay (National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance), Howard Shih (Asian American Federation) and Steven Wu (New York State Office of the Attorney General). The program chairs were GSPI Committee Co-Chair Kevin Hsi, Immigration Committee Co-Chair Annie Wang and Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair Karen Kithan Yau. The program was moderated by Jerry Vattamala (AALDEF). The census program was a highly successful collaboration between the GSPI, Pro Bono & Community Service, Issues, LGBT and Immigration Committees.

On February 19, 2020, the Issues Committee co-sponsored AABANY’s Monthly Membership Mixer with the Corporate Law, Issues, Litigation, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Professional Development Committees. The mixer was held at the Atwood Bar and Lounge, where a crowd of current members and future members mingled over food and drinks and learned about our upcoming events.
Committee Co-Chairs:
Dai Wai Chin Feman
Rena Malik
William Wang

The Judiciary Committee leads AABANY’s efforts to work towards increasing 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.

On Thursday, May 30, 2019, AABANY’s Judiciary Committee hosted its third annual Judges’ Reception at the Surrogate’s Courthouse, 31 Chambers Street. The reception honored newly inducted, elevated and retiring judges in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The honorees recognized at the event were individuals who represent the significant strides that Asian Pacific Americans have achieved, as well as the ongoing fight for diversity within our leading institutions.

New York State Senator John C. Liu was slated to be the keynote speaker for the reception, but due to pressing matters in Albany he was not able to attend. The Honorable Phillip Hom, Civil Court of the City of New York, delivered remarks on his behalf. Judge Hom is a friend of Senator John C. Liu from their days at Bronx High School of Science and Binghamton University. Judge Hom also served as the Chief of Staff of then-Councilman John C. Liu from 2002-2005.


All the honorees are Asian Pacific Americans Judges who were recently inducted to the bench or elevated in New York. Following the awards ceremony, all attendees enjoyed catching up with each other or making new connections, over delicious food and dessert catered by Nom Wah and Chinatown Ice Cream Factory.

On Tuesday, July 17, 2019, the Judiciary Committee held its quarterly meeting at NYC Civil Court located in Lower Manhattan. The meeting was led by Co-Chairs Rena Malik and William Wang. During the meeting, the attendees heard about highlights of past events, such as the robing ceremony of Judge Michael Park, and also actively engaged in a discussion on how to prepare and improve future investiture ceremonies for prospective APA judges. The discussion also covered screening panel training for next spring and applications for AABANY endorsement for members who wish to ascend to the bench. After hearing about AABANY’s participation in screening panels in New York, several attendees kindly offered help to connect the Committee with eligible speakers for the screening panel training.

On September 21, 2019, a program that took place at the 2019 NAPABA Northeast Regional/AABANY Fall Conference was “State and Federal Clerkships: A Primer on Seeking, Landing, and Succeeding in the Right Clerkship for You,” organized by AABANY’s Judiciary Committee, which discussed the benefits of a clerkship, steps to landing a clerkship, and some tips on how to be successful at a clerkship. The panelists highlighted how a clerkship can help with professional development, legal writing and research skills, and building a network. The panelists were also able to give some insight into the differences between state and federal court clerkships, the application process, and how to approach interviews.

On November 7, 2019, the AABANY Judiciary Committee hosted a program called: Road to the Bench, a Mayoral Appointment. The event was hosted by Paul Hastings. Panelists included Hon. Karen Cortes from NYC Family Court and Hon. Frances Wang from NYC Criminal Court. Chanwoo Lee, a longtime member of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary was also a panelist. The panel was moderated by Hon. John Wang from NYC Housing Court. The panel spoke candidly about their experience seeking appointment by the Mayoral appointment process to Family or Criminal Court. Approximately 20 to 25 attendees enjoyed the judges’ guidance as well as practical input from Chanwoo Lee who served many years on the Selection Committee and gave frank advice about what is sought in a strong candidate.
The 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 Committee actively seeks to connect the APA community with the expertise of the lawyers and human resources professionals in the Committee and to promote the education and discussion of workplace issues affecting employees, employers, and their families.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) was invited by the Asian American Federation and some of its member agencies – not-for-profit organizations that have substantial Chinese-speaking staff – to help with training their limited-English-proficient staff in their native languages on the prevention of sexual harassment in order to meet the new requirements under the New York State and New York City Human Rights Law.

On behalf of AABANY, Karen Kithan Yau, a Co-Chair of the Pro Bono and Community Service Committee and Eric Su, a Co-Chair of the Labor and Employment Law Committee, both of whom are long-time employment lawyers, representing workers and employers respectively, gave three trainings, one in Cantonese Chinese, one in Mandarin Chinese, and one in English. The training took place in late September and early October. The training participants included kitchen and housekeeping staff, part-time teachers, museum staff, policy advocates, and an executive director. The discussion was rich, lively, and illuminating.

Every New York State employer is now required to provide sexual harassment training to their employees annually. That means that, as of October 9, 2019, every employer should have provided their first such training. Moreover, the New York State and City laws now protect virtually all employees, including contractors, subcontractors, vendors, consultants, or others providing services from sexual harassment in the workplace. Thus the need to provide linguistically and culturally competent instruction is acute. The New York City Human Rights Commission has provided impressive training materials, including online training in 11 languages. However, there remain employees who will need training in their native languages. Experienced employment attorneys or skilled trainers of human resources areas who are linguistically and culturally competent will continue to be needed.
Committee Co-Chairs:
Glenn Magpantay
John Vang

The Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Committee of AABANY strives to foster the acceptance and advancement of LGBT APAs 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 and 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 seeks to provide a forum for professional and social networking both within and outside of AABANY through unique networking events.

On March 5, 2019, the AABANY LGBT Committee held a roundtable discussion titled: “Transactional Identities: Navigating the various contexts of coming out for Asian American lawyers.” Presenting were Connie Montoya, Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Janice Jabido, IP Counsel, Pratt & Whitney; and Tony Thomas, Chief Legal & Labor Relations Officer, City University of New York – Brooklyn College. Dennis M. Quinio, Manager of Diversity & Inclusion, Milbank, LLP, moderated the discussion.

Our esteemed presenters jump-started the conversation, sharing their experiences being LGBT and Asian American within the legal profession, their families and their communities at large. They discussed the struggles of being in the closet; the dynamics of coming out to colleagues, clients, and family members; and strategies for overcoming day-to-day challenges such as microaggressions. Several Asian American LGBT attorneys from private practice, government and the nonprofit sector attended the discussion and shared their experiences in this confidential space, meant to foster a candid and supportive dialogue. We heard about others’ experiences harmonizing identities that may seem to be in conflict and explored how living our “authentic” selves can impact our effectiveness at work.

The law firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton graciously hosted the event. At the beginning of the roundtable, Sandra Flow, Partner and Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion at Cleary, delivered warm and welcoming remarks, affirming the firm’s commitment to supporting diverse attorneys.

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

At the AABANY 2019 Fall Conference, the LGBT Committee co-hosted the panel discussion “Count Us All! Fighting the Disenfranchisement of AAPIs in the 2020 Census.” The census panel discussed the recent litigation over the Trump Administration’s unsuccessful attempt to add a citizenship question to the upcoming U.S. 2020 Census. The panel speakers were Meeta Anand (New York Immigration Coalition), Perry Grossman (New York Civil Liberties Union), Glenn Magpantay (National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance), Howard Shih (Asian American Federation) and Steven Wu (New York State Office of the Attorney General). The program chairs were GSPI Committee Co-Chair Kevin Hsi, Immigration Committee Co-Chair Annie Wang and Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair Karen Kithan Yau. The program was moderated by Jerry Vattamala (AALDEF). The census program was a highly successful collaboration between the GSPI, Pro Bono & Community Service, Issues, LGBT and Immigration Committees.

On October 29, 2019, nearly 50 members of the bar “came out” to celebrate the diversity within the LGBT and Asian American and South Asian communities at the Committee’s annual signature Asian American/South Asian Lawyers Networking Reception.

Partners and associates at corporate firms, government attorneys, solo practitioners, small firms, and public interest lawyers enjoyed this networking
reception, which raised money for the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance’s legal referral program.

Attendees heard from Sonia Lin, Deputy Commissioner & General Counsel, NYC Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs.” Her remarks were followed by a briefing on the recent U.S. Supreme Court oral argument on whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act protects LGBT people.

