YEAR END REPORT 2018
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March 31, 2019

Dear AABANY members and supporters:

It has been a privilege and honor to have served as President of the Asian American Bar Association of New York ("AABANY") this past year. One of the largest and most active minority bar associations in the country, AABANY continues to be a leading voice for Asian Pacific Americans ("APA") in New York, and instrumental in advocating for positive changes in law firms, companies, the judiciary, government, law schools, and the broader APA community.

You should be proud of the many accomplishments we have achieved together over the past year, many of which are described in detail in AABANY’s 2018 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 pro bono work.

We have experienced explosive growth in our membership in recent years. However, we should be cognizant that there is still work to be done. I am encouraged by the significant interest expressed by our members and supporters to lead and participate in our many initiatives, including our new attorney leadership development program designed to address the disproportionate underrepresentation of APAs in law firm partnerships.

I want to thank our talented and driven board of directors, committee chairs and staff. Their passion and dedication have consistently inspired me and kept AABANY moving forward. AABANY is in a much stronger and more secure position today compared with where it was in the past, and similarly will be in an even stronger position next year under the leadership of Brian Song, our incoming President. I look forward to continuing to work with you on AABANY’s many initiatives in the coming year, and thank you again for your support and commitment to AABANY.

Respectfully,

James R. Cho
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.

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 1,100 members, including practicing attorneys in the private and public sectors, in-house lawyers, judges, professors and law students.
Awards and Recognitions

Hon. Ona T. Wang was officially sworn in as the first Asian American Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York in April 2018.

Hon. Peter Tom, Appellate Division, First Department, was presented with the Distinguished Public Service Award by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of the City of New York, at the Chamber’s 2018 Benefit Fundraising Dinner.

Hon. Randall Eng (Ret.), New York state’s first Asian American Presiding Justice, was honored with the OCA-NY Lifetime Achievement Award at OCA-NY’s 42nd Annual Community Service & Leadership Awards Gala.

Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan Appellate Term, First Department, received the Ally Award from NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch’s LGBTQ Committee for her outstanding public service and devotion to the interests of the community. She also sat as part of a first-ever all-female historic panel in the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Term. It was also the first time that a Hispanic American, Asian American and African American woman judge sat together on the Appellate Term.

Hon. Lillian Wan made history by being the first Asian American woman to be appointment to serve on the New York Court of Claims.

Hon. Ushir Pandit-Durant made history as the first South Asian judge elected to New York State Supreme Court in Queens and the first South Asian woman judge elected in New York State.

Hon. Shahabudddeen (Shah) Ally made history as the first Muslim male and the first Indo-Caribbean judge elected to New York state court.

John Kuo, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Varian Medical Systems, was honored with a Legends in Law Award at the prestigious Burton Awards.


Sam Lui, Co-Chair of the Pro Bono and Community Service Committee, was named AABANY’s Member of the Year.

Pauline Yeung-Ha, AABANY Pro Bono & Community Service Committee Co-Chair, was honored at the St. John’s University School of Law APALSA’s Lunar New Year Reception at China Blue in Tribeca.

Irene Tan was honored as a Distinguished Alumni by Brooklyn Law School’s Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (“APALSA”) at the APALSA’s annual alumni dinner.

Karen Kim was also honored as a Distinguished Alumni by Brooklyn Law School’s Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (“APALSA”) at the APALSA’s annual alumni dinner.

Clara J. Ohr, General Counsel at East Coast Energy Group, was named as a 2018 First Chair Awards Top General Counsel.

Marianne Chow received the Best Under 40 award at the NAPABA National Convention in Chicago.

Joon Kim received the Trailblazer Award at the NAPABA National Convention in Chicago.

Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, was honored as the “Kings of Queens” at Russo’s on the Bay in Howard Beach.

Susan Shin was named one of the 2018 New York City Bar Association Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award recipients.

Shruti Chopra, Chair of the AABANY Mentorship Program, was selected as one of two Young Lawyer Fellows by the American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law.

Michael Park was nominated to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. If confirmed, he would be the second Asian Pacific American appellate court judge in the Second Circuit and the first Korean American.

Jennifer H. Wu received a Rising Stars Award from the New York Law Journal.

Congratulations to Past President Clara Ohr on being named as a 2018 First Chair Awards Top General Counsel.
Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan Appellate Term, First Department, received the Ally Award from NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch’s LGBTQ Committee.

Hon. Shahabuddeen (Shah) Ally made history as the first Muslim male and the first Indo-Caribbean judge elected to New York state court.

Irene Tan and Karen Kim were honored as Distinguished Alumni by Brooklyn Law School’s Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (“APALSA”).

Shruti Chopra, Chair of the AABANY Mentorship Program, was recognized by the American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law as one of two Young Lawyer Fellows.

New York Metro Super Lawyers

Eugene L. Chang, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Kenneth Chin, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Sylvia Chin, White & Case LLP
Jane Chuang, Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP
Huhnsik Chung, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
Eve C. Guillergan, Eve Guillergan PLLC
Andrew T. Hahn, Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP
Lan Hoang, Baker & Hostetler LLP
Benjamin C. Hsing, Baker & Hostetler LLP
Annie Huang, Robins Kaplan LLP
Richard Kim, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
David K. Lam, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
Glenn Lau-Kee, Lau-Kee Law Group, PLLC
Kenneth E. Lee, Levine Lee LLP
Lisa S. Lim, Akerman LLP
Raymond Y. Lin, Latham & Watkins LLP
Marie Ng, Sullivan Papain Block McGrath & Cannavo P.C.
Tai H. Park, Park Jensen Bennett LLP
Eric Su, FordHarrison LLP
Vinoo Varghese, Varghese & Associates, P.C.
Ona Wang, Baker & Hostetler LLP
Arjay G. Yao, Morris, Duffy, Alonso & Faley
Tsui H. Yee, Law Offices of Tsui H. Yee, P.C.
Pauline Yeung-Ha, Grimaldi & Yeung LLP
Andrew J. Yoon, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

New York Metro Rising Stars

Keala Fumiko, Chan Hubbard
Joanna K. Chan, Cohen & Gresser LLP
Anthony K.C. Fong, Esq.
Zheng Gao, Kevin Kerveng Tung, P.C.
Lige Gu, Halperin Battaglia Benzija, LLP
Yin Huang, Zuber Lawler & Del Duca LLP
Hanh Huynh, Rubin LLC
Jing Jin, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Joyce E. Kung, Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C.
Tiffany Ma, Young & Ma LLP
Claudia Pak, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Anna J. Wang, Robinson & Cole LLP
Jennifer H. Wu, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
Shengyang Wu, Caesar and Napoli, P.C.
Ruofei Xiang, Mazzola Lindstrom LLP
Stephanie Yeh, Grimaldi & Yeung LLP
Vanessa Y. Yen, King & Spalding LLP
William Yeung, Law Office of Yeung & Wang PLLC
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Ji-Young (Rachel) Yoo, Law Offices of Rachel J. Yoo, LLC
Sojin Yoon, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
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Wine and champagne by Sabine Poisson and Christophe Barcat
Sake and beer by Wine of Japan Import
Soju by Yobo
Spirits and liquor by Remy Cointreau USA
Membership Director’s Report

Membership Director
David Sohn

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 meets the needs of the membership and encourages new members to join AABANY. During FY 2018, the Membership Committee held Monthly Happy Hours, mostly on the third Wednesdays of the month, as a way to thank our members and to encourage new members to join. The Monthly Happy Hours took place at various locations in midtown Manhattan and were held on May 23, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 26, and October 17. Taking a break around the holidays and the start of the New Year, the final Monthly Happy Hour for the New Year took place on March 20.

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 2018 to attract law student memberships. For the last few years, student members have constituted about 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 2018, AABANY membership surpassed 1,300. Please help us keep our numbers strong by renewing your memberships and inviting others to join.
Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer
Edward Kim

In 2018, AABANY encouraged its members to serve our communities and advance our profession.

For the 2018 fiscal year (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019), the Board approved a general operating budget of approximately $690,000, including a committee budget of about $55,000. 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 March 27, 2019, our investment account balance is $590,186.42 and our operating account balance is $739,393.65. Under a conservative investment policy, AABANY’s total performance return as of January 29, 2019, (including cash and investments), year to date is 3.7% and its year to year is 3.5%.

We thank you for your continued support and involvement this year and as we head into our fiscal year in 2019, we encourage you to unite in action and vision as we move towards 2020 together.
The theme for FY2018 (April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019) was Serving Our Community, Advancing Our Profession. Thanks to the tremendous support of our members and friends and the tireless efforts of our leadership, AABANY did just that. We served the Asian American legal community by offering numerous important opportunities, including professional and leadership development, and saw our members excel and elevate to higher positions in the legal field, including the bench. We continued to develop new opportunities for our members in both private and public sectors. We served the Asian American community through our Monthly Pro Bono Clinic and various programs and initiatives to serve as a resource to our community members.

We thank our members, friends, sponsors, and community partners for their continued support of our mission as we look forward to promoting and advancing the fair administration of justice for all.

In the following pages, we offer major highlights from the FY 2018, as well as from our Annual Meeting and Annual Dinner last year.
February 13, 2018 AABANY held its Annual Meeting of Members at Dorsey and Whitney LLP. Members voted on three proposals: the first two would elect the new Board of Directors and Officers for FY 2018, and the last of which amended AABANY’s by-laws to increase the number of the Board Directors from thirteen (13) to nineteen (19), to provide for greater operational flexibility for AABANY. All three proposals passed and new officers and directors were elected. After elections, the Committee of the Year, Program of the Year, and Member of the Year Awards were presented to the Immigration Law Committee, the Pro Bono Clinic, and Samuel Lui, respectively.

February 28, 2018 AABANY hosted its Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street, drawing more than 700 attorneys, judges, supporters and other business and community leaders. AABANY honored the following individuals at the event: Alphonso David, Counsel to Governor Cuomo, State of New York, Public Service Award; Kathy Hirata Chin, Senior Counsel, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, Women’s Leadership Award; Mark Steffensen, SEVP & General Counsel, HSBC North America Holdings Inc., Corporate Leadership Award; and Hon. Goodwin Liu, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California, Impact Award.

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

May 17, 2018 AABANY held a General Counsel Panel and

Reception at Arnold & Porter, where panelists shared their experiences and expertise on various topics relevant to in-house counsel and how they can be more effective in working with their respective companies. Panelists expressed the importance of cohesion between companies and their in-house counsel, as well as the importance of ensuring that their roles as general counsels encourage diversity and inclusion within their respective workplaces.

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

May 22, 2018 AABANY and NYU’s A/P/A Institute co-sponsored an advance screening of “The Chinese Exclusion Act,” a documentary by award-winning
A superstar line-up participated in the General Counsel Panel and Reception at Arnold & Porter on May 18, moderated by Michael Wu, General Counsel at Carter’s, Inc. (far right).

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

May 30, 2018 AABANY joined the NYS Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to co-sponsor an event featuring guest speaker New York Congresswoman Grace Meng, the first Asian American member of Congress from New York State, in celebration of Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month. Attorney General Barbara Underwood delivered the opening remarks for the event, sharing her thoughts on the importance of moving beyond mere token representation and toward greater levels of inclusion within our institutions. On the podium, Congresswoman Grace Meng discussed the experiences that led her to work in government, as well as highlights from her efforts toward the advancement of minorities as a member of Congress. Although her words pointed to progress, they also reminded the audience of the work that must be done to further empower Asian/Pacific-Islander and other minority communities.

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

Summer Events

June 4, 2018 AABANY, together with Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, co-sponsored a trial reenactment of Korematsu v. United States at Cadwalader, which was attended by nearly 400 individuals. In 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which forcibly removed 120,000 Japanese-Americans from their homes and placed them in concentration camps. When Fred Korematsu refused to comply, he was arrested and convicted of violating the Executive Order. This trial reenactment recounted the events leading up to and following Korematsu v. United States, weaving together excerpts from transcripts, documents, court proceedings, and photographs to share the full story. Fred Korematsu’s daughter, Karen Korematsu, also attended this event to play herself in the reenactment and speak about her journey as an advocate for social justice and a leader of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute which has the mission of raising awareness about Korematsu’s legacy.

June 13, 2018 AABANY hosted its 11th Annual Summer Soiree, formerly known as the Wine Tasting and Networking Reception, at the Waterfall Mansion and Gallery on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Co-organized by the In-House Counsel Committee and the Corporate Law Committees, the event provided an elegant space for senior in-house lawyers and senior law firm attorneys to network with one another over hors d’oeuvres and an abundant selection of drinks and appreciate the venue’s beautiful artwork. Around 130 attendees came out to this year’s Summer Soiree, which included in-house counsel from a variety of industries and attorneys from top global and regional firms with offices in New York City.

June 28, 2018 AABANY and AALFNY held their annual Summer Reception, featuring Hon. Toko Serita, Acting Justice, NYS Supreme Court, and the recognition of AALFNY’s scholarship and fellowship recipients. Sylvia Chin, President of AALFNY delivered the opening remarks, introducing AALFNY and AABANY’s board members and thanking all attendees for their support and contributions to both organizations. AABANY President James Cho followed up with a meaningful reminder that AALFNY’s scholarships help dozens of aspiring attorneys commit to public service or public interest without being weighed down by financial burdens. The event’s guest speaker was Hon. Toko Serita who presides over three problem solving courts in Queens County Criminal Court. She delivered a powerful address that discussed the reality of human trafficking. As a judge at the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court since 2008, Justice Serita shared insights about the causes, consequences, and conditions of human trafficking that often remain unseen, especially in large metropolitan areas like New York City.

August 15, 2018 AABANY was delighted to co-partner with the Forest Hills Asian Association and attend a red carpet screening of the film, “Crazy Rich Asians” at the Cinemart Cinemas in Forest Hills. Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, and Margaret Ling, AABANY Development Director, attended on behalf of AABANY. Margaret spoke at the prescreening social at the Theatre Cafe and introduced the attendees to AABANY and detailed our many efforts to support the Asian American community in New York. Thank you to Edwin Wong, President of Forest Hills Asian Association for inviting us to co-partner. The event was sold out and the film was very well received. The free soft drinks and popcorn were an added plus to the evening. “Crazy Rich Asians” broke box office records as the first Hollywood film in 25 years to feature an all-Asian cast.

August 25, 2018 AABANY’s Annual Picnic took place at the Pool Lawn, in the north end of Central Park, by the West 100th Street entrance. It was a beautiful and peaceful sunny day for a picnic, and many AABANY members, with family and friends in tow, got to meet and mingle with each other over banh mi sandwiches and dumplings.
Ninth Annual Fall Conference

September 22, 2018 AABANY proudly presented its 2018 Fall Conference, “Serving Our Community, Advancing Our Profession” at Fordham University School of Law. Over 300 attendees – including chief legal officers and other in-house counsel, judges, government attorneys, law firm partners and associates, solo and small firm practitioners, non-profit leaders, and law students – participated.

The conference featured 20 panels on current legal topics. The array of programming included discussions on diversity and inclusion, advancement in the legal profession, corporate culture and the #MeToo movement, community engagement, and business development. The majority of the programs offered CLE credit, including two programs that offered credits in the new Diversity and Inclusion and Elimination of Bias requirement. We continued our Professional Development Coaching sessions, which are one-on-one professional development coaching workshops designed to break down abstract concepts like “networking” and “branding” and translate them into concrete, actionable strategies to help advance attorneys’ careers.

At the Fall Conference we also presented our Trial Advocacy Program (TAP), which lasted all day and was hosted by AABANY’s Litigation Committee. Judge Lorna G. Schofield of the Southern District of New York delivered the keynote remarks and shared practical and useful tips from her own experience as a litigator in private practice and from her vantage point as a trial judge. TAP gave attendees the opportunity to conduct opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, and closing statements. They also received constructive feedback from highly experienced trial lawyers including current and former prosecutors.

The Fall Conference also continued to offer Pitch Sessions, which provided law firm attorneys an opportunity to make meaningful connections with in-house counsels interested in learning more about their legal services and capabilities.

We also hosted our annual Diversity Career Fair & Expo, which featured information tables and on-site interviews from numerous employers, including District Attorneys’ Offices, government agencies, law firms, corporations, and public interest employers.

In the middle of the day, we held a luncheon plenary session on “Lessons and Legacy of the My Lai Massacre: 50th Year Commemoration.” The session was moderated by President-Elect Brian Song and reflected on a dark moment in American history that involved the massacre of 350 Vietnamese civilians in the village of My Lai. Our distinguished panelists discussed the lessons learned from the failure of military justice system to punish those responsible and how the legacy left behind from this tragedy still resonates today.

At the conclusion of the conference, we hosted a cocktail reception, where attendees gathered and mingled while enjoying drinks and hor d’oeuvres. At the reception, President James Cho presented the Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award to Kin Ng, who made history in 2017 when he became the first Asian Pacific American to be promoted to serve as Bureau Chief at a major trial bureau in a prosecutors’ office in New York City.
Fall and Winter Events

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

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

December 18, 2018, AABANY’s Prosecutors Committee held its 10th Annual Reception by honoring Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York, and Jesse J. Sligh, Executive Assistant District Attorney, Queens County District Attorney’s Office, for their exemplary and established record of public service and their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession and the community. This year’s reception also included a touching tribute in memory of Committee Co-Chair Helen Ahn, who passed unexpectedly in November. Helen’s parents and family were present to hear and receive the tributes from all the speakers and honorees.
Panels and CLEs

March 15, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored with SABANY a CLE program entitled #MeToo and Harassment in the Workplace: A Roundtable Discussion at the EEOC’s offices on Whitehall Street. The program covered topics such as how sexual harassment claims in the workplace are brought and how sexual harassment claims are changing the way companies do business in relation to the #MeToo movement.

July 11, 2018 AABANY co-sponsored Diversity Tax Day for Professionals Working with Limited English Proficiency Taxpayers at Venable LLP. This event included panel discussions on various topics regarding taxpayers, such as how it is difficult for LEP (limited English proficiency) taxpayers to exercise their right to be informed about their taxes, and tax scams and identity theft. The panels featured multiple speakers who hold prominent positions or status in their field, including Sharon Bradley, the Chief of the ITIN Section of the IRS, Eunkyong Choi, the NYC Taxpayer Advocate, Margaret Neri, the New York State Taxpayer Rights Advocate, and Pam Parker Cortijo, the Assistant Commissioner of the Collections Division of the New York City Department of Finance. Sung Hwang, Partner at Venable and Co-Chair of AABANY’s Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, spoke on the first of four panels, “Starting a Business with Money from Abroad,” which addressed the tax implications for small businesses that receive financing domestically and from abroad. Over 100 professionals attended this event, who all qualified for CLE, CPE and CE credits.

October 22, 2018 AABANY in collaboration with the Disney Lawyers of Color presented a career information session on what working for the Walt Disney Company and its various subsidiaries and affiliates, such as Disney Theatrical Group, Marvel Entertainment, and ESPN, is like. The event took place at the New Amsterdam Room in the New Amsterdam Theater on 42nd Street and Broadway. The speakers shared with the audience how each of them got to where they are today and how much they enjoy the work and the colleagues they have at their respective Disney companies.
Community Outreach

February 3, 2018 AABANY, the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ), and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) co-hosted a free one-day DACA and Immigration Know-Your-Rights Clinic at Brooklyn Law School. In addition to assisting DACA beneficiaries with renewals, the clinic also summarized the basic requirements for DACA and encouraged attendees to seek out additional resources such as counseling and food assistance.

March 22, 2018 At Ichi Cellar, AABANY hosted its first ever Build a Backpack for Kids with Cancer, a special fundraiser where attendees stuffed backpacks with toys, arts & craft supplies, and other goodies for children with cancer. AABANY, KALAGNY, and CAPABA supplied the bags and the goodies, and attendees helped to assemble and decorate the bags. The bags were delivered to NYU Langone Medical Center. All proceeds from the event went to benefit the Han C. Choi Scholarship Fund.

May 11, 2018 AABANY fielded a team at the 7th Annual Trivia Bowl organized by the Asian American Journalists Association of New York (AAJA-NY) and held at Golden Unicorn Restaurant in Chinatown. Since its inception, AABANY has sent a team to the trivia bowl almost every year. Proceeds from the event support scholarships for Asian American journalism students. We congratulate New York Times, which won the Tea Cup Trophy this year. We also thank our team members: Chris Kwok (Team Captain), Lia Tieu, Gabriel Arce-Yee, Gary Malone, Francis Chin, Jonathan Hernandez, Albert Suh, Beatrice Leong, Tsui Yee and Yang Chen. We also thank Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, Hon. James d’Auguste, Hon. Alex Tisch, Hon. Kathryn Freed, and Marc Cohan for serving as judges, scoring the answer sheets submitted by all the teams.

January 30, 2019 NYCLA’s Asian Practice Committee and the New York Day of Remembrance Committee presented the Second Annual Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution at the New York County Lawyers Association. This event marked Korematsu’s 100th birthday. The Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution is already officially recognized in four states and was first officially celebrated in New York City in 2018. At this celebration, AABANY presented its trial reenactment, “Fred Korematsu and His Fight for Justice,” recounting Fred Korematsu’s refusal to report for incarceration in an internment camp during World War II, the legal proceeding that culminated in the United States Supreme Court, and his fight decades later to overturn his conviction based on newly discovered facts that were suppressed by the government. The reenactment was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Board Director and Issues Committee Chair Chris Kwok on “Why the Korematsu Case Still Matters Today.” Attendees continued their conversations during the reception that followed. The event was covered on NHK World News and WNYC-FM.

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

Through the Issues Committee, AABANY has examined and explored various issues throughout the past year, including the Specialized High School Admission Tests (SHSAT), Asian Americans and affirmative action in higher education, New York City’s e-bike policy, among others. AABANY, through its Judiciary Committee, vetted and endorsed judicial candidates for state and Federal vacancies in New York.

On December 7, 2018, AABANY submitted comments to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in opposition to the rulemaking on Proposed Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds. AABANY wrote:

The Asian American Bar Association of New York believes that this rule change will cause irreparable harm to our community. Many of AABANY’s members are immigrants, or children of immigrants, and are personally impacted by this rule. The Proposed Rule changes the rules of the system in midstream and are directly intended to prevent immigrants from becoming American citizens.

The full text of AABANY’s comments can be found at http://bit.ly/pubchrgcomm

In Memoriam

Han C. Choi (1966-2018)

Helen Ahn (1973-2018)
Committee Chairs

ACADEMIC
Seth Endo
Suzanne Kim

ASIA PRACTICE
Jian Wu
Chris Kwok
Alex Yong Hao

CAREER PLACEMENT
Rob Leung
Daphne Ha
Christina Nguyen
Kevin Yim

COMMERCIAL BANKRUPTCY
AND RESTRUCTURING
Vince Roldan
William Hao

CORPORATE LAW
Ed Lee
Larry Wee
Ting Chen

GOVERNMENT SERVICE &
PUBLIC INTEREST
Kevin Hsi
Jonathan Hernandez
Beatrice Leong

IMMIGRATION LAW
Poonam Gupta
Amanda Bernardo
Susan Akina

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL
Duane Morikawa
Blossom Kan
Grace Fu

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Jeff Mok
Ben Hsing
Charles Chen

ISSUES
Song Kim
Chris Kwok

JUDICIARY
Rob Leung
Linda Lin

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW
Joane Wong
Edwin Kim
Eric Su

LGBT
Glenn Magpantay
John Vang

LITIGATION
David Choi
Jenny Wu
James Lee

MEMBERSHIP
David Sohn

MENTORSHIP
Shruti Chopra

MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS
Jimmy Kang
Sung Hwang

NEWSLETTER
Naf Kwun
Albert Suh

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

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
Francis Chin
Marianne Chow Newman

PROSECUTORS
Jim Lin
Matthew Yi
Helen Ahn

REAL ESTATE
Margaret Ling
Cary Chan
David Lu

SOLO AND SMALL FIRM
PRACTICE
David Lu
Cary Chan
Tsui Yee

STUDENT OUTREACH
Edwin Kim
Aakruti Vakharia
Jonathan Li

TAX
Joon Pae
Rich Williams
Shiukay Hung

WOMEN’S
Yan Sin
Jennifer H. Wu
Tiffany Miao

YOUNG LAWYERS
Ona Lu
Tiffany Miao
Standing Committees

Audit Committee

Committee Chair:
Bobby Liu

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
(xi) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

Awards Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Mike F. Huang
Ligee Gu

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.