This Spring the Committee will host an education panel on the issue of LGBT rights in Asia.
Litigation Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
David Choi
James Lee
Jenny Wu

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.

On Saturday, August 17th, AABANY members and their family, friends, and pets gathered at the Heckscher Picnic Area in Central Park for the AABANY Annual Picnic that the Litigation Committee and Young Lawyers Committee co-organized. Attendees enjoyed the beautiful weather, while connecting with friends, old and new. Attendees sampled an assortment of delicious dumplings and sandwiches from Vanessa’s Dumpling House, as well as fruit, cupcakes, and pizza brought by other picnickers.

On Tuesday, November 19, 2019, AABANY’s Career Placement Committee presented its inaugural Dress for Success event, co-sponsored by the Litigation Committee. The event took place at J. Crew Fifth Avenue. Over 20 people attended the event. The event provided attendees with personal styling advice, an opportunity to shop, and wardrobe demonstrations that would allow each attendee to put their best foot forward in dressing.

On Wednesday, February 19, 2020, the Litigation Committee co-sponsored AABANY’s Monthly Membership Mixer with the Corporate Law, Issues, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Professional Development Committees. The mixer was held at the Atwood Bar and Lounge, where a crowd of current members and future members mingled over food and drinks and learned about our upcoming events.

During the AABANY Fall Conference on Saturday, September 21, 2019, the Litigation Committee hosted the Trial Advocacy Program (TAP). TAP provided participants with the chance to conduct their own opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, and closing statements, all while receiving personalized feedback from our experienced faculty members. In 2019, TAP was honored to feature as its keynote speaker The Hon. Denny Chin, U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals, who discussed observations and insights of trial practice from a judicial perspective.

TAP also included morning and afternoon panels on effective trial advocacy featuring distinguished and experienced litigators. Litigation Committee Co-Chairs David Choi and James Lee moderated the morning panel featuring Justice Chin, Peter Polchinski (Hawkins Parnell), and Manisha Sheth (Quinn Emmanual), discussing opening statements and direct examinations of witnesses. The afternoon panel featured Joe Gim (Nassau County DA’s Office) and Sam Yee (NYPD), who gave a lecture on cross-examinations and closing statements.

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Membership Committee

**Committee Co-Chairs:**
Christopher Bae  
Beatrice Leong

According to AABANY’s by-laws, the Membership Committee shall consist of the Membership Secretary and at least three Active Members appointed by the President. The Membership Committee develops recommendations for programs and services that meets the needs of the membership and encourages new members to join the AABANY.

On May 28, 2019, the Membership Committee launched its Monthly Membership Mixer, at Cajunsea, with the Career Placement and Student Outreach Committees as co-hosts. These mixers, held throughout the year, gave all members the opportunity to connect and re-connect. Non-members were also invited to get to know AABANY at these mixers and find out how they could get more involved in the association’s activities and programs through participation in AABANY’s many committees.

On Friday, June 14, 2019, AABANY’s Membership and Bankruptcy Committees co-sponsored a Mets Game outing with members, friends, and family at Citi Field. We took up two rows of seats in the upper decks, with an expansive view of the stadium from left field. The Mets played the Cleveland Indians, and we all got free t-shirts, but no one was sure whose face was on it. Our crowd included both fans and non-fans, and some very young future fans.

On Friday, June 28, 2019, AABANY’s Membership Committee and Young Lawyers Committee hosted a summer mixer with members, colleagues, and friends at Atwood in Midtown East. Even with the whole mezzanine area to ourselves, we had no trouble packing out the spacious venue with over sixty young lawyers and law students who were eager to unwind from a long week, reconnect with old faces, and build new relationships. Members and non-members alike mingled over delicious platters of philly cheese egg rolls, chicken wings, fries, and grilled vegetables, all the while taking advantage of beer specials provided by the friendly staff at Atwood. Young lawyers shared their experiences with law firm and judicial interns who were eager to know what life after law school would be like. And colleagues caught up with one another regarding the work that they were doing in their respective fields, whether it be in-house, big law, smaller law firms, or working in government.

On Friday, August 16, the Membership Committee together with the Prosecutors’ Committee hosted an outing to Yankee Stadium to watch the first-place Yankees take on the Cleveland Indians. Thanks to our sponsor, Esquire Deposition Solutions, 40 AABANY members and their guests were able to buy tickets at just $5 per person. Early arrivers got a free Yankees beach towel. Half of the tickets were standing room and the other half were seated. AABANY members and their friends congregated at Toyota Terrace throughout the evening to watch the Yanks hold on to their early lead over the Indians. Friday night proved to be a great summer evening to enjoy America’s favorite pastime, in good company, complete with a free drink and hot dog for those who got the standing room tickets.

On Thursday, September 6, 2019, AABANY’s Membership Committee co-sponsored the Student Outreach Committee’s Annual Law Student Mixer at District Social in midtown Manhattan. Local APALSA leaders, law students, and AABANY members gathered to mingle and foster new connections. Following in the footsteps of last year’s Law Student Mixer, the entire private cellar of the venue was specifically reserved for this event. Despite the weather, there were 60 attendees present, filling out the venue space. Attendees were treated to an assortment of delicious gastropub foods including flatbreads, sliders, and parmesan fries.

On October 11, 2019, AABANY’s Membership Committee hosted a mixer at the Cobblestone Biergarten in Forest Hills, Queens. AABANY members and non-members mingled while enjoying drinks and an assortment of delicious appetizers. The event brought attorneys, law students, and friends, who lived or worked in Queens. We even had members coming all the way from Manhattan, including AABANY President Brian Song.
On October 30, 2019, AABANY ended October with our Monthly Membership Mixer at Atwood. We were excited to see a lot of new faces as recent law school graduates and practicing attorneys met with some of our members and learned more about our organization.

On Thursday evening, Nov. 7, AABANY celebrated its 30th birthday at Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que, just around the corner from the JW Marriott in Austin, Texas, at which the NAPABA Convention was taking place. AABANY members who were attending the Convention came out in force and brought friends from various affiliates from around the country. Over 60 attendees filled a section of one of the event rooms on the second floor. Among the attendees were members who were there at the start of AABANY, including Rocky Chin, Hon. Marilyn Go, Hon. Denny Chin (who served as President from 1992-93) and his wife Kathy Hirata Chin. Past Presidents Vincent Chang, James Chou, and Dwight Yoo also attended, as did current President Brian Song. Membership Director Beatrice Leong organized the celebration; she secured the venue and placed the food order, and she also ordered the cake. The authentic Texas barbecue fare was a big hit, and the cake came out with sparklers.

On Wednesday, November 20, 2019, AABANY's Membership Committee held its Monthly Membership Mixer at Stout NYC – Grand Central. Over thirty attendees filled a section of the second floor that was reserved for our group, including our President, Brian Song, and many of our board members, as well as recent New York transplant, Michael Wu, chief legal officer and corporate secretary of Madewell, Inc.

On Friday, January 17, 2020, the Membership Committee co-sponsored an outing to the Hello Panda Lantern Festival at Citi Field along with the GSPI, Pro Bono & Community Service and Young Lawyers Committees. Approximately 30 members and friends braved the cold weather to see the beautiful crafted sculptures which were lit in colorful lights against the night sky.

On Wednesday, January 29, 2020, the Membership Committee co-sponsored an outing to a Knicks basketball game along with the Academic, Bankruptcy, Corporate, and Military & Veteran Affairs Committee to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The attendees enjoyed Chase Sky Bridge seating and free Knicks gifts.

On Wednesday, February 19, 2020, the Membership Committee co-hosted a Membership Mixer at Atwood Bar & Lounge with the Corporate, Issues, Litigation, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Professional Development Committees. Current members and new faces attended to reconnect and mingle over drinks and refreshments.

In 2020, the Membership Committee will continue to hold fun and exciting events to encourage participation and membership in AABANY.
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Jimmy Kang
Dong Joo Lee

The MVA Committee serves as (1) 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 veterans affairs; (2) an education and advocacy resource on legal issues related to the military and veterans; and (3) a source for pro bono assistance to military members, veterans and their families.

On September 25, 2019, the Academic, Military and Veterans, and Membership Committees had a mixer at Atwood restaurant. Non-members learned about AABANY events and committees and how to join.