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:
Edward Kim

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:
David Sohn

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.

Nominations Committee
Committee Chair:
James R. Cho

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.
Committee Co-Chairs:

Seth Endo
Suzanne Kim

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 year, Professor Suzanne Kim joined as co-chair and she has reinvigorated the committee, helping to lead many events over the course of the year.

On March 27, 2018, the Academic Committee and Columbia Law School’s APALSA co-hosted a panel discussion entitled “Pathways into Legal Academia.” Professor Suzanne Kim from Rutgers University Law School and Professor Sarah Seo from University of Iowa College of Law discussed their paths into law teaching; their thoughts on law school and how it informs your career; what they love about their jobs; and reasons students might consider an academic career. A Q&A session followed the panel.

On July 18, 2018, the Academic Committee and the Litigation Committee co-hosted July’s Membership Happy Hour at Karaoke City. The Happy Hour also was co-sponsored by the Membership Committee, under the leadership of Membership Director David Sohn, and all attendees had the chance to mingle and network with Committee leaders and members as well as lawyers in various practice areas.

On September 22, 2018, at the AABANY Ninth Annual Fall Conference, the Academic Committee and the Professional Development Committee co-hosted a panel entitled, “From Silos to Teamwork: Importance of Collaborative Leadership for Lawyers.” This panel gathered leaders from the business, legal, and educational worlds, discussed strategies for building more effective collaboration within the legal practice. Discussion focused on models of collaboration in legal and nonlegal spaces; skills needed for collaborative work and leadership; effective institutional mechanisms for building collaborative teams and leaders; and new directions in education to support collaboration. By engaging in thought leadership work on this innovative aspect of legal and business practice, this panel served our legal community and advanced our profession.

On October 23, 2018, the Academic Committee presented a panel discussion entitled, “Q&A with Corporate Attorneys” with the Rutgers Law Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) and the Corporate Law Society at Rutgers Law.

On October 24, 2018, the Academic Committee—along with the Immigration Law Committee and Student Outreach Committee—presented an evening discussion entitled, “Potential Careers in Immigration Law Practice,” which benefited law students and others who are interested in pursuing a career in immigration law. A networking reception followed.

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

On November 29, 2018, the Academic Committee helped sponsor a panel discussion entitled “Cultural Humility: The Ongoing Quest for Cultural Competence” with the Nassau County Bar Association.

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

On March 27, 2018, AABANY’s Asia Practice committee presented a Risks and Strategies for Foreign Companies Involved in US Litigation CLE panel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, and Garrison LLP. The panel discussed the framework and practices of commercial litigation in the U.S. and covered key issues and strategic considerations that foreign companies confront when litigating in the U.S.

On August 15, 2018, AABANY’s Young Lawyers, IP and Asia Practice Committee co-hosted August’s Monthly Membership Happy Hour at Ainsworth Midtown. The Happy Hour was co-sponsored by the Membership Committee, under the leadership of David Sohn, and all attendees had the chance to mingle and network with Committee leaders and members as well as lawyers in various practice areas.

On November 14, 2018, AABANY’s Asia Practice committee and Academic Committee co-hosted a roundtable discussion at JAMS about leading issues facing Chinese companies doing business in the US. Speakers included Alex Hao, Partner at JunHe New York Office, Ji Li, Author of The Clash of Capitalisms? Chinese Companies in the United States (Cambridge University Press) and Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School, Ruth Jin, founder of the Jin Law Group, Ann Lee, CEO at Coterie, and Jian Wu, International Lawyer at Kobre & Kim LLP. The discussion addressed China-US trade war and new restrictions on Chinese outbound investment into US technology companies. The roundtable also featured Professor Ji Li’s recent academic research on how Chinese companies react to the host country’s law and preferences expressed by Chinese companies in selecting US lawyers.

On January 29, 2019, the IP Committee, along with the Asia Practice, and Commercial Bankruptcy and Restructuring Committees presented the panel: A Primer on U.S. Bankruptcy and Intellectual Property Transactions. The panel discussed the basics of intellectual property transactions involving distressed companies in the United States.
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 23, 2018, AABANY held its inaugural Monthly Membership Happy Hour at Karaoke City, providing an opportunity for AABANY to thank its current members and for members and non-members to learn more about AABANY’s committees. The first Monthly Membership Happy Hour featured the Career Placement Committee, whose co-chairs attended and spoke with both current and prospective members about the work that the Committee does.

On September 22, 2018, AABANY’s Career Placement Committee hosted its Fourth Annual Diversity Career Fair & Expo at the 2018 Fall Conference. The Diversity Career Fair & Expo featured selected public sector, corporate sector, and law firm employers who hosted informational sessions, met and greeted interested applicants, and conducted first round on-site interviews. In addition, attendees met members of AABANY’s Career Placement Committee and received career advice, as well as learned more about other job openings.
The Commercial Bankruptcy & Restructuring Committee was formed in order to raise awareness of bankruptcy related issues to non-bankruptcy practitioners, as well as provide networking opportunities for APA bankruptcy/restructuring professionals. The Committee plans various networking events and CLE programs for professionals in related fields. These events are open to all AABANY members and non-members. The Committee collaborates with other AABANY committees to organize thoughtful and relevant programs.

In furtherance of its goals, the Commercial Bankruptcy and Restructuring Committee hosted a panel during AABANY 2018 Fall Conference 2018 entitled “Examining the Student Loan Crisis.” The Committee gathered a panel of finance, bankruptcy, and education law experts to discuss the motivations of various parties involved and provide practical advice on how to navigate the market pressure revolving around student loans, including its effects on other industries, the regulatory environment for student loans, and other issues arising from the current state of student loan borrowing in the United States.

On March 13, 2018, the Committee had its annual dinner at Osamil in Koreatown. Members discussed ideas and events for the upcoming year and brought together APA restructuring attorneys, financial advisors, and turnaround consultants for some meaningful networking and exchange of ideas.

On September 26, 2018, the Bankruptcy Committee co-sponsored a monthly AABANY Happy Hour with the Mentorship and Issues committees. The event was well-attended and provided AABANY and non-AABANY members with an opportunity to network and learn more about the various committee involved.

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

Finally, the Bankruptcy Committee continues to be active in industry groups such as the Turnaround Management Association, American Bankruptcy Institute, and the New York Institute of Credit, and encourages APAs within these groups to become members of AABANY.

Our committee looks forward to 2019 and is planning new events. As always, we welcome and encourage new and existing members to join our committee and share with us their experiences, feedback, and ideas. Please feel free to contact us at william.hao@aabany.org and vincent.roldan@aabany.org.
Committee Co-Chairs:
Ting S. Chen, Partner, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Edward J. Lee, Partner, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
Lawrence G. Wee, Partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

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. This year, the Committee looks forward to sponsoring several events throughout the year, including continuing the success of past events, such as the Annual Summer Wine-Tasting and Networking Reception for In-House Counsel and Law Firm Attorneys (now known as the Summer Soiree) and participation in the Fall Conference. The Committee also seeks to deliver networking opportunities and added value to AABANY sponsors. Additionally, the Committee looks forward to incorporating new members who would like to become an active part of the Committee to help build on past successes.

On June 13, 2018, AABANY hosted its 11th Annual Summer Soiree, formerly known as the Wine Tasting and Networking Reception, at the Waterfall Mansion and Gallery on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Co-sponsored by the Waterfall Mansion and Gallery and co-organized by the In-House Counsel and Law Firm Attorneys (now known as the Summer Soiree) and participation in the Fall Conference. The Committee also seeks to deliver networking opportunities and added value to AABANY sponsors. Additionally, the Committee looks forward to incorporating new members who would like to become an active part of the Committee to help build on past successes.

On August 2, 2018, AABANY’s Corporate Law Committee and Student Outreach Committee hosted an informative and insightful Pre-OCI Information Session titled, “What Do Corporate Lawyers Do?”, at the offices of Paul, Weiss. With the OCI season just around the corner for current law students, the event provided a valuable opportunity for the attendees to acquire a better understanding of the corporate law practice from a panel of distinguished and experienced APA corporate lawyers from top firms and companies, including Lesley Peng (Partner, Simpson Thacher), AABANY Board members Terrence Shen (Partner, Kramer Levin) and Marianne Chow Newman (Counsel, The Hearst Corporation) and Corporate Law Committee Co-Chairs Ed Lee and Larry Wee. The presentation was designed to increase awareness of the diverse and multifaceted practice of corporate law among rising 2L students going into the OCI season and improve their ability to ask good questions about the corporate practice. The program was also designed to allow attendees to make more informed decisions on their future practice areas in advance of selecting OCI law firms by showing them on a practical level what the practice of corporate law looks like. The discussion during the session and at the reception afterwards was lively and fun. We look forward to planning a similar event for the coming OCI season.

At the AABANY Fall Conference, on September 22, 2018, the Corporate Law Committee hosted a panel discussion, “Public Company M&A: An Inside View Into the Practice and Year in Review.” The panel consisted of distinguished public M&A practitioners from top law firms in the field, including Corporate Law Committee co-chairs Ting Chen and Ed Lee and DoHyun Kim, a senior M&A associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. The panel provided insights into their public company M&A practices, including an overview of how these transactions are structured and key legal considerations and a practical look at what being an M&A lawyer entails. The panel also discussed the latest developments in the public company M&A space and what to expect going into 2019. The panel discussion was co-sponsored by AABANY’s Diamond Sponsor, Summit Financial Disclosure, a Broadridge Company.

“What Do Corporate Lawyers Do?” panel gave strong advice for law students preparing for on-campus interview season.
Government Service and Public Interest Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:

Kevin Hsi  
Jonathan Hernandez  
Beatrice Leong

AABANY’s Government Service and Public Interest Committee seeks 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 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), 2018-19 was a year of continued growth, collaboration and new ideas under the continued leadership of co-chairs Kevin Hsi, Jonathan Hernandez and Beatrice Leong. The co-chairs aim to continue developing an active membership base while promoting an environment in which lawyers involved and/or interested in government service and public interest work can connect. The 2018-19 year also saw an 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 (“Pro Bono”) Committee to provide free legal services to the Asian American community. GSPI held three joint meetings with the Pro Bono Committee - on April 2, July 17 and October 4, 2018. These meetings provided opportunities for all members to network, exchange ideas and discuss ways to strengthen the monthly pro-bono clinic.

GSPI also continued its collaboration with the AABANY Community Response Task Force (CRTF), which is now part of the Issues Committee. The CRTF is designed to be a clearinghouse of information and coordination for research and assistance on urgent and emerging legal issues. In 2018, the CRTF led the effort for AABANY to submit a public comment in opposition to the Department of Homeland Security proposed changes to the public charge rule, which, if implemented, will cause severe harm to Asian American communities.

On February 25, 2018, the CRTF, the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ), and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) co-hosted a free one-day Deferred Action Against Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Immigration Know-Your-Rights legal clinic. The event was held at Brooklyn Law School and included volunteers and attorneys in all practice areas. The event included an update on DACA and a Know Your Rights presentation on immigration raids by AALDEF attorney Annie Wang.

On March 16, 2018 the GSPI and Pro Bono committees co-sponsored a Know-Your-Rights Tax Training at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (“CCBA”) in Chinatown. The CLE was intended for community members to learn more about federal and state tax filings, especially with the new changes under the recently passed tax plan. The presenter was attorney Rachel Sun, a tax specialist at Queens Legal Services (Legal Services of New York). The event was jointly organized by AABANY and the Asian Health & Social Service Council Inc (“AHSSC”) for community members to learn more about the changes to the tax laws that were recently passed by Congress. The lead organizers for the event were AHSSC President Eva Wong and GSPI co-chair Jonathan Hernandez. Over 40 members from the community attended this event to learn more about the changes in the new tax laws and how they may be affected. Several members of the press were also present, including SinoVision.

On March 20, 2018, the GSPI Committee co-sponsored with the Immigration Law Committee, an Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Immigration Remedies CLE panel at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, in conjunction with local nonprofit Sanctuary for Families. The panel featured Judge Pamela Chen of the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Judge Toko Serita of the New York City Criminal Court of Queens County, Susan Akina of the AABANY Immigration Law Committee, and Amy Hsieh from Sanctuary for Families. Panelists elaborated on the unique problems that Asian communities face in regard to trafficking, trafficking victims’ eligibility for certain visas, and the attorney-client relationship when taking on a pro bono trafficking case.

After being rescheduled twice due to two Nor’easters, the AABANY Government Service and Public Interest Committee (GSPI) and Pro Bono and Community Service Committee held their Lunar New Year Dinner at the Bite of Hong Kong restaurant in

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Chinatown on March 28, 2018. Over 30 committee members and volunteers gathered to socialize and enjoy a delicious ten-course meal - family style, of course! Attendees included incoming AABANY President and former GSPI co-chair James Cho who thanked both committees for their work and encouraged more government and public-interest attorneys to get involved in AABANY.

On June 7, 2018, the GSPI Committee and the Prosecutors Committee co-hosted a Late Spring Cocktail Mixer at Legends on West 33rd Street. At the event, prosecutors from the District Attorneys’ offices, public interest attorneys, interns, law students, and others mingled throughout the evening over an abundance of cocktails and appetizers.

On August 1, 2018, the GSPI and Pro Bono Committees held a Know-Your-Rights presentation on Rent Overcharges in NYC in partnership with Manhattan Legal Services and the Visiting Nurse Services of New York (VNSNY). The presenter was Amy Luo, a housing attorney at Manhattan Legal Services. The presentation was held at the offices of the VNSNY in Chinatown. The Know-Your-Rights presentation addressed topics such as whether units are entitled to rent protections, how rent overcharges could happen and what legal remedies are available. After the presentation, attendees were able to meet one-on-one with pro bono attorneys to discuss their rent issues and review their rent histories. The lead organizers for the event were GSPI co-chair Jonathan Hernandez and Pro Bono co-chair Karen Yau.

On September 22, 2018, at the AABANY Fall Conference, the GSPI Committee hosted the panel discussion “There and Back Again: Asian Americans and Exclusion as a Policy in U.S. Immigration Framework.” This panel addressed the recent court and government policy decisions that have been significantly impacting immigrant and Asian American groups across the country. The panel speakers were Annie Wang (Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund), Anu Joshi (New York Immigration Coalition), Hasan Shafiqullah (The Legal Aid Society) and Lee Wang (Immigrant Defense Project). The program was chaired by GSPI co-chair Kevin Hsi and moderated by former GSPI co-chair Karen Yau.

The GSPI Committee also co-hosted two panel discussions with the Pro Bono Committee at the Fall Conference called Pro Bono Refresher, Part I: Housing and Employment Labor Law and Pro Bono Refresher, Part II: Immigration Law, Medicaid and Asset Protection, and Family Law. The panelists, including GSPI co-chairs Beatrice Leong and Jonathan Hernandez, discussed common issues faced at the AABANY Pro Bono clinic.

On October 17, 2018, the GSPI Committee co-hosted a Monthly Membership Happy Hour with the Immigration, Student Outreach, and Pro Bono Committees. The Happy Hour was held at Roki Le Izakaya on West 21st Street and was attended by over 40 people. The Happy Hour was co-sponsored by the Membership Committee, under the leadership of David Sohn, and all attendees had the chance to mingle and network with Committee leaders and members as well as lawyers in various practice areas.

On January 29, 2019, GSPI co-sponsored a panel on Access to Justice, Legal Needs and APA Communities at Cardozo Law School with the Academic, Pro Bono and Student Outreach Communities. The panel was co-moderated by Academic Committee co-chair Suzanne Kim and GSPI co-chair Jonathan Hernandez. The panel consisted of a broad mix of public interest attorneys, law professors and private practitioners including GSPI co-chair Beatrice Leong. The panelists discussed the impacts of the justice gap on access to the courts and in areas such as family law, elder law, housing, employment law, domestic violence and immigration.

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

The GSPI Committee plans to continue collaborating with various AABANY committees and community groups while encouraging attorneys and law students alike to pursue public interest law and public service.
Committee Co-Chairs:
Susan Akina
Amanda Bernardo
Poonam Gupta

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.

On February 13, 2018, AABANY held its Annual Meeting of Members at Dorsey and Whitney LLP. At the meeting, the Committee of the Year Award was presented to the Immigration Law Committee.

On March 20, 2018, AABANY’s Immigration Law Committee and Government Service & Public Interest (GSPI) Committee presented an Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Immigration Remedies CLE panel at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, in conjunction with a local non-profit, Sanctuary for Families that help victims/survivors of human trafficking with legal relief. The panel was moderated by Amy Hsieh, Staff Attorney at Sanctuary for Families and panelists included Judge Pamela Chen of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Judge Toko Serita of the New York City Criminal Court of Queens County, and Susan Akina, Co-Chair of the Immigration Law Committee. Panelists shared their experiences working with East Asians who were clients or have appeared in court and elaborated on the unique problems that East Asian communities in the U.S. and New York face in regard to trafficking, immigration legal remedies for trafficking victims/survivors, and best practices for attorneys when working with clients who may have been victims/survivors of human trafficking. The event concluded with a Q&A session along with an opportunity for attorneys to sign up with Sanctuary for Families to assist with trafficking cases on a pro bono basis.

On May 1, 2018, AABANY’s Immigration Law Committee hosted a CLE panel titled “Secondary Traumatic Stress - Working with Clients with Trauma,” at Dechert LLP. This panel was moderated by Amanda Bernardo, Co-Chair of the Immigration Law Committee, and included speakers such as non-profit immigration attorneys, Amy Hsieh of Sanctuary for Families, Rebecca Press of Central American Legal Assistance, former immigration judges Carol King and Jeffrey Chase and Susan Akina, Co-Chair of the Immigration Law Committee. At the panel, speakers discussed their personal experiences working through the sometimes emotionally difficult challenges when representing clients who have experienced trauma and offered effective strategies to promote greater self-awareness, self-care, and mental health. This event was extremely well-timed and well-received, given that May was designated as Mental Health Awareness Month.

On October 24, 2018, AABANY’s Immigration Law Committee, Academic Committee, and the Student Outreach Committee co-sponsored “Potential Careers in Immigration Law Practice” with Brooklyn Law School’s APALSA to provide law students with an array of career options in immigration law practice. Gathered at Brooklyn Law School over a light dinner, students gained valuable practical career knowledge through panel discussions and individual follow-ups. The panelists each shared their different career trajectories and how they ultimately chose to practice immigration law. The panelists included immigration attorneys who have worked in the non-profit and the private sector such as Amanda Bernardo, Supervising Attorney, New York Legal Assistance Group, and Immigration Law Committee Co-Chair; Susan Akina, Managing Attorney, Guerrero Law Firm, and Immigration Law Committee Co-Chair; and Rio Guerrero, Principal, Guerrero Law Firm, and inaugural Immigration Law Committee Co-Chair. The dynamic discussion was moderated by Professor Catherine Kim.

On January 9, 2019, the Immigration Law Committee was honored to collaborate with the Pro Bono Committee for their first Monthly Pro Bono Clinic of 2019. Immigration Law Committee Co-Chair, Amanda Bernardo, Supervising Attorney, New York Legal Assistance Group provided a presentation to the community about the Department of Homeland Security’s proposed changes to the regulations pertaining to the “Public Charge” ground of inadmissibility. The presentation was translated for the community by Kwok Kei Ng, Esq., Assistant Law Clerk to Hon. Carolyn Wade at New York State Supreme Court.

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

In February of 2019, Susan Akina and Amanda Bernardo, co-chairs of AABANY’s Immigration Law Committee, partnered with AARP and created public service announcements to help prevent immigration fraud in the Chinese and Filipino communities. Both Susan and Amanda provided tips and advice on how to avoid becoming a victim of immigration fraud in short videos produced by AARP.
The In-House Counsel Committee (“IHCC”) consists of in-house counsel interested in sharing their ideas and experiences as members of in-house legal departments on a variety of issues facing Asian-Pacific American lawyers and providing a support network with in-house counsel members. The IHCC sponsored events such as panel discussions, CLE courses, networking events and other programs.

The AABANY Intellectual Property Committee (“IPC”) and IHCC co-hosted a celebratory joint Lunar New Year Dinner at Shanghai Heping Restaurant in Chinatown on February 8, 2018. Attendees had the opportunity to catch up and network while enjoying delicious traditional Chinese dishes and good company.

The IPC and IHCC also collaborated for a dim sum dinner at Nom Wah Nolita on March 29, 2018. Intellectual property practitioners from law firms and in-house attorneys gathered to network and enjoy the restaurant’s ample offerings of Chinese classics.

The IHCC held its kick off meeting for the new fiscal year on May 3, 2018 at the offices of Mayer Brown LLP. The committee discussed the events planned for the year and met existing and new committee members.

The IHCC was pleased to co-sponsor the General Counsel Panel and Reception on May 17, 2018. Michael Wu, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Carter’s organized the panel and served as moderator. The distinguished panel included: Lucy Fato, Executive Vice President, General Counsel of AIG; David G. Leitch, Global General Counsel of Bank of America; Sandra Leung, Executive Vice President, General Counsel of Bristol Myers-Squibb; Kelly Mahon Tullier, Executive Vice President, General Counsel of VISA; and Bradford Turner, Chief Legal and Administrative Officer of Newell Brands. Arnold & Porter graciously hosted the event.

One of the signature events for the IHCC was the Eleventh Annual Summer Soiree. In-House Counsel and Attorneys from our law firm and other sponsors were invited to attend the event, co-hosted by the IHCC and AABANY's Corporate Law Committee (“CLC”) at the Waterfall Mansion with generous support from Kate Shin, Founder of the Waterfall Mansion, and our Headline Sponsors, Summit Financial Printing and Alston & Bird, our Sponsors, Davis & Gilbert LLP, First American International Bank, McCarter & English LLP, Perkins Coie LLP, Reed Smith LLP, Rivkin Radler LLP, and Shine Electronics Inc., and our wine and alcohol sponsors, Sabine Poisson and Christophe Barcat, Wine of Japan Import, Inc., Yobo Soju, and Remy Cointreau USA. The evening provided an opportunity to bring together IHCC and CLC members, their colleagues, potential new members, and some of AABANY’s top sponsors in an elegant space that contained beautiful artwork. The attendees represented in-house counsel from corporations and other organizations from a variety of industries and attorneys from global and regional law firms, as well as representatives from other service providers.