On November 14th, 2019, AABANY co-sponsored KALAGNY’s Third Annual Veterans and Military Networking Event at Debevoise & Plimpton. Commander David Lee, Staff Judge Advocate for the Naval Special Warfare Command, presented Jasmine Ball, an AABANY board member and corporate partner at Debevoise Plimpton, with a Naval Special Warfare Group Ten challenge coin for her continued support of the US Navy JAG Corp. Commander Lee then gave a presentation titled, “Perspectives on Service,” which outlined the type of work that the Naval Special Warfare Command does and described how his identity as an Asian American impacted his eighteen-year career in the military.

On January 29, 2020, we joined the Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring, Academic, Corporate, Military and Veterans Affairs & Membership Committees for a Lunar New Year celebration at the Madison Square Garden for a game between the New York Knicks and the Memphis Grizzlies.
Committee Co-Chairs:
Asako Aiba
Judy Lee
Karen Yau
Pauline Yeung-Ha

Committee Vice-Chairs:
Zhixian Jessie Liu
Kwok Kei Ng

The Pro Bono & Community Service Committee ("Pro Bono Committee") encourages pro bono legal service among APA attorneys and informs the community of their legal rights and works with community organizations to bring free/low cost legal services to the APA, immigrant, and other communities in New York.

Manhattan Pro Bono Clinics

The Pro Bono Committee continues to conduct Pro Bono Legal Advice and Referral Clinic by leveraging expertise and language skills of its strong and diverse membership. The Clinic effectively expands access to justice and provides the Asian American community a gateway to getting high-quality, culturally, and linguistically competent legal services.

Through its Pro Bono Committee, AABANY conducts a monthly pro bono legal advice and referral clinic in the community room at 33 Bowery (Confucius Plaza) in Manhattan every second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. AABANY members and other volunteers have given advice about housing, immigration, family law, benefits (SSI, Medicare, and Medicaid), wills/trusts, employment, criminal law, and many other subjects.

Since the inauguration of the monthly pro bono clinic in 2015, thousands of low-income community members have received thoughtful advice and appropriate legal referral from dedicated AABANY volunteers.

Since the fall of 2018, the Clinic began to incorporate Know-Your-Rights presentations on topics such as discrimination, elder, housing, immigration, wage and hour law, and accessing the civil court system in New York.

Brooklyn Pro Bono Clinics

On Thursday, September 26, 2019, in collaboration with the offices of a New York City Councilmember, an Assemblymember, and a State Senator, AABANY’s Pro Bono Committee expanded its services to Brooklyn. The Pro Bono Committee organized and held its first ever Brooklyn Pro Bono Clinic at A Plus Academy located at 6802 8th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, and it was quite a successful event. With a total of 30 volunteers in attendance, including attorneys, interpreters and a benefits counselor, we were able to provide legal assistance and referrals to 27 clients in the community.

Special Events & Collaborations

On March 28, 2019, the Government Service and Public Interest (GSPI) and Pro Bono & Community Service Committees gathered for a joint year-end celebration at Bite of Hong Kong in Chinatown to thank and recognize members and volunteers that made the Pro Bono Clinics, trainings, panels, and other activities a success in the past year.

On Sunday, April 28, 2019, AABANY co-sponsored the annual Asian Pacific American Women’s Conference at Pace University. Hosted by the Organization of Chinese Advocates and Families with Children from China, the Conference was a full day of fruitful panel discussions that revolved around the sociopolitical issues that affect Asian Pacific American women—from #MeToo to mental health. As part of the Conference, AABANY hosted a pro bono clinic and the following members gave community presentations on their areas of practice: Tsui H. Yee (Law Offices of Tsui H. Yee P.C.): Immigration Law; Karen Kithan Yau (Kakalec Law PLLC): Protection from Wage Theft and Employment Discrimination; Beatrice Leong (Parmet and Zhou LLC): Family Law; Samantha Sumilang (Lazarus, Karp & Kalamotousakis LLP): Landlord-Tenant Law. AABANY also had the opportunity to table at the resource fair and spread awareness about our monthly pro bono clinic.

On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, AABANY’s Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair, Karen Kithan Yau, and Vice-Chair, Kwok Kei Ng, met with the Commissioner of Law from Taipei City, Hsiu-Hui Yuan, and her staff in a meeting arranged by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NY Inc., a long-time community partner for the Manhattan Clinics at Confucius Plaza. Commissioner Yuan and her team had expressed interest in learning from the AABANY Pro Bono Clinic’s experience in how to best meet the legal needs of the ordinary citizen. In addition to meeting with AABANY, Commissioner Yuan and her team also met with Pro Bono Net, New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), and Office of Legal Policy for US Department of Justice. Commissioner Yuan and her staff members asked Karen and Kwok about the Clinic’s history, challenges, and successes in serving low-income community members with limited English proficiency. The discussion was substantive and far-reaching, ranging from overcoming barriers.
to justice that community members experienced to raising awareness of legal policies and mechanisms to encourage positive use of the law, effective distribution of legal resources, mediation to protect consumers, and other ways to encourage more volunteerism among extraordinarily busy lawyers.

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, in one of the morning programs at the 2019 NAPABA Northeast Regional/AABANY Fall Conference, AABANY’s Pro Bono & Community Service Committee hosted “The Art and Science of Interviewing Pro Bono Clients.” The program, chaired and moderated by Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair Pauline Yeung-Ha of Grimaldi and Yeung LLP, addressed the various methods of communicating with clinic clients, collection of information, and management of clients’ expectations and frustrations. This included a necessary discussion regarding proper translation issues that would arise as well as establishing a reliable relationship with an interpreter. Speakers included: Jonathan D. Hernandez, The Legal Aid Society; Beatrice Leong, Associate, Kleyman Law Firm; Kwok Kei Ng, Vice-Chair, Pro Bono Committee; and Karen Kithan Yau, Of Counsel, Kakalec Law. Beatrice Leong and Jonathan D. Hernandez simulated an effective and ineffective client intake meeting to demonstrate the important takeaways of this program.

The Pro Bono Committee co-hosted with AABANY’s Immigration Committee and GSPI Committee “Then They Came For Us – Through the Back Door: U.S. Immigration Policy & Practice Changes,” a panel discussion on the changes in immigration rules by the Trump Administration that have radically shifted the existing paradigms and recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement actions in and around state courts. This program was chaired by Karen Kithan Yau, Poonam Gupta, and Kevin Hsi and moderated by Annie Wang, Director of Immigrant Justice Project, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Speakers included: Amanda Bernardo, Supervising Attorney, New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) Immigrant Protection Unit; Poonam Gupta, Counsel and Director of Immigration Services, White & Case LLP; Deborah Lee, Supervising Attorney, Immigration Law Unit of the Legal Aid Society; Jane Shim, Advocacy Staff Attorney, Immigrant Defense Project; and Tsui Yee, Founder, Law Offices of Tsui H. Yee P.C.

The Pro Bono Committee also co-hosted with AABANY’s GSPI Committee, Issues Committee, LGBT Committee and Immigration Committee, “Count Us All! Fighting the Disenfranchisement of AAPIs in the 2020 Census,” a panel discussion on the 2020 U.S. Census and the proposed citizenship question. This program was chaired by Kevin Hsi, Annie Wang, and Karen Kithan Yau and moderated by Jerry Vattamala, Director, Democracy Program, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Speakers included: Meeta Anand, Senior Fellow, New York Immigration Coalition; Perry Grossman, Voting Rights Project Attorney, NYCLU; Glenn D. Magpantay, Executive Director, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance; Howard Shih, Director of Research and Policy, Asian American Foundation; and Steven Wu, Deputy Solicitor General, New York State Office of the Attorney General.

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On Friday, January 17, 2020, the Pro Bono Committee co-sponsored, with the GSPI Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, and Membership Committee, the AABANY Membership Committee event at the Hello Panda Lantern Festival at Citifield.

Committee Meetings

The Pro Bono Committee held joint meetings with the GSPI Committee on June 19 and September 4, 2019, and on February 4, 2020. Perkins Coie hosted the latter two meetings at their midtown Manhattan office, and Legal Services of New York hosted the June meeting at their Worth Street office.