The IHCC actively participated in the Annual AABANY Fall Conference on September 22, 2018 by sponsoring or co-sponsoring four programs, as well as hosting the In-House Counsel Forum. The IHCC sponsored the panel entitled “Advancement within the In-House Legal Profession.” This program addressed the skills necessary for an in-house counsel to advance in the in-house legal profession, as well as deal with the challenges of obtaining the necessary training or knowledge and finding a sponsor or mentor from internal or external sources. The panel also discussed the importance of developing a career plan, taking on leadership roles to provide greater visibility, identifying ways to pursue internal opportunities or determining when it is time to seek opportunities outside of the organization. Finally, the panel discussed market trends and areas of current and future demand.
The IHCC, Women’s Committee and Issues Committee co-sponsored the panel entitled “In-House Counsel in the #MeToo Era: Designing Systems and Processes to Establish a Corporate Culture of Respect.” The panel proposed, from an in-house counsel perspective, a collaborative approach to allow the parties involved to meet and discuss their feelings, perspectives, and values without fear. The panel discussed the importance of designing an internal dispute resolution system to allow in-house counsel to take a proactive role to craft an amicable and mutually acceptable solution to help both employer and employee to maintain a professional and respectful relationship.

The IHCC sponsored the panel entitled “GC Roundtable: Dealing with Challenges; Promoting the Legal Profession.” The panel discussed the difficulties GCs encounter in addressing the legal challenges faced by their respective organizations and industries, such as information security, data privacy, reputational risks, technological developments, changes in laws and regulations, among others. The panel addressed efforts made by GCs to promote the legal profession within their respective legal departments and organizations through company-sponsored initiatives and efforts outside of their organizations. Finally, the panel discussed qualities important for the advancement and development of future leaders.

The IHCC co-sponsored with the CLC the pitch sessions held 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 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.

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

On October 22, 2018, AABANY in collaboration with the Disney Lawyers of Color presented a career information session on what working for the Walt Disney Company and its various subsidiaries and affiliates, such as Disney Theatrical Group, Marvel Entertainment, and ESPN, is like. The event took place at the New Amsterdam Room in the New Amsterdam Theater on 42nd Street and Broadway. The speakers shared with the audience how each of them got to where they are today and how much they enjoy the work and the colleagues they have at their respective Disney companies.

On March 14, 2019, the IHCC hosted a very successful networking event at the cozy and upscale Freds at Barneys Downtown. In-house counsel from numerous prominent companies gathered and mingled over drinks and light bites. The attendees took the time to get to know one another and shared insights into what their work entails. The general consensus appeared to be that the in-house counsel legal experience is vastly different from that of any other practice area and to be successful in this role, one has to learn to be a jack of all trades. The IHCC will continue to develop programs and events to meet the needs and interests of its members.
Committee Co-Chairs:
Jeffrey Mok
Ben Hsing
Charles Chen

The Intellectual Property Committee seeks to:
• provide practical skills training, support, and opportunities for practicing and aspiring intellectual property lawyers in the New York area;
• be a resource for artists, authors, and inventors within the community to provide information about the protection and use of intellectual property;
• serve as a forum to explore U.S.-Asia intellectual property issues; and
• provide networking opportunities for AABANY members interested in intellectual property.

On March 29, 2018, the IP Committee and In-House Counsel Committee joined together for a dim sum dinner at Nom Wah Nolita. Intellectual property practitioners from law firms and in-house attorneys gathered to network and enjoy the restaurant’s ample offerings of Chinese classics.

On May 2, 2018, the IP Committee with the Asia Practice Committee hosted a meeting with delegates from the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), including Chief Executive Daren Tang and Senior Vice President Sharon Wong. The discussion touched on Singapore as a hub for IP in South Asia and also informed attendees about the capabilities of IPOS that might be of interest to US applicants for IP protection in Singapore.

On October 22, 2018, the IP Committee co-hosted with the Student Outreach Committee an event with the Disney Lawyers of Color. Lawyers from Disney presented a career information session about working for the Walt Disney Company and its various subsidiaries and affiliates, such as Disney Theatrical Group, Marvel Entertainment, and ESPN, and their paths to their current positions.

On January 24, 2019, the IP Committee hosted a mixer to celebrate the start of 2019. We had a good group of AABANY and non-AABANY members attend and network over sushi.

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

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

On March 27, 2019, the Intellectual Property Committee held its year-end celebration dinner at Soju Haus in Koreatown. Members shared stories about their experience as Asian American lawyers in the IP field.

We welcome anyone with an interest in intellectual property and hope to see you at our future events.
Issues Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Chris Kwok
Song Kim (Partial Year)

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.

We lost Song Kim, our Issue Committee Co-Chair extraordinaire, who left New York City to go to Yale School of Management. We miss her dearly and wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

We have enjoyed an exciting year that included the following events:

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

On August 29, 2018, the Issues Committee hosted a “Crazy Rich Discussion” at JAMS, in the New York Times Building. At the event, attendees engaged in a lively free-form discussion about the under-representation of Asian American artists in Hollywood and how “Crazy Rich Asians” may or may not be a game changer.

On September 22, 2018, at the AABANY Ninth Annual Fall Conference 2018, the In-House Counsel Committee, the Women’s Committee and the

Issues Committee co-hosted the panel “In-House Counsel in the #MeToo Era: Designing Systems and Processes to Establish a Corporate Culture of Respect.” This panel proposed, from an in-house counsel perspective, a collaborative approach which allowed all involved to meet and discuss their feelings, perspectives, and values without fear. By designing an internal dispute resolution system, in-house counsel took a proactive role to craft an amicable and mutually acceptable solution that helped both employer and employee to maintain a professional and respectful relationship.

On September 26, 2018, the Issues Committee and the Bankruptcy Committee co-hosted the Monthly Membership Happy Hour that took place at Ainsworth Midtown. The Happy Hour was co-sponsored by the Membership Committee, under the leadership of David Sohn, and all attendees had the chance to mingle and network with Committee leaders and members as well as lawyers in various practice areas.

December was a particularly meaningful month for Chris Kwok, the Co-Chair of the Committee, as the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese Americans veterans of WWII was enacted into law. Chris Kwok served as the Legal Counsel for the effort. Read more at https://sites.ed.gov/aapi/2018/12/congressional-gold-medal-act-enacted-to-pay-tribute-to-20000-chinese-american-world-war-ii-veterans/

On December 16, 2018, the Issues Committee, along with Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York, celebrated the 75th anniversary repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act with a program called “Public Reading: 75th Anniversary Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.” The entire program can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gVp9RqqdU8&t=9s
Committee Co-Chairs:
Robert Leung
Linda Lin

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.

The Judiciary Committee’s work falls into four main categories:

- Recruiting and preparing potential candidates for the judiciary, including currently sitting members of the bench who seek higher judicial office.
- Evaluating judicial candidates to determine whether AABANY should formally endorse them. The policies and procedures for AABANY’s endorsement process are posted on the AABANY website.
- Advocating on behalf of and otherwise supporting candidates for the judiciary whom AABANY has endorsed.
- Formulating AABANY’s positions and thereafter engaging in advocacy (e.g., speeches, legislative testimony, public fora, amicus briefs, and editorials) on issues related to judicial independence and judicial selection procedures.


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

At the AABANY Fall Conference on September 22, 2018, the Judiciary Committee promoted diversity on the bench by hosting Road to the Bench: Mentoring Session. The Vetting Subcommittee of AABANY’s Judiciary Committee conducted one-on-one mentoring sessions to help participants figure out the path to the bench that worked best for them through offering tailored advice.

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

![Judiciary Committee members at one of their regular meetings to discuss plans and activities for the 2018 fiscal year, hosted by Paul Hastings.](image1)

![The Judiciary Committee held a panel discussion on “How to be an Elected Judge” at JAMS.](image2)
Labor & Employment Law Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:

Joane Wong
Edwin Kim
Eric Su

The Committee seeks 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.

On March 15, 2018, AABANY co-sponsored with SABANY a CLE program entitled “#MeToo and Harassment in the Workplace: A Roundtable Discussion” at the EEOC’s offices on Whitehall Street. The program covered topics such as how sexual harassment claims in the workplace are brought and how sexual harassment claims are changing the way companies do business in relation to the #MeToo movement.

On August 14, 2018, AABANY’s Real Estate, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Labor & Employment Law Committees, KALAGNY, Flushing Bank, and Littler Mendelson, P.C. presented a CLE program entitled “Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace: Respecting and Embracing It.” The CLE program was held at Flushing Bank’s branch at 99 Park Ave. The event was attended by forty-five attorneys and focused on the new New York State CLE requirement mandating attorneys to take at least one CLE course in diversity and inclusion during their biennial reporting period. The program was interesting, engaging, and informative. It was moderated by Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee, and was presented by AABANY’s very own William Ng, of Littler Mendelson, P.C. (AABANY’s former VP of Finance and Development, Recording Secretary, and Founding Co-Chair of AABANY’s Labor & Employment Law Committee) and Kevin Yam, Esq. of Littler Mendelson, P.C. They defined what diversity and inclusion really means within the confines of the work environment and focused on understanding what implicit and unconscious bias is.

At the AABANY Fall Conference on September 22, 2018, the Labor and Employment Law Committee hosted the panel “Pursuing FLSA and Employment Discrimination Claims in the Wake of Epic Systems: Views from Arbitrator, Attorneys and In-House Counsel.” Are there still opportunities for workers to file class action claims despite having signed a class-action waiver? What are local and state governments doing in reaction to Epic Systems? What will employee-plaintiffs do in response to this decision? What strategies will plaintiff-side lawyers utilize to assert the rights of employees under the FLSA and similar worker-protection statutes going forward? How will management-side lawyers advise their clients on the use of mandatory arbitration agreements, which have repeatedly been endorsed by the Supreme Court? A panel of experienced experts discussed these questions and the real implications of pursuing these claims after Epic Systems.
LGBT Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:

Glenn Magpantay
John Vang

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

The LGBT Committee of the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) coordinated a special diversity and inclusion panel discussion entitled, “Belonging: Being Out and Asian in the Legal Profession and our Communities” on March 14, 2018 hosted by McDermott Will & Emery.

A federal judge, in-house counsel, a cleric and a youth activist shared their personal perspectives of being out as LGBT people and as Asian Americans at work, in the legal profession, our families, social media, and faith communities. Thirty-five (35) people from corporate firms, government, public interest groups, and law school attended. Several made glowing comments after the session, including, “This is the best AABANY LGBT panel I’ve been to.”

Judge Pamela Chen of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, said: “Conversations like this one are vital to raising awareness about issues that we face as members of the APA and LGBTQ communities, and also to inspire a sense of belonging and hope about what we have achieved, and can achieve, when we join together. I learned so much from everyone who came to the event.”

Reverend Winnie Varghese at Trinity Church reflected, “I appreciate the maybe counter-intuitive sense of belonging that searching for belonging creates. Thanks to [Committee Co-Chairs] Glenn and John for creating a welcoming space to think about what aspects of ourselves as Asian Americans and LGBTQI persons we bring to our professional lives.”

Tony Choi shared his perspective on belonging in the United States as an undocumented immigrant. He has been here since he was a child but had to fight to belong as Dreamer. When President Obama announced the DACA program, Tony applied, gained work authorization and clearly belonged to this country. Now with President Trump threatening to cancel DACA, his continued belonging to this country is now in question.

Panel Moderator Nishan Bhaumik, a Staff Attorney at Immigration Equality said, “I am not alone in saying that each of their stories, and especially their candor, struck a personal chord with me. It is so valuable to hear from leaders in our community about affirming and non-affirming experiences of belonging and that each of them made significant strides through intentionality, hard work, compassion, and perseverance.”

On October 25, 2018, nearly 60 members of the bar “came out” to celebrate the diversity within the LGBT and Asian American and South Asian communities at the Asian American/South Asian Lawyers Networking Reception co-sponsored by AABANY and held at Shearman & Sterling.

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 Amin Kassam, Senior Counsel and Chief of Staff of the Legal and Compliance Department at Bloomberg LP in New York. He said, “For those of us who seek to navigate a space where race and sexuality intersect, it is important to speak out and tell our stories of ‘belonging’ at a time when so many seek to marginalize and divide our communities.” His remarks were followed by special recognition of pro bono and diversity & inclusion champions for LGBT APIs.