Queens Expansion

The Pro Bono Committee is ready to expand our Pro Bono Clinic to Queens to further extend our free legal advice and referral services to additional low-income Asian communities.
Thank You to Our Pro Bono Clinic Volunteers

We thank all our volunteers who generously gave their time, energy, talents, knowledge, experience, insights and compassion to assist members of the Asian American, Pacific Islander and South Asian community, many of whom have limited resources and limited English proficiency, with their legal issues at our Pro Bono Clinics in Manhattan and Brooklyn during the past year, 2019-2020.

Benefit Counselors
Lorna Lim
Hieu Dang
John Colon
Julia Elhai
Kerry Keys
Yvetta Scott

Mental Health Professionals
Ann Hsu
Irene Chung
Yu Ting Pak (Ting Ting)

Legal Researchers
Breanna Andreu-Couturier
Justin Ben

Lawyers
Alex Tran
Amanda Bernardo
Ami Shah
Andrew Mickler
Angela Wu
Anna Jinhua Wang
Annie Tsao
Barbara Hayes
Bart Wu
Beatrice Leong
Chai Park
Chizuko Ueno
Chris M. Kwok
Christopher Chin
David Lu
Eric Ng
Eugene Kim
Eun Hye (Grace) Lee
Francis Chin
Gaye L. Chun
Gina Kim
Gloria Tsui-Yip
Grace Pyun
Helen Lee
Jayashree Mitra
Jean Soo Park
Jen Rasay

Interpreters
Alex Hwang
Alicia Chan
Alva Lin
Ami Ishida
Amy Zhou
Angela Cheung
Anna Chuen
Bo Hu
Candice Tian Gan
Carteneil Cheung
Chao-Yung Chiu
Derek Ting-Chieh Tai
Emily Arakawa
Eric W. Dang
Erica Zou
Fiona Zhang
Frankie Lam
Gary Chen
Go-eun Son
Guanian Shen
H. Anthony Park
Hao Zhang
Henry Man
Jiayun Zhang
Jonathan Hernandez
Jonathan Li
Karen Lin
Kathy Yung
Kelly N. Diep
Kenneth C. Louis
Kevin Hsi
Kevin Yim
May Kay Wong
Mayumi Cindy Iijima
Mae Woo
Michelle DeSouza-Fiore
Michelle Nam
Michelle Yeung
Mirin E. Park
Nelson Mar
Ricky He
Rina Gurung
Sae-Eun Ahn
Sanamna Sumilang
Seng Yan Sin
Shengyang (John) Wu
Simon Lee
Simon Zhen
Soichiro Ishita
Steven Schaefer
Sylvia Chin
Thomas Hou
Tina Y. Song
Ting Poon
Veronica Louie
Victoria Cheng
Wei Li
Xianxiao Li (Emily)
Yifei He

Coordinators
Jenny Lam
Johnny Thach
Roger Chen

Administrative Assistant
Linda Liang

AABANY Interns
Katey Kim
Phillip Kim
Bingzhen Song
Ziyi Zhuang

Vice Chairs
Kwok Kei Ng
Zhixian Liu

Co-Chairs
Asako Aiba
Karen Kithan Yau
Ming Chu Lee
Pauline Yeung-Ha
Committee Co-Chairs:
Francis Chin
Marianne Chow Newman

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) organizes and sponsors programs that facilitate exchange of ideas, development of professional opportunities and skills, and provision of low-cost accredited CLE seminars for the AABANY community. Prominent programs led by the PDC include:

AABANY Leadership Development Program:
Launched in February 2018, the program aims to address the continued under-representation of Asian Pacific American attorneys in leadership positions in the legal field by hosting monthly meetings among a selected group of qualified senior lawyers and faculty members. The group discusses leadership topics including identifying mentors and sponsors, expanding personal branding, improving executive presence, and promoting business development. This year we offered two tracks: a law firm partnership track and an in-house counsel track.

Professional Development Coaching Sessions:
At the AABANY Fall Conference, since 2016, the sessions pair AABANY members with one of the distinguished faculty coaches to troubleshoot specific professional and personal development issues that may be impeding their career development.

AABANY Trial Reenactments:
Led by Hon. Denny Chin and Kathy Hirata Chin, the trial reenactments bring to life chapters of Asian Pacific American history through presenting pivotal court cases directly from trial transcripts and contemporaneous accounts.

Continuing Legal Education: During the 2019 calendar year, we are proud to have accredited 23 free or low-cost Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs for our members and the New York legal community. In addition, we accredited an additional 19 CLE programs within our annual Fall Conference. All of our programs are organized and presented by volunteers. 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 Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York, the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York, the South Asian Bar Association of New York, and the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association at Fordham Law School. We provide guidance organizing and documenting the programs as required by the CLE Rules, issuing CLE credits to participants, and making required reports to New York’s Office of Court Administration.


As every seat in the spacious Moot Courtroom filled up and audience members began to stand along the sides, Dean Matthew Diller of Fordham Law School delivered passionate opening remarks. The Dean noted that the reenactment is vital to this time, for we not only need to remember the best of this nation but also the worst of it. Judge Denny Chin, United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and his wife Kathy Hirata Chin played their usual roles of Narrators 1 and 2. The cast of the reenactment consisted of students and faculty from Fordham and a few members of the AABANY Trial Reenactment Team.

In coordination with the Robert H. Jackson Center and AABANY, Phillips Lytle LLP presented a two-day event at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, New York. On May 14, 2019, Karen Korematsu (Fred’s daughter) introduced the powerful reenactment of “Korematsu v. U.S.: Justice Denied,” which was led by the Hon. Denny Chin of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Kathy Hirata Chin, partner at Crowell & Moring LLP. Thomas Loftus, a retired lawyer and Justice Jackson’s grandson, played the role of Justice Jackson. Prof. John Q. Barrett of St. John’s University, a Jackson biographer, closed out the program by speaking about the legal issues and historical events that led up to, and followed the Korematsu v. U.S. decision.

On Thursday, May 23, 2019, AABANY and SABANY co-sponsored a trial reenactment of two Supreme Court cases, Takao Ozawa v. United States (1922), and...
and United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind (1923) at the Ceremonial Courtroom in 225 Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn. These cases revolved around the fight of two Asian Americans to become naturalized U.S. citizens. AABANY was proud to be a co-sponsor, presenting 1.5 CLE credits in the Diversity & Inclusion category.

These two Supreme Court decisions are a stain on our great nation’s history. They set the precedent that being an American was not enough, that to be a real American you had to be “white” based on society’s perception of what qualifies as “white” during a given period of time in history. The reenactment serves as a reminder of the struggles that Asian Americans had to endure in the past, and it highlights why we must continue to strive to create change for the future generations of Asian Americans.

For the 2019 Fall Conference on September 21, the Committee helped organize a dynamic panel entitled “In The Room Where It Happens: Diversity, Inclusion & Leadership.” Co-hosted with the Academic and Real Estate Committees, the event featured Marina Lao, a Professor of Law at Seton Hall Law School, Brant Lee, a Professor of Law and Director of Diversity and Social Justice Initiatives at Akron Law School and Ajay K. Mehrota, the Executive Director of the American Bar Foundation.

This updated Korematsu reenactment was made special by the participation of new cast members, including Dale Minami, Don Tamaki, Peggy Nagae, and Hon. Edward Chen, members of the legal team that brought the coram nobis proceeding which overturned the wrongful conviction of Fred Korematsu. They all played themselves in the production. Also playing herself was Judge Marilyn Hall Patel, the United States District Court Judge who presided over the case. Karen Korematsu played herself and closed the show with moving and inspiring words from her June 28, 2018 New York Times Op-Ed article.

The 2019 Korematsu reenactment played to an audience of 900 at the NAPABA Convention Friday Plenary Lunch session, easily the largest single audience for any AABANY Trial Reenactment. Judge Chin moderated a panel discussion about this case and its continuing relevance immediately after the lunch session, featuring a panel that included Don Tamaki, Dale Minami, Karen Narasaki, Hon. Marilyn Hall Patel, Hon. Edward Chen and Karen Korematsu.

On Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, during the Plenary Lunch Session at the NAPABA Convention in Austin, Texas, AABANY’s Trial Reenactment Team performed “Fred Korematsu and His Fight for Justice,” reenacting Korematsu v. United States. AABANY had performed an earlier version of this reenactment at the NAPABA Convention in Washington, DC, in 2017, to mark the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 which sent some 120,000 Japanese American citizens to internment camps without any due process. This year, to mark Fred Korematsu’s 100th birthday, AABANY’s Trial Reenactment Team performed an updated script which took into account the developments that occurred since 2017. The Korematsu case was nominally overruled in a footnote by Chief Justice Roberts in Trump v. Hawaii (2018), which upheld the Muslim Travel Ban in part. This reenactment included modifications that featured text from the majority and dissenting opinions in that case, and it concluded with words from an Op-Ed written by Fred’s daughter Karen, lamenting that the United States Supreme Court had replaced one bad precedent with another.

While law schools in general have made progress, some continue to struggle with diversity and inclusion issues. Meanwhile, law firms and in-house legal departments have lagged behind in attracting, retaining and promoting diverse attorneys. Inclusion programs also remain a challenge, particularly in light of the complicated and continually evolving legal landscape governing these issues. “How have law professors, administrators, law firms and in-house legal departments addressed the ongoing need for diversity in the legal profession and persistent bias? What are the implications for Asian American lawyers, law professors, administrators and students?” were the pressing questions discussed by panelists and audience members.

On February 19, 2020, the Professional Development Committee co-sponsored AABANY’s Monthly Membership Mixer with the Corporate Law, Issues, Litigation, and Solo & Small Firm Practice Committees. The mixer was held at the Atwood Bar and Lounge, where a crowd of current members and future members mingled over food and drinks and learned about our upcoming events.
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Prosecutors’ Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Maria Park
Myongjae Matthew Yi

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.

On Thursday, July 18, 2019, AABANY’s Prosecutors’ Committee, Government Service & Public Interest (GSPI) Committee, and Membership Committee hosted a Membership Mixer with members, colleagues, and friends at Stout NYC on West 33rd Street. Members and non-members enjoyed reconnecting with familiar faces and building new relationships. A huge turnout filled an entire side room in the cellar of Stout. The date of the mixer coincided with the birthday of former Prosecutors’ Committee Co-Chair, Helen Ahn, who sadly passed away in November 2018.

On Friday, August 16, 2019, the Prosecutors’ Committee together with the Membership Committee hosted an outing to Yankee Stadium to watch the first-place Yankees take on the Cleveland Indians. Thanks to our sponsor, Esquire Deposition Solutions, 40 AABANY members and their guests were able to buy tickets at just $5 per person for either standing room or seats. Early arrivals received a free Yankees beach towel. AABANY members and their friends congregated at Toyota Terrace throughout the evening to watch the Yanks hold on to their early lead over the Indians. Friday night proved to be a great summer evening to enjoy America’s favorite pastime, in good company, complete with a free drink and a hot dog for those who got the standing room tickets.

On Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at its 11th Annual Reception, the Committee honored Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, and Gilbert C. Hong, Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, for their exemplary and established record of public service and their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession. Each year, the Committee hosts an annual reception to honor those who have contributed to the criminal justice system as well as to promote diversity within the APA community in New York City. Approximately 150 Prosecutors’ Committee members and guests filled to capacity the main auditorium at the New York County Lawyers Association on 14 Vesey Street to celebrate this special event. The evening featured distinguished guests and speakers who provided congratulatory remarks to the Committee and the honorees.

The speakers at the daïs included representatives from state, local, and Federal prosecutors’ offices featuring:
- Joseph Alexis (Executive ADA, Kings County)
- Geoffrey Berman (US Attorney, Southern District of NY)
- Bridget Brennan (Special Narcotics Prosecutor)
- Catherine Christian (Special ADA for External Affairs, NY County)
- Mark Lesko (Chief AUSA, Eastern District of NY)
- Derek Lynton (Chief ADA, Bronx County)
- John Ryan (Acting District Attorney, Queens County)
- Anthony Scarpino (District Attorney, Westchester County)
- Madeline Singas (District Attorney, Nassau County)

Furthermore, Judges and distinguished guests included:
- Shahabuddeen Ally (Judge, Bronx Criminal Court)
- Agnes Chan (1st Asian woman detective in NYPD history)
- Yang Chen, Executive Director of AABANY
- Dorothy Chin Brandt (Retired Justice, Queens Supreme Ct)
- Sherry Cohen (Chief of legal recruitment, Bronx County)
- Karen Gopee (Judge, Queens Criminal Court)
- Marilyn Go (Judge, District Court, EDNY)

Enjoying a night out at Yankee Stadium co-hosted by the Prosecutors’ and Membership Committees.
In addition, the family of NYPD Det. Wenjian Liu, who made the ultimate sacrifice when he was killed in the line of duty in 2014, made a special visit to the Reception and was recognized with a heartfelt standing ovation and a message that Det. Liu will not be forgotten. Det. Liu’s family received the Prosecutors’ Committee’s posthumous award on Det. Liu’s behalf at the 2015 reception.

The Prosecutors’ Committee will soon be announcing its new leaders for 2020 along with a planning committee dinner and upcoming mixer. So register your email with the Committee and stay tuned for upcoming events!
Real Estate Committee

Committee Co-Chairs
Margaret Ling
Amol Pachnanda
Wendy Yu (partial year)

The Real Estate Committee provides support and professional development to APA attorneys at all levels, including new and experienced attorneys. Specific attention has been focused on community outreach to the real estate attorneys within the APA community in the outer boroughs beyond Manhattan, who are in solo practice or small firms in an effort to expand their membership and participation with AABANY. The Committee addresses topics of concern including transactional, management, development of real property and latest statutes and changes in New York’s Real Property Law. The Committee has accomplished this through CLE seminars, discussion and networking sessions with corporate and bank sponsorships.

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director and Real Estate Committee Co-Chair, and Pauline Yeung-Ha, Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair, presented a CLE and networking event entitled “Selling and Purchasing Real Property from an Estate.” The event was hosted by Flushing Bank at their Astoria branch and was co-sponsored by AABANY, KALAGNY, Forchelli Deegan Terrana, Flushing Bank, and Big Apple Abstract Corp. The speakers discussed the importance of doing your due diligence when selling or purchasing real property from an estate. They shared horror stories of clients trying to cut corners and scam the system. One story involved a separated husband and wife, where the wife claimed that the husband had passed away and tried to rush the closing on the sale of their house. After some investigation, it was discovered that the husband was alive and well in Greece. The moral of the story was that as real estate attorneys, it is imperative to not blindly trust surrogates and extremely important to demand proof of death to prevent future liability and to protect your license.

Margaret and Pauline also discussed the tax implications and other liabilities that accompany the different types of estate structures, which included Joint Tenancy, Tenants in Common, Tenants by the Entirety, Life Estates, and Trusts. They advised that practitioners can save themselves a lot of trouble by taking the time to do their due diligence and by speaking to title companies.

On April 11, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee successfully presented a CLE and networking event entitled “Trends in Long Island Real Estate Development – IDA Zoning and Land Use.” Over 60 attorneys and real estate professionals were in attendance. The event was held at the Omni Building in Uniondale and was co-sponsored by AABANY, KALAGNY, Forchelli Deegan Terrana, Flushing Bank, and Big Apple Abstract Corp. The panelists were: Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director and Real Estate Committee Co-Chair; Daniel Deegan, Partner at Forchelli Deegan Terrana; Kathleen Deegan Dickson, Partner at Forchelli Deegan Terrana; Rose Liu, Director of Finance & Research at Colliers International; and Herbert Agin, CEO of Colliers International.

The speakers led an insightful discussion on the following topics: title insurance, the key facets of Industrial Development Agencies (IDA) in Nassau and Suffolk County, zoning, variances, and municipal regulations in Long Island and how they have a significant impact on the success of real estate projects. In addition, Rose Liu discussed the latest statistics involving real estate development projects in Long Island and Herbert Agin shared the latest updates on the Lesso Holdings development project in Westbury, Long Island. The key takeaway of the event was that there are a lot of real estate development opportunities for investors in Long Island, but for the project to be successful, you need to have the right people on your team to navigate the rules and regulations surrounding real estate developments.

On April 24, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee presented the CLE entitled: “Real Estate Fraud and Cyber Security” at Chase Bank in Bayside, New York. Over 50 attorneys attended the event and heard from a panel of speakers including Margaret Ling, Senior Counsel at Big Apple Abstract, Jason Ganfer from Ganfer Shore Leeds and Zauderer, and Daniel Jacoby from SDL Brokerage. The CLE used true war stories to focus on cybersecurity and wire fraud. The panelists spoke about fraud prevention methods and the necessity of obtaining cyber security insurance.