Special thanks go to Shearman & Sterling for hosting the reception, as well as LeGaL, SABANY, KALAGNY, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), and South Asian Bar Association of North American (SABA NA).
Litigation Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
David Choi
Jenny Wu
James Lee

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 June 13, 2018, the Litigation Committee held its Kickoff Meeting at the New York office of BakerHostetler. Existing and prospective committee members discussed upcoming events, ideas for future events, collaboration with other committees and ways to get involved in the committee and AABANY generally.

On July 18, 2018, the Litigation Committee and the Academic Committee co-hosted a Membership Happy Hour at Karaoke City. The Happy Hour was co-sponsored by the Membership Committee. Attendees had the chance to mingle and network with Committee leaders and members, as well as lawyers in various practice areas.

On August 25, 2018, the Litigation Committee and the Young Lawyers Committee co-hosted the AABANY Annual Picnic. AABANY members convened at the Pool Lawns in Central Park where members and their friends and family spent the afternoon basking in the summer sun, enjoyed dumplings and Vietnamese sandwiches, and played games.

During the AABANY Fall Conference on September 22, 2018, the Litigation Committee hosted two programs:

- Perspectives on Effective Appellate Advocacy: The panel of speakers included The Hon. Denny Chin, U.S. 2d Circuit Judge; John Vang, Senior Appellate Counsel at the Center for Appellate Litigation; Vincent Wiscovitch, Senior Appellate Counsel at Counsel Press Inc.; Vincent T. Chang, Partner, Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch, and moderated by William H. Ng, Associate at Littler Mendelson, P.C. The speakers discussed best practices for and the many factors of effective appellate practice, focusing on both written submissions and oral advocacy.

- Trial Advocacy Program: AABANY’s 2018 Trial Advocacy Program (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. TAP also included morning and afternoon panels on effective trial advocacy featuring distinguished and experienced litigators. In 2018, TAP was honored to feature as its keynote speaker Judge Lorna G. Schofield of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

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

Committee Co-Chairs:
Jimmy Kang
Sung Hwang

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

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

On September 22, 2018, at the AABANY Fall Conference, the Military & Veterans Affairs Committee hosted a panel titled “The Discharge Characterization and its Impact on Post-Military Life.” The distinguished panelists were Major Joseph Conley, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 42nd Infantry Division, New York Army National Guard (“NYARG”); Major Charles Horn, Staff Judge Advocate, 53rd Troop Command, NYARG; Gary Port, Esq., Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army Reserve; and Captain Vincent Ku, U.S. Marine Corps. The panelists discussed what the military’s discharge characterization is, how it is determined, and what their implications are.

On November 5, 2018, the Military & Veterans Affairs Committee co-sponsored KALAGNY’s 2nd Annual Veteran and Military Networking Event at the Korean American Museum. As part of the event, a panel moderated by Sung Hwang discussed diversity in the U.S. military over time since the 1970’s.

On January 30, 2019, AABANY’s Military & Veterans Affairs Committee and NYCLA’s Asian Practice Committee co-sponsored the 2nd Annual Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution. AABANY members performed a reenactment of the legal proceedings in Korematsu v. United States. The reenactment was followed by a panel discussion with members of AABANY, Council on American-Islamic Relations – NY, and Rutgers Center for Immigration Law, Policy, and Justice.

On February 23, 2019, the Military and Veterans Affairs (“MVA”) Committee and Litigation Committee co-hosted a Laser Tag event at Indoor Extreme Sports in Long Island City. Committee members spent the morning improving their teamwork, coordination, and communication skills by working in squads to engage their adversaries. Mission themes included Team Deathmatch, Search and Destroy, and Slayer. The event also served as a great stress reliever and received overwhelmingly positive feedback.
Pro Bono and Community Service Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:

Asako Aiba
Judy Lee
Karen Kithan Yau
Pauline Yeung-Ha

The Pro Bono & Community Service (PBCS) Committee encourages pro bono legal service among APA attorneys, informs community members of their legal rights, and works with not-for-profits and community organizations to bring free or low-cost legal services to the APA, immigrant, and other New York communities.

In addition to overseeing AABANY’s ever-expanding pro bono activities in 2018-2019, the PBCS Committee continues to spearhead and coordinate the Monthly Pro Bono Legal Advice and Referral Clinic (“Clinic”). By leveraging expertise and language skills of AABANY’s 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.

In 2018-19, the Clinic served between 21 – 51 clients with the help of 11 – 21 volunteer attorneys and 5 – 12 interpreters each month. Beginning in the fall of 2018, 1 mental health professional also began volunteering and counseling walk-in clients as needed. In a total of 10 months, the Clinic has given 327 community members advice about housing, immigration, family law, benefits (SSI, Medicare, and Medicaid), wills/trusts, criminal law, employment, and many other subjects. At the Clinic, volunteers explain official letters and review government forms. Clients hail from all five boroughs, with some coming from as far as Yonkers, Long Island, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Most of these clients are monolingual Chinese or Japanese speakers. Beginning in the fall of 2018, the Clinic incorporated Know-Your-Rights presentations on topics, including elder, employment, housing, and immigration law and public charge concerns. The 5 presentations have been particularly effective because of the participation of subject matter experts from AABANY’s PBCS, Government Service and Public Interest (GSPI), and Immigration Law Committees.

In addition to the monthly clinics that the PBCS Committee coordinated in the last year, PBCS also engaged in other community, professional development, and networking activities.

On March 28, 2018, after being rescheduled twice due to two Nor’easters, the PBCS and GSPI Committees held their Lunar New Year and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Bite of Hong Kong restaurant in Chinatown. Over 30 committee members and volunteers enjoyed a delicious ten-course meal – family style, of course! Thenincoming AABANY President James Cho gave brief remarks and thanked both committees for their work and encouraged more government and public-interest attorneys to get involved in AABANY.

Throughout the year, the PBCS Committee and its frequent collaborator, GSPI Committee, co-hosted Committee meetings on May 2, 2018, July 17, 2018 and October 4, 2018, which were well attended. On October 17, 2018, the PBCS Committee co-hosted a Monthly Membership Happy Hour along with the Immigration, GSPI and Student Outreach Committees at Roki Le Izakaya where members were able to meet and learn more about the committees.

During the 2018 AABANY Fall Conference, on September 22, 2018, the PBCS and GSPI Committees provided specifically designed trainings for attorneys interested in volunteering at the Clinic: Pro Bono Refresher, Part I: Housing and Employment Labor Law and Pro Bono Refresher, Part II: Immigration Law, Medicaid and Asset Protection, and Family Law. These CLE courses focused on the common issues facing the low-income AAPI community that volunteers typically encounter at the Clinic. The goal of the courses was to educate attorneys in the areas of law that most frequently arise at the Clinic, thus enhancing the volunteers’ experience in serving our community.

The Committee would like to extend our sincerest and deepest appreciation to the 51 volunteer attorneys, 23 volunteer interpreters, and 10 others who served in various capacities ranging from trouble-shooting and counseling to registration and other administrative assistance. They have all given invaluable time to the Clinic time and time again during 2018-19. Please see the list below. The numerous pro bono activities, in particular the Clinics, can only operate with the generosity of these volunteers and financial donors. Since December 2018, the PBCS has successfully raised close to $5,000 in donations and pledges from caring individuals to support the Clinic activities.
The Clinic occurs every second Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. If an AABANY member is interested in volunteering, please contact Co-chair Asako Aiba at asako.aiba@aabany.org.

Financial support is crucial to the continuation of this important AABANY project. Make a donation to the Clinic at https://www.asianamericanlawfund.org/donate/. The Asian American Law Fund of New York is serving as its fiscal sponsor. Please indicate that the donation is made specifically to benefit the Clinic. Please contact Co-chair Karen Yau at karen.yau@aabany.org with any questions or leads about supporting the Clinic financially.
Professional Development Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
Francis Chin
Marianne Chow Newman

The Professional Development Committee sponsors activities for the exchange of ideas and the development of professional opportunities and skills. It organizes low-cost accredited CLE seminars and sponsors special events on legal practice and networking opportunities.

Continuing Legal Education
During the 2018 calendar year, we are proud to have accredited 21 free or low-cost Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs for our members and the New York legal community. In addition, we accredited an additional 18 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, as well as the Asian Pacific American law student associations at Columbia Law School and Brooklyn 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.

September 22, 2018: AABANY Fall Conference 2018
This year’s Fall Conference presented 18 CLE programs led by AABANY’s committees, which were accredited in both New York and Pennsylvania.

The Academic Committee and the Professional Development Committee co-hosted the panel From Silos to Teamwork: Importance of Collaborative Leadership for Lawyers. This panel gathered leaders from the business, legal, and educational worlds, discussed strategies for building more effective collaboration within the legal practice. Discussion focused on models of collaboration in legal and nonlegal spaces; skills needed for collaborative work and leadership; effective institutional mechanisms for building collaborative teams and leaders; and new directions in education to support collaboration. In order to implement the concepts discussed, we incorporated an interactive session where each panelist led a group of audience members to discuss a hypothetical and how collaboration could be used to achieve a more optimal outcome. The panel was well-received with approximately 30 attendees, and we thank our panelists for sparking such an engaging conversation: Lisa Damon (Seyfarth Shaw LLP), Ginny Kim (United Technologies Corporation), Prof. Susan Sturm (Columbia Law School), An Trotter (The Hearst Corporation) and our fellow co-moderator, Prof. Suzanne Kim (Rutgers Law School).

In addition, the Professional Development Committee was proud to once again host the Professional Development Coaching at the 2018 AABANY Fall Conference and our focus this year was on personal branding. These one-on-one or small group sessions took place throughout the day, in which a distinguished group of eight faculty coaches met with 17 participants to troubleshoot specific professional and personal development issues that may be impeding their career advancement. The goal of these sessions was to help the participants come up with a game plan to move forward and rise up in the legal profession. We are grateful for the enthusiastic participation of our participants this year and also for the dedication on our faculty coaches: Diane Gujarati (US Attorney’s Office for SDNY), Jeff Ikejiri (UnitedLex Corporation), Rob Leung (Paul Hastings LLP), Katherine Loanzon (Kinney Recruiting), Susan Shin (Arnold & Porter LLP), Larry Wee (Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP) and Jennifer H. Wu (Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP).

April to December 2018: AABANY Leadership Development Program
With AABANY’s support, the Professional Development Committee proudly launched the AABANY Leadership Development Program (ALDP) in February 2018 at the Annual Dinner. The ALDP – co-founded by AABANY Directors Marianne Chow Newman, Sapna Palla, Brian Song and Dwight Yoo – is aimed at addressing the continued under-representation of Asian Pacific Americans (APA) in leadership positions at law firms, companies and in the government. The first ALDP cohort, which began in April 2018, was an eight month pilot program that was specifically focused on guiding
a selected group of qualified senior APA law firm associates who have completed basic leadership training and have a strong desire to become partners at their respective law firms. As part of the program, the associates attended a two-hour breakfast meeting each month with a panel of faculty comprised of law firm partners to discuss various leadership topics, such as: understanding the partnership process; how to get people in your corner; identifying mentors and sponsors; personal branding; executive presence; raising external and internal profiles; business development; how to make yourself indispensable.

We congratulate our four participants who completed the pilot program in December 2018 and want to express our deepest gratitude to our ten distinguished faculty members – Edward Lee (Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz), Dennis Hopkins (Perkins Coie LLP), Mike Huang (Paul Hastings LLP), Rob Leung (Paul Hastings LLP), Sapna Palla (Wiggin and Dana LLP), Terry Shen (Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP), Susan Shin (Arnold & Porter LLP), Brian Song (Baker Hostetler LLP), Larry Wee (Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP) and Dwight Yoo (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP).

For 2019, ALDP expects to expand the program to include selected in-house counsel as well and will open the application process early this year.

**Legal Reenactments**

*Constance Baker Motley, James Meredith, and Mississippi U.*

We worked with the New York City Bar, and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association to tell the story of the desegregation of Mississippi’s state university in *Meredith v. Fair*, 199 F. Supp. 754 (SD Miss. 1961), et al. The program on February 12, 2018 that was hosted at the City Bar can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hk306i8lGAY

*22 Lewd Chinese Women: Chy Lung v. Freeman*

AABANY co-sponsored with the Federal Bar Association and the Fordham Law School APALSA a trial reenactment of 22 Lewd Chinese Women: *Chy Lung v. Freeman*, on March 14, 2018 in the Moot Court Room at Fordham Law School. The case recounted the legal battles of 22 Chinese women traveling alone to San Francisco in the 1870s who were detained and refused admission because they were deemed to be prostitutes. The case went all the way up to the United States Supreme Court and set precedent on principles of federalism and immigration that remain pertinent to the immigration debate today.

Fred Korematsu and His Fight for Justice

On June 4, 2018 AABANY, together with Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, co-sponsored a trial reenactment of *Korematsu v. U.S.* at Cadwalader, weaving together photos, documents, and excerpts from court proceedings to recount the story of Fred Korematsu and his fight for justice. Video of the event is available at https://www.cadwalader.com/resources/events/fred-korematsu-and-his-fight-for-justice.

The reenactment team came together again on January 30, 2019, to perform the Korematsu trial reenactment in commemoration of Fred Korematsu’s 100th birthday and on the occasion of the 2nd annual Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution being celebrated in New York City. The reenactment was hosted by NYCLA’s Asian Practice Committee at NYCLA, 14 Vesey Street, and was co-organized by the New York Day of Remembrance Committee together with numerous community groups.

*Alice in Chinatown: Chol Soo Lee and His Fight for Freedom*

Our 12th annual Asian American historical trial reenactment premiered on November 9th at the NAPABA Convention. This reenactment tells the tale of Chol Soo Lee, a Korean immigrant wrongly convicted of a 1973 murder in San Francisco’s Chinatown, and then was in a prison fight where he claimed self-defense to the murder of his attacker. Both murder convictions were overturned thanks to a nationwide effort of activists, which could be considered the true beginning of the modern pan-Asian American Movement.

![AABANY's Trial Reenactment Team, with a few new members, performed "Fred Korematsu and His Fight for Justice" at NYCLA on Korematsu Day, on the occasion of Fred Korematsu's 100th birthday. (Photo by Corky Lee.)](image-url)
CLE Chart

During calendar year 2018, AABANY, as an accredited CLE provider, offered a total of 57.5 CLE credits, with more than half (31.5) given at the 2018 Fall Conference. AABANY was able to provide 13.5 credits in the new Diversity & Inclusion requirement. AABANY members are able to receive CLE credits for free or at discounted rates, and AABANY members are able to fulfill their CLE requirements by attending just AABANY programs.

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<th>ID</th>
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<th>Ethics</th>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Diversity &amp; Inclusion</th>
<th>Areas of Professional Practice</th>
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The goals of the Prosecutors’ Committee include the advancement and professional development of APA prosecutors, the establishment of a network between former and current APA prosecutors, the recruitment of APA law students to become prosecutors, and the cultivation of trust and communication between the APA community and the local prosecutors’ offices. There are currently over one hundred APA prosecutors serving New York City. The Committee is comprised of current and former state and federal prosecutors.

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

On December 18, 2018, AABANY’s Prosecutors Committee held its 10th Annual Reception by honoring Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York, and Jesse J. Sligh, Executive Assistant District Attorney, Queens County District Attorney’s Office, for their exemplary and established record of public service and their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession and the community.

Approximately 200 Prosecutors Committee members and guests filled the New York County Lawyers Association at 14 Vesey Street to capacity to celebrate this special anniversary event. The evening featured numerous distinguished guests and speakers who provided congratulatory remarks to the Committee and the honorees.

Notable guests and speakers included:
- Darcel Clark, Bronx County DA
- Michael McMahon, Richmond County DA
- Madeline Singas, Nassau County DA
- Cyrus Vance, New York County DA
- Neil Corwin, Executive AUSA, US Attorney’s Office, SDNY
- Nancy Hoppock, Chief ADA, Kings County DA’s Office
- Bridget Rohde, Chief AUSA, US Attorney’s Office, EDNY
- John Ryan, Chief ADA, Queens County DA’s Office
- Joe Alexis, Chief of Trials, Kings County DA’s Office
- Catherine Christian, Special Assistant to the NY County DA for External Affairs
- Diane Gujarati, Deputy Chief of Criminal Division, US Attorney’s Office, SDNY
- Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President
- Yang Chen, Executive Director, AABANY
- Pamela Chen, Judge, US District Court, EDNY
- Dorothy Chin-Brandt, Retired Judge, Queens County Supreme Court
- Phyllis Chu, Judge, NY County Criminal Court
- Danny Chun, Judge, Kings County Supreme Court
- Ronald Hollie, Judge, Queens County Supreme Court
- Gilbert Hong, Judge, NY County Criminal Court
- Judy Kim, Judge, NY County Criminal Court
- Peggy Kuo, Judge, US District Court, EDNY
- Don Leo, Judge, Kings County Criminal Court
- Daniel Lewis, Judge, Queens County Supreme Court
- Kevin McGrath, Judge, NY County Criminal Court
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- Judy Kim, Judge, NY County Criminal Court
- Peggy Kuo, Judge, US District Court, EDNY
- Don Leo, Judge, Kings County Criminal Court
- Daniel Lewis, Judge, Queens County Supreme Court
- Kevin McGrath, Judge, NY County Criminal Court

The Prosecutors Committee presented a 10-year retrospective slideshow reflecting on the birth and growth of this vibrant committee over the past decade. This year’s reception also included a touching tribute in memory of Committee Co-Chair Helen Ahn, who passed unexpectedly in November. Helen’s parents and family were present to hear and receive the tributes from all the speakers and honorees.

AABANY thanks Prosecutors Committee co-chairs James Lin and Myongjae M. Yi for organizing the event, as well as Kin Ng, Catherine Christian, Francis Chin, Laura Badger, and the planning members for their assistance. AABANY also thanks the New York County Lawyers Association for providing the beautiful venue for this special celebration. AABANY congratulates the Prosecutors Committee on reaching its 10-year milestone and wishes it much success and growth in the coming years.

Committee Co-Chair James Lin welcomes everyone to the 10th Annual Reception.
Real Estate Committee

Committee Co-Chairs
Margaret Ling
Cary Chan
David Lu

The AABANY Real Estate Committee provides support and professional development to Asian Pacific American Attorneys of all levels including recently admitted and new attorneys, experienced attorneys including law firm attorneys, in-house counsels, and solo/small firm practitioners. The Committee also addresses the needs of law students seeking to pursue a career in Real Estate Law. Specific attention has been focused on community outreach to the real estate attorneys within the Asian community in the outer areas of Queens, Brooklyn, and Long Island in an effort to expand their membership and participation with AABANY. With the global influx of the Asian investor in the New York metropolitan area, the Committee has also connected and partnered with the larger China law firms and Asian corporations who have attorneys working in New York. The Committee addresses topics of concern including transactional, management, and development of residential and commercial real property. The Committee educates its membership on the latest statutes and changes in New York’s Real Property Law. This is accomplished through CLE seminars, discussion and networking sessions with corporate and bank sponsorships.

For the balance of the 2017 Fiscal Year, the Committee held these events:

March 6, 2018: “Solo and Small Firm Law Firm Transactions: Avoiding Tax Pitfalls and Taxpayer Resources.” Sponsored by AABANY Real Estate and SSF Committees, KALAGNY, and Flushing Bank. CLE (1 credit) and networking event attended by over 50 Attorneys at Flushing Bank in Bayside, NY. Speakers included: Margaret Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Co-Chair; Robert Renda, Esq., Forchelli, Deegan Terrana LLP; Sung Hwang, Esq., Partner, Venable LLP; Eunkyong Choi, Esq., NYC DOF Taxpayer Advocate.

March 28, 2018: “Blockchain and Cryptocurrency.” CLE (2 credits) and networking event, sponsored by AABANY Real Estate Committee, APALA-NJ, KALAGNY, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Venable LLP, Amtrust Title Insurance Company, and attended by over 80 attorneys at Venable LLP. Speakers included Margaret T. Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair; James Thanasules, Esq., Chief Counsel, Amtrust Title Insurance Company; Sung Hwang, Esq., Partner, Venable LLP; Ralph Dengler, Esq., Partner, Venable LLP.

For the 2018 AABANY Fiscal year, the Real Estate Committee organized and presented the following events:

May 16, 2018: “The Basics of Condominium Offering Plans.” CLE (2 credits) and networking event at New York County Lawyers Association, sponsored by AABANY Real Estate and SSF Committees; NYCLA Asian Practice Committee; KALAGNY; Chase Bank; Venable LLP, and attended by over 85 Attorneys. Speakers included Margaret T. Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair; Jang W. Lee, Esq., Counsel, NYS Attorney General’s Office; David Lu, Esq., Seiden and Schein, PC; Nicholas Minella, Esq., Counsel, NYS Attorney General’s Office; Kevin Cruickshank, Chase Coop and Condo Lending.

June 19, 2018: “Representing an IRC 1031 Exchange Client.” CLE (1 credit) at Flushing Bank, Bayside, New York, sponsored by AABANY Real Estate and SSF Committees; KALAGNY; and Flushing Bank, and attended by over 25 Attorneys. Speakers included David Fesser, Esq. and Matthew K. Scheriff of Legal 1031 Exchange Services.

July 11, 2018: “Diversity Tax Day” at Venable LLP, attended by over 100 attorneys and sponsored by AABANY, KALAGNY, and Venable LLP, which included panelists from NYC Taxpayer Advocates Office; NYS Office of Taxpayer Rights Advocate; IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service.

August 14, 2018: “Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace: Respecting and Embracing It.” A CLE and networking event which took place at Flushing Bank, 99 Park Avenue. It was attended by over 45 attorneys and sponsored by AABANY Real Estate, SSF, and Labor and Employment Law Committees; KALAGNY; littler Mendelson, PC; and Flushing Bank. Speakers included Margaret T. Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair; William Ng, Esq. and Kevin Yam, Esq., both of Littler Mendelson, PC.

September 13, 2018: “Selling and Purchasing Real Property from an Estate.” A CLE and networking event held at Northfield Bank, Brooklyn, New York, and sponsored by AABANY’s Real Estate and Solo Small Firm Committees; KALAGNY; and Northfield Bank. It was attended by over 20 attorneys, and speakers included Margaret T. Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair and Pauline Yeung Ha, Esq., of Grimaldi & Yeung, LLP.

September 26, 2018: “Fall Harvest Moon Festival.”
Sponsored by AABANY Real Estate and SSF Committees; KALAGNY; Citrin Cooperman, LLP, and HSBC, it was attended by over 70 Attendees and was a successful celebration and networking event.

October 17, 2018: "Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace." CLE (1 credit) and networking event, sponsored by AABANY Real Estate Committee; KALAGNY; Littler Mendelson; and Flushing Bank. It took place at Flushing Bank, New Hyde Park, NY, and was attended by over 30 attorneys. Speakers included Margaret T. Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair; William Ng, Esq. and Leslie DiBenedetto, Esq. of Littler Mendelson, PC.

October 24, 2018: "Taking a Bite of the Big Apple: Real Estate Fraud and Claims." A CLE and networking event held at Flushing Bank, 99 Park Ave, NY, sponsored by AABANY’s Real Estate and SSF Committees; KALAGNY; Amtrust Title Insurance Company; Ganfer and Shore LLP; and Flushing Bank, it was attended by over 50 attorneys. Speakers included: Margaret T. Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair; James Thanasules, Esq., Chief Counsel, Amtrust Title Insurance Company; Jason Ganfer, Esq., Ganfer Shore LLP.

October 30, 2018: “Due Diligence and Real Estate Contracts.” A CLE and networking event held at Flushing Bank, Flushing, NY, it was attended by over 40 attorneys and sponsored by AABANY’s Real Estate and SSF Committees; KALAGNY; Flushing Bank; and Forchelli, Deegan and Terrana LLP. Speakers included Margaret T. Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair, and Robert Moy, Esq., Partner, Forchelli, Deegan, Terrana, LLP.