On May 14, 2019, over 70 Real Estate Professionals attended the AABANY Real Estate Committee’s CLE entitled “East of the East River: Updates on Brooklyn and Queens Real Estate Development” at Chase Bank in the Chase Metrotouch Center in Brooklyn. The panel of speakers included: Margaret Ling, Senior Counsel at Big Apple Abstract Corp; Richard M. Warshauer, Senior Managing Director at Colliers International NY LLC; George Xu, President of Century Development Group; Daniel Tropp, Director of Avison Young; Livia Corredor, Senior
Vice President and Legal Counsel at Brookfield Properties. The panelists shared their latest projects and spoke about the growth of both residential and commercial real estate in Brooklyn, specifically in Williamsburg, Bushwick, Dumbo, and the Atlantic Yards/Barclays Center.

On June 11, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee’s CLE entitled “Issues of Capacity to Sell in Real Estate Transactions” brought out over 30 attorneys to Flushing Bank in New Hyde Park, Long Island. Margaret Ling, Senior Counsel at Big Apple Abstract, spoke about selling real estate through entities (corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships), estates, individuals and powers of attorney, guardianship, and administrators.

On July 23rd, Margaret Ling, AABANY Co-Chair of the Real Estate Committee, presented a CLE event entitled “Due Diligence and the Ethics of a Real Estate Transaction” at Bank of Hope located in Flushing. More than 50 people attended the event, including 16 practicing real estate lawyers. This event was co-hosted by Bank of Hope, KALAGNY, Big Apple Abstract Corp, and AREAA New York East Chapter.

Margaret shared multiple representative cases she handled to remind attendees of the importance of conducting due diligence before a real estate transaction and the obligations of an ethical lawyer. She also discussed wire fraud committed by brokers and how to negotiate with brokers on behalf of the client’s best interests.

On July 31, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee hosted the CLE entitled “Negotiating the Commercial Lease: Both from the Landlord and Tenant Perspective” at Flushing Bank. Over 50 attorneys attended and heard from Amol Pachnanda, Partner at Ingram, Yuzek, Gainen, Carroll & Bertolotti, LLP and Co-Chair of AABANY’s Real Estate Committee.

On September 21, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee co-sponsored the Diversity and Inclusion Panel entitled “In the Room Where it Happens: Diversity, Inclusion & Leadership” at the NAPABA Northeast Regional Fall Conference. The panel was moderated by Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee. The speakers included: Marina Lao, Professor of Law, Seton Hall Law School; Brant Lee, Professor of Law and Director of Diversity and Social Justice Initiatives, Akron Law School; Jeffrey Lee, Senior Vice President, Capalino and Company; Ajay K. Mehrota, Executive Director, American Bar Foundation; Tommy Shi, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Day Pitney LLP.

On October 2, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee presented the CLE entitled: “Understanding Diversity and Inclusion in Our Everyday World.” The CLE was co-sponsored by Flushing Bank, Big Apple Abstract Corp, KALAGNY, and Littler. It took place at Flushing Bank in New Hyde Park, New York and was attended by 40 attorneys. The panelists were AABANY’s very own William Ng, Shareholder at Littler; Samitha Lukose-Khan of Flushing Bank; and Sanjay Nair, Associate at Littler. The CLE was moderated by Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee. The presentation invoked some powerful and informative discussion specifically on diversity, inclusion and bias in the legal profession.

On October 10, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee presented the CLE entitled: “Avoiding Common Pitfalls of Title Clearance in Residential Closing” at Flushing Bank in Bayside. Over 30 attorneys attended to hear Margaret Ling, Senior Counsel at Big Apple Abstract, speak about how to clear title and other issues of due diligence before a residential closing.

On October 28, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee presented a CLE program entitled “Real Estate Fraud and Cyber Security.” The CLE and networking event took place at Anchin Block & Anchin LLP at its Manhattan Headquarters. The event was attended by over 50 attorneys and CPAs.
together with the Asia Practice, Intellectual Property, and Membership Committees hosted a Night at the Opera, gathering about 30 AABANY members with friends and family to see a performance of “La Bohème” at the Met in Lincoln Center. Before the performance a group of attendees mingled and enjoyed drinks and quick bites at the bar outside the Family Circle. Then, at 7:30, everyone went inside to take their seats. The AABANY contingent took up nearly three rows of seats. By all accounts, this event was a hit among those who attended. Talk is already brewing about another Night at the Opera.

On November 14, 2019, the AABANY Real Estate Committee presented a CLE and networking event entitled “Understanding Opportunity Zones and 1031 Exchange Deferrals.” The CLE program was presented by John J. Lee, Esq, Vice President and Account Executive of IPX 1031. Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee moderated the program. John Lee discussed the basics and the differences between the 1031 Exchange Program and the Tax Deferral Structures provided by Qualified Opportunity Zones.

On the evening of December 3, 2019, Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director and Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee, was the proud recipient of the Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Defense of Legal Rights & Exemplary Community Service. The award was given to Margaret by the Brooklyn Real Estate Board at their Annual Holiday Party & Community Recognition Awards Presentation. Margaret is a Member of the Advisory Board of Directors.

On January 28, 2020, Margaret Ling, AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair, hosted and organized the Lunar New Year Celebration and Networking Event at Chase Bank. Over 50 attorneys attended the reception. A lovely buffet was served, and entertainment was provided by master paper cutting artist Mr. Hou-Tien Cheng. AABANY’s Real Estate Committee collaborated with the following organizations to present this event: Queens County Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Committee; KALAGNY; Big Apple Abstract Corporation; Chase Bank; and Forchelli, Deegan and Terrana, LLP.

Margaret Ling, who is both the Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee and the Co-Chair of the Queens County Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Committee, will continue to organize these joint collaborative bar events in the near future.

On January 30, 2020, AABANY’s Real Estate Committee hosted a CLE entitled “Understanding Diversity and Inclusion in Our Everyday World.” The CLE and networking event took place at Hanover Bank in Flushing Commons in Queens, and over 25 attorneys attended. The panel discussion covered all the basics of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and its relevance to the legal profession. The speakers included AABANY’s very own William Ng, Shareholder at Littler, and Shirley W. Bi, Associate at Littler. Margaret Ling, AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair, moderated the event. Attendees received 1 credit in Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias. Many thanks to our sponsors, John Pollock and Jimmy Lee, both of Hanover Bank, Littler, Big Apple Abstract Corporation, KALAGNY, and the Queens County Bar Association.

On February 12, 2020, the AABANY Real Estate Committee hosted another Lunar New Year Networking Reception at Ridgewood Bank in Whitestone, New York.

On February 13, 2020, the AABANY Real Estate Committee co-sponsored an event entitled “Women’s Leadership: Is leaning in enough?” with the Asian Finance Society at MSCI, 7 World Trade Center.

On February 27, 2020, the AABANY Real Estate Committee hosted a CLE entitled “The Potential Effects of the Newly Enacted Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 on New York City’s Real Estate Market” at Flushing Bank in New Hyde Park, New York. Speakers included Michael Capozzi, Partner at Ingram, Yuzek, Gainen, Carroll & Bertolotti, LLP.

In March 2020, the AABANY Real Estate Committee will host a CLE entitled “Matrimonial Actions, Divorce and Real Estate” at Flushing Bank in New Hyde Park, New York. Margaret Ling, Senior Counsel at Big Apple Abstract, and Jackie Harounian and Irene Angelakis, both matrimonial attorneys and Chairs of the Matrimonial Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association will be speaking.

Master paper cutting artist, Hou-Tien Cheng (c.), at the January Lunar New Year Celebration.
Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee

Committee Co-Chairs
Dave Lu
Tsui Yee

The Solo and Small Firm Committee focuses on issues and opportunities for lawyers with community practices, including solo practitioners and attorneys in small firms.

On Tuesday, November 19, 2019, AABANY’s Career Placement Committee presented its inaugural Dress for Success event, co-sponsored by the Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee. The event took place at J.Crew Fifth Avenue. Over 20 people attended the event. The event provided attendees with personal styling advice, an opportunity to shop, and wardrobe demonstrations that would allow each attendee to put their best foot forward in dressing.