November 1, 2018: “Due Diligence and Residential Real Estate Contracts: Addressing the First Time Asian Purchaser and Seller.” A CLE and networking event which took place at the New York County Lawyers Association, 14 Vesey Street, it was attended by over 80 attorneys and sponsored by NYCLA’s Asian Practice Committee; AABANY’s Real Estate Committee; KALAGNY; Bank of America; and Merrill Lynch. Speakers included: Margaret T. Ling, Esq., Cary Chan, and David Lu, who are all Co-Chairs of AABANY’s Real Estate Committee; Chau Huyhn, SVP, Bank of America Lending; Jason Wang, Realtor, Compass; Meiling Lee, Director, Strategic Capital.

November 14, 2018: “Green Light Go: Title Clearance Before Closing.” A CLE and networking event held at Flushing Bank, Bayside, NY, it was attended by over 25 attorneys and sponsored by AABANY’s Real Estate Committee; KALAGNY; and Flushing Bank. The speaker was Margaret T. Ling, Esq., AABANY Real Estate Committee Co-Chair.

March 6, 2019: “Real Estate Fraud: Red Flags and War Stories.” A CLE and networking event held at Brooklyn Real Estate Board, it was sponsored by AABANY Real Estate Committee, Northfield Bank, Bay Ridge Lawyers Association, KALAGNY, Brooklyn Real Estate Board.

March 19, 2019: “Real Estate Fraud and Cyber Security.” A CLE and networking event held at Flushing Bank, 99 Park Avenue. The event was sponsored by AABANY’s Real Estate Committee, KALAGNY, and Big Apple Abstract Corp.

March 27, 2019: ”Issues of Capacity to Sell in Real Estate Transactions.” A CLE and networking event held at Flushing Bank’s Bayside branch. The event was sponsored by AABANY’s Real Estate Committee, KALAGNY, and Big Apple Abstract Corp.
Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee

Committee Co-Chairs
Cary Chan
David Lu
Tsui Yee

The AABANY Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee is focused on matters related to solo practitioners and lawyers at small firms and community practices. The committee strives to provide support and guidance to attorneys looking to work for themselves. This is accomplished through CLE seminars, discussion and networking sessions.

This Committee works closely with the other AABANY Committees to provide education and opportunities to our members.

For the balance of the 2017 fiscal year, the Committee held these events:

On February 27, 2018, the Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee co-partnered with the Real Estate Committee, Flushing Bank, KALAGNY, and MacGregor Abstract to present the CLE panel “Please Don’t Sign the Contracts Yet: Due Diligence and Residential Real Estate Contracts.” The program focused on due diligence and the NY Disciplinary Rules relevant to attorneys involved in real estate transactions.

On March 6, 2018, the Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee co-partnered with Real Estate Committee, Flushing Bank, and KALAGNY, to present the CLE panel “Solo and Small Firm Law Firm Transactions: Avoiding Tax Pitfalls and Taxpayer Resources.”

For the 2018 AABANY fiscal year, the Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee organized and presented the following events:

On June 19, 2018 AABANY’s Real Estate Committee, Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee and KALAGNY co-hosted a CLE and networking event entitled “Representing an IRC 1031 Exchange Client” at the Flushing Bank in Bayside, Queens. At the event, David J. Fesser, Esq., Exchange Director for Legal 1031 Exchange Services, Inc, gave a comprehensive and excellent presentation on this important subject. Also speaking was Matthew K. Scheriff, CPA, Executive Vice President of Legal 1031 Exchange Services, who addressed the accounting aspects of the 1031 Legal Exchange.

On August 14, 2018, AABANY’s Real Estate, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Labor & Employment Law Committees, KALAGNY, Flushing Bank, and Littler Mendelson, P.C. presented a CLE program entitled “Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace: Respecting and Embracing It.” The CLE program was held at Flushing Bank’s branch at 99 Park Ave. The event was attended by forty-five attorneys and focused on the new New York State CLE requirement mandating attorneys to take at least one CLE course in diversity and inclusion during their biennial reporting period. The program was interesting, engaging, and informative. It was moderated by Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of the AABANY Real Estate Committee, and was presented by AABANY’s very own William Ng, of Littler Mendelson, P.C. (AABANY’s former VP of Finance and Development, Recording Secretary, and Founding Co-Chair of AABANY’s Labor & Employment Law Committee) and Kevin Yam, Esq. of Littler Mendelson, PC. They defined what diversity and inclusion really means within the confines of the work environment and focused on understanding what implicit and unconscious bias is.

On September 26, 2018, AABANY’s Real Estate and Solo & Small Firm Practice Committees, with KALAGNY, Citrin Cooperman and HSBC, hosted a Fall Harvest Moon Festival Networking Event. Over 60 people attended the event at Citrin Cooperman’s Fifth Avenue headquarters. Everyone enjoyed the networking and the buffet, which included moon cakes to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Panelists, organizers and sponsors from “Please Don’t Sign the Contracts Yet!: Due Diligence and Residential Real Estate Contracts” at Flushing Bank in New York City.
The Student Outreach Committee ("SOC") 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, SOC 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 2018, SOC has continued its work connecting with and serving law students by hosting a variety of events, workshops, and programming.

On February 20, 2018, a Get to Know AABANY Happy Hour & Inter-APALSA Mixer was hosted by SOC and AABANY’s Membership Committee at District Social. Attendees, a majority of whom were law students, met members of both committees and other AABANY members over light appetizers and drinks.

On March 8, 2018, SOC hosted a Resume Review Workshop for law students at Fordham Law School. Resumes were reviewed by practicing attorneys from a variety of different fields and Mediterranean snacks and appetizers were served.

On August 2, 2018, SOC and AABANY’s Corporate Law Committee hosted an informative and insightful Pre-OCI Information Session titled, “What Do Corporate Lawyers Do?” at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. With the OCI season just around the corner for current law students, the event provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to understand the practice of corporate law from a panel of distinguished and experienced APA corporate lawyers from top firms and companies.

On August 27, 2018, AABANY hosted its first road show of the 2018-19 school year at Hofstra Law School with the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) and South Asian Law School Association (SALSA) during their first general meeting of the semester. Executive Director Yang Chen, Board Director and Real Estate Committee Co-Chair Margaret Ling, and Associate at Forchelli Deegan Terrana Jane Chen (and past Hofstra APALSA President) discussed how Asian Americans suffer from the model minority myth and are vastly underrepresented in positions of influence, leadership, and power in the legal profession. They shared personal stories and provided insight about how AABANY can be a tremendous resource for Asian American students to develop the skills and contacts necessary to advance in the legal field.

On September 5, 2018, AABANY’s Law School Roadshows visited Cardozo APALSA. Executive Director Yang Chen met with Cardozo’s APALSA members to share with them what AABANY is, why we exist, what we do, how we do it and most importantly, how law students can get involved and why they need to start connecting with AABANY, even as law students. Executive Director Chen offered some free memberships donated by AABANY’s sponsors, and many eager law students took him up on the offer.

A second happy hour was hosted by SOC on September 13, 2018, at District Social. Local APALSA leaders and members were grateful for the opportunity to foster new connections and to meet AABANY members that were in attendance.

In preparation for AABANY’s Fall Conference, SOC began recruiting volunteers over the summer and ultimately managed 31 volunteers. The Conference took place on September 22, 2018, at Fordham University School of Law. Under SOC management, 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. In addition, SOC hosted the panel: “How to Network: Making and Cultivating Connections.” This program addressed the importance of networking and laid a framework for results. The panel was comprised of individuals well-versed in the art of networking, who discussed their individual approaches, the ways in which these approaches have helped them build lasting connections, and various tips on how to network effectively.

On October 16, 2018, SOC presented a resume review workshop and roadshow at New York University School of Law. Practicing attorneys from various fields attended the event to review student resumes and guidance on how to succeed in the legal profession. Before the resume review portion of the event began, Executive Director Yang Chen addressed NYU’s APALSA members about AABANY, its missions and members, and how law students can become more actively involved.

The October AABANY monthly happy hour took
place at Roki Le Izakaya on West 21st Street on October 17, 2018 and featured AABANY’s Membership, Immigration, Government Service & Public Interest, Student Outreach, and Pro Bono Committees. All attendees had the chance to mingle and network with Committee leaders and members as well as lawyers in various practice areas.

On October 24, 2018, AABANY co-sponsored an event titled “Potential Careers in Immigration Law Practice,” with Brooklyn Law School’s APALSA with the purpose of showing law students the array of career options available in immigration law practice. The SOC, Immigration, and Academic Committees co-hosted the event. Gathered at Brooklyn Law School, students gained valuable practical career knowledge through panel discussion and individual follow up.

On November 5, 2018, SOC presented a networking workshop and roadshow at Columbia Law School. Executive Director Yang Chen addressed Columbia’s APALSA members to tell them more about AABANY, its missions and members, and how law students can become more actively involved. Following the roadshow, Mr. Chen led the networking workshop with the assistance of the SOC co-chairs, demonstrating networking techniques and giving advice to attendees.

On January 29, 2019, SOC along with the Academic Committee, Government Service and Public Interest Committee, and Pro Bono & Community Service Committee led a panel discussion on access to justice for diverse Asian Pacific American communities at Cardozo Law School. Topics discussed included impacts of the justice gap in family law, elder law, housing, employment law, domestic violence, immigration, language-access, and access to courts.

On January 31, 2019, AABANY presented a road show and conducted mock interviews at New York Law School for members of the law school’s AALSA (Asian American Law Students Association). AABANY members and leaders, including President James Cho, Executive Director Yang Chen, Student Outreach Committee Co-Chair Jonathan Li, and Intellectual Property Committee Co-Chair Jeffrey Mok, visited New York Law School and met with AALSA members to talk to them about AABANY and how they can get involved. Following the meet-and-greet, attorneys and law students met one-on-one for mock interview sessions, to practice their interview skills and get feedback from attorneys.

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

In 2019, SOC looks forward to providing APA law students in the tri-state region with new, informative, and practical career development programs, and volunteer and networking opportunities.
Co-Chairs:

JoonBeom Pae
Rich Williams
Shiukay Hung

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

On July 11, 2018, AABANY co-sponsored Diversity Tax Day for Professionals Working with Limited English Proficiency Taxpayers at Venable LLP. This event included panel discussions on various topics regarding taxpayers, such as how it is difficult for LEP (limited English proficiency) taxpayers to exercise their right to be informed about their taxes, and tax scams and identity theft. The panels featured multiple speakers who hold prominent positions or status in their field, including Sharon Bradley, the Chief of the ITIN Section of the IRS; Eunkyong Choi, the NYC Taxpayer Advocate; Margaret Neri, the New York State Taxpayer Rights Advocate; and Pam Parker Cortijo, the Assistant Commissioner of the Collections Division of the New York City Department of Finance. Sung Hwang, Partner at Venable and Co-Chair of AABANY’s Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, spoke on the first of four panels, “Starting a Business with Money from Abroad,” which addressed the tax implications for small businesses that receive financing domestically and from abroad. Over 100 professionals attended this event, who all qualified for CLE, CPE and CE credits.

On July 31, 2018, the Tax Committee held its quarterly Tax Club Dinner at Tang Pavilion. The group engaged in a lively discussion of winners and losers from the 2017 tax reform law, which also was a program topic at the September 22 AABANY Fall Conference, led by the Tax Committee.

At the AABANY Fall Conference on September 22, 2018, the Tax Committee hosted the panel “Stories after Tax Reform: True Winners and Losers.” Almost a year has passed since the 2017 tax reform. What was its impact, and did it achieve the goals of Congress? This panel discussed how the tax reform has changed taxpayers’ behavior and explored who the true winners and losers of this tax reform are. The discussion involved a series of Q&As with a focus on individuals, as well as the following business sectors: (a) real estate and REITs, (