On February 19, 2020, the Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee co-sponsored AABANY’s Monthly Membership Mixer with the Corporate Law, Issues, Litigation, and Professional Development Committees. The mixer was held at the Atwood Bar and Lounge, where a crowd of current members and future members mingled over food and drinks and learned about our upcoming events.

Student Outreach Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Cecilia Kim
Jonathan Li
Aakruti Vakharia

AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee seeks to equip APA students with concrete skills to excel academically and professionally. In addition, the Committee acts as a bridge between law students and attorneys, encouraging APA students to be active in the APA legal community. To achieve these goals, the Committee sponsors career programs, networking events, and social activities. Currently, there are more than 300 APA law student members in AABANY, and the Committee works with approximately 18 law schools in the tri-state region.

Throughout 2019, AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee continued its work connecting with and serving law students by hosting a variety of events, workshops, and programming.

On Wednesday, May 28, 2019, AABANY’s Career Placement and Student Outreach Committees hosted the first Membership Mixer of the new fiscal year at Cajunsea on West 33rd Street. Well over 30 attendees gathered and mingled while enjoying drinks, oysters, and snacks. Co-Chairs from the Career Placement Committee and Student Outreach Committee were present to meet with attendees and introduce them to the work of those committees.

On Tuesday, July 22, AABANY’s Corporate Law Committee and Student Outreach Committee hosted an insightful Pre-OCI Information session, “What do corporate lawyers do?”, at Paul, Weiss. More than 30 law school students and undergraduates attended. The panelists comprised both in-house attorneys from top firms in the industry and corporate law lawyers at prestigious law firms, each with a different specialty practice area within the landscape of corporate law: Jasmine Ball, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; Parkin Lee, Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, The Rockefeller Group; Marianne Chow-Newman, Counsel, The Hearst Corporation; Lawrence G. Wee, Partner, Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP; and Terry Shen (Moderator), Partner, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP.

Addressing the question “what do corporate lawyers do?”, the panelists talked about why they chose corporate law, their daily role as a corporate lawyer, the interaction and relationship with corporate clients, the kind of tasks a junior associate...
On Thursday, September 6, 2019, AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee hosted the Annual Law Student Mixer at District Social in midtown Manhattan. Local APALSA leaders, law students, and AABANY members gathered to mingle and foster new connections. Following in the footsteps of last year’s Law Student Mixer, the entire private cellar of the venue was specifically reserved for this event. Despite the weather, there were 60 attendees present, filling out the venue space. Attendees were treated to an assortment of delicious gastropub foods including flatbreads, sliders, and parmesan fries.

In preparation for AABANY’s Fall Conference, the Student Outreach Committee began recruiting volunteers over the summer and ultimately managed 46 volunteers. The Conference took place on September 21, 2019 at Fordham University School of Law. Volunteers assisted with registration, CLE certificates, logistics and staffing support, photography, as well as a variety of tasks in preparation for the Conference the evening prior.

On October 16, 2019, AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee presented a resume review workshop at New York University School of Law. Practicing attorneys from various fields attended the event to review the resumes of 30 students from NYU’s APALSA group and provided the students with useful substantive feedback on their resumes. The attorneys also offered 1-on-1 advice about networking, job hunting, how to succeed in the legal profession, and answered questions about their respective practice areas.

On October 24, 2019, AABANY’s Student Outreach Committee and Career Placement Committee co-sponsored a resume review/interview skills workshop at Fordham Law School. Students had the opportunity to have their resumes reviewed and practice interview questions with attorneys from a variety of different fields including, but not limited to, IP, Antitrust, Corporate, Litigation and Criminal Law. There were about 25 students and 10 reviewers in attendance. Attendees also enjoyed dinner from Panda Express.

On October 29, 2019, AABANY’s Government Service & Public Interest Committee, Career Placement Committee, Student Outreach Committee, and New York Law School’s APALSA teamed up to present Pathways to Government Service and Public Interest Career Panel. Panelists included: Mihea Kim, Staff Attorney, Homicide Defense Task Force, The Legal Aid Society; Hon. Donald Leo, New York City Criminal Court Judge, New York Supreme Court; Nelson Mar, Senior Staff Attorney, Education Law Unit, Bronx Legal Services; Kin Ng, Bureau Chief of the Red Zone Trial Bureau, Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office; and Won Shin, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York. The moderator was Hon. Grace E. Lee, Administrative Law Judge, New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

On Tuesday, November 19, 2019, AABANY’s Career Placement Committee presented its inaugural Dress for Success event, co-sponsored by the Student Outreach Committee and Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee. The event took place at J.Crew Fifth Avenue. Over 20 people attended the event. The event provided attendees with personal styling advice, an opportunity to shop, and wardrobe demonstrations that would allow each attendee to put their best foot forward in dressing.

On March 5, 2020 the Committee hosted a panel discussion at Cardozo Law School on how to network effectively. On the panel were Margaret Ling, AABANY’s Director of Development, Jeff Ikejiri, past Vice President of Programs and Operations for AABANY, and Tiffany Ma, Partner, Young and Ma. They shared tips and advice drawn from their personal experience on ways that they built and expanded their networks for professional and personal advancement.
The Tax Committee is AABANY’s professional network for individuals interested in international, federal, state or local tax matters. Members come from a variety of backgrounds, including government, corporate in-house, and private firm counsel, as well as accountants and other non-attorney tax professionals. In particular, the Committee seeks to provide networking, mentoring, professional development, continuing legal education and public service opportunities for its members, which include all tax professionals (public or private sector attorneys and CPAs).

On April 2, 2019, the Tax Committee partnered with the In-House Committee to present a Tax 101 panel for a group of over 20 in-house lawyers, at the offices of Mayer Brown LLP. The panel explained the tax issues that may arise for in-house counsel, as well as the tax provisions in common corporate documents such as purchase and sale agreements, stock offering documents, loan documents and PE fund offering documents. The lively discussion had many questions and answers and concluded with drinks and networking.

On May 21, 2019, the Tax Committee held its quarterly Tax Club Dinner at Tang Pavilion. The diverse group of attendees discussed a wide variety of tax, business, and other non-tax considerations for qualified opportunity zones, a hot new tax incentive that promotes equity investments in certain designated low-income communities. Many qualified opportunity zones can be found in Asian communities throughout the country, including Flushing, Sunset Park, and Chinatown in Philadelphia.

Building on the success of the Tax 101 event with the In-House Committee, the Tax Committee is planning another panel discussion in 2020 with the In-House Committee to discuss additional tax topics of interest to in house lawyers. Similarly, the Tax Committee is building on its opportunity zone presentations from the Fall Conference and plans to put on a joint event with the Real Estate Committee to discuss opportunity zones and other topics of interest for real estate lawyers.

On September 21, 2019, the Tax Committee presented at the AABANY Fall Conference / NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference at Fordham Law School, with the CLE presentation “Qualified Opportunity Zones: Developing Communities Over the Long Run.” The panel consisted of veteran tax practitioners with representative experience in all aspects of the opportunity zone program, which provides certain tax benefits for investments in designated low-income census tracts. Discussion topics included the major areas of tax and regulatory uncertainties for the program, the important tax and business considerations in selecting a fund investment, and creative strategies for property owners and business owners to obtain the tax benefits. The panel addressed many practical questions from the audience about the opportunity zone program and how it may benefit low income communities and their investors.

On November 10, 2019, the Tax Committee brought its expertise to a national audience and presented at the NAPABA National Conference in Austin, Texas, with the CLE Presentation “What (Not So) Crazy Rich Asian Americans Need to Know About Qualified Opportunity Zones.” The panel continued to provide detailed information about the opportunity zone program and addressed many audience concerns and questions about the program, its merits and drawbacks, and its future outlook.

On January 30, 2020, the Tax Committee held its Tax Club Dinner at Wu Liang Ye. Shu-Ping Shen, partner at McDermott Will & Emery, presented on issues related to estate planning and gift tax planning, particularly for the “moderately” wealthy, such as tax professionals and other attorneys, who may not have significant estate and gift tax burdens.

Committee members meet up quarterly for Tax Club Dinners to discuss current tax issues.
Women’s Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Jayashree Mitra
Yan Sin
Samantha Sumilang
Jennifer Wu

The Women’s 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.

The Women’s Committee received AABANY’s 2012 “Outstanding Committee of the Year” award in recognition of then Co-Chairs Vinny Lee and Liza Sohn’s commitment to providing innovative and informative programs for AABANY members. The Women’s Committee also received the “Committee of the Year” Award for 2014-2015, under the leadership of Committee Co-Chairs Naf Kwun, Sapna Palla, and Marianne Chow.

The Women’s Committee organized and hosted a variety of social and professional development events this year while also giving back to the community. On April 28, 2019, the Women’s Committee, along with the Pro Bono Committee, helped organize the OCA-FCC Asian Pacific American Women’s Conference, which was co-sponsored by Pace University and attended by over 200 people. Co-Chair Yan Sin was the organizing chair of the conference. Co-Chair Samantha Sumilang held a community presentation on landlord-tenant law and organized two panels: APA Women Giving Back and APA Women in Leadership, which featured Co-Chair Jennifer Wu and was moderated by Co-Chair Jayashree Mitra.

The Women’s Committee continued its breakfast meetings at Urbanspace Vanderbilt so that women professionals could gather together and support and network with one another in an informal and early morning setting. Featured guests at the breakfast meetings included Poojitha Rao, Associate General Counsel, Legal Affairs and Risk Management Department at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and Shaimaa Hussein, litigation partner at Willkie Farr & Gallagher. The Women’s Committee recently hosted a breakfast meeting on January 16th to kick off the New Year!

As for social events where attorneys (and non-attorneys alike) can de-stress and relax, the Women’s Committee organized an axe-throwing event in March at Indoor Extreme Sports in Long Island City. Attendees strived to hit bullseyes by putting their strength and coordination skills to the test.

In October, the Women’s Committee hosted a paint & wine social at the Painting Lounge in Manhattan, which was co-sponsored by the Career Placement Committee. Members mingled over wine and cheese while creating beautiful interpretations of the Eiffel Tower.

Committee members de-stress at axe-throwing event in Long Island City.

Breakfast meetings at Urbanspace Vanderbilt provide impactful networking opportunities.

Many members turned out for the paint and wine social in October.
The Women’s Committee happily supported and co-sponsored events with other AABANY committees including the Career Placement Committee for its inaugural Dress for Success event, which took place at J. Crew Fifth Avenue. Over 20 people attended the event. The event provided attendees with personal styling advice, an opportunity to shop, and wardrobe demonstrations that would allow each attendee to put their best foot forward. The Women’s Committee also co-sponsored a spin class at Swerve Fitness Midtown with the Young Lawyers Committee in July.

On Tuesday, February 25, 2020, the Women’s Committee held a Brown Bag Lunch with Sandra Ung, Special Assistant to Congresswoman Grace Meng and Executive Director of At the Table PAC. The Women’s Committee launched a Brown Bag Lunch series to feature prominent Asian American women in the law. Through the Brown Bag Lunch, the Women’s Committee focused on creating an intimate space that allows for open dialogue on real issues that Asian American women face in the legal community.

In the coming months, the Women’s Committee intends to continue hosting exciting events to engage our members.
The AABANY Young Lawyers Committee ("YLC") focuses on the interests of lawyers admitted to practice ten years or less but is open to all lawyers and law students. Activities include networking receptions, social events, panel discussions and CLE courses of interest to newly-admitted attorneys.

This year, the Young Lawyers Committee organized a wide range of programming, from fitness classes to networking happy hours, and collaborated with other committees to host successful outings. Our members showed strong representation at various AABANY events, including the Fall Conference, Holiday Party, and monthly Pro Bono Clinic, as well as the 2019 NAPABA National Convention in Austin, TX.

On Friday, June 28, 2019 the Young Lawyers Committee and Membership Committee hosted an inaugural summer mixer with members, colleagues, and friends at Atwood in Midtown East. Even with the whole mezzanine area to ourselves, we had no trouble packing out the spacious venue with over 60 young lawyers and law students who were eager to unwind from a long week, reconnect with old faces, and build new relationships. Young lawyers shared their experiences with law firms and judicial interns who were eager to know what life after law school would be like. And colleagues caught up with one another regarding the work that they were doing in their respective fields, whether it be in-house, big law, smaller law firms, or government.

On Sunday, July 28, 2019 the Young Lawyers Committee and Women’s Committee organized a free weekend spin class at SWERVE Fitness in Midtown. Participants enjoyed a fun cycling workout, followed by delicious smoothies, for a healthy start to kick off the morning. Afterwards, members continued the conversation over brunch at a restaurant nearby.

On Saturday, August 17, 2019, over 85 AABANY members and their family, friends, and pets gathered at the Heckscher Picnic Area in Central Park for the AABANY Annual Picnic, hosted by the Young Lawyers Committee and Litigation Committee. The weather was fantastic the entire day, and everyone enjoyed mingling and connecting with old and new friends. In addition to dumplings, pan fried steamed buns, and sandwiches, guests brought watermelon, cupcakes, and homemade treats to share. We occupied the picnic area from roughly 11 am until 4 pm, with most people coming between noon and 3 pm. We had such a great turnout that we had to take two group photos (after we took the first photo, even more people showed up)!

On Thursday, September 6, 2019, the Young Lawyers Committee was proud to co-sponsor the Annual Law Student Mixer with the Student Outreach Committee at District Social in midtown Manhattan. Local APALSA leaders, AABANY members, and law
students from NYU, Brooklyn Law School, Fordham, Columbia, and NYLS gathered to mingle and foster new connections. Following in the footsteps of last year’s Law Student Mixer, the entire private cellar of the venue was specifically reserved for this event.

As part of external community outreach efforts, the Young Lawyers Committee (along with many AABANY committees) proudly co-sponsored the 11th Annual Aces for Apex Casino Night held at the Rubin Museum on Saturday, November 9, 2019. All proceeds from this sold-out black-tie charity event benefitted Apex for Youth, a NYC-based nonprofit empowering Asian American youth through education and mentorship. Members of the Young Lawyers Committee joined over 500 professionals from the legal, finance, marketing, business, and education fields. Attendees got to play exhilarating casino games and bet in the High Roller Poker Tournament, while touring the Rubin Museum’s art galleries and enjoying an unlimited open bar with hors d’oeuvres.

On Sunday, February 16, 2020, the Young Lawyers Committee hosted a dim sum brunch at Downtown Yummy in Chinatown. Members enjoyed traditional Hong Kong-style har gao, siu mai, steamed buns, egg tarts, and other assorted dishes, while getting to know each other in a lively, low-key setting.

Looking ahead at the upcoming year, the Young Lawyers Committee will continue to broaden its event offerings and increase its membership base through collaborations with other AABANY committees, legal associations, and community organizations focused on empowering Asian American leaders and professionals.

On Friday, January 17, 2020, the Young Lawyers Committee and Membership Committee organized an outing to visit North America’s largest lantern festival in Citi Field. With over 120 lantern exhibits, live entertainment, and interactive experiences, this event celebrated the traditional Chinese art of lantern-making with magical displays of light and color, handcrafted by world-class artisans. Attractions included cultural performances and arts experiences, a holiday market and 60 international food vendors curated by The World’s Fare.

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Mentorship Program

Program Co-Chairs:
Shruti Chopra
Tristan Loanzon

AABANY’s Mentorship Program provides support, advice, and networking opportunities to aid both mentors and mentees in their professional and personal development. Each mentee is matched to a mentor who will serve as a teacher, role model, and resource to the mentee. By way of one-to-one relationships and Mentorship Program events held throughout the year, the program will provide the structure to advance professional growth and networking skills of both mentors and mentees. Mentors and mentees will be AABANY members and may come from any level of experience and practice area.

On February 5, AABANY’s Mentorship Program held its Welcome Reception at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP. Yang Chen, the Executive Director of AABANY, shared some words of wisdom and encouraged mentees to build informal mentorship relationships with their connections in addition to the formal pairings provided by AABANY’s Mentorship Program. Then, after learning more about how members can get involved with the program for the upcoming year, mentors and mentees from the program got together over drinks and hors d’oeuvres to reconnect, mix, and mingle with each other and other attendees.

Our Mentorship Program differs from other programs because the focus is not only on practice areas but also on personal interests when matching mentors and mentees. Thus, we hope to facilitate long-lasting relationships that are compatible both personally and professionally.
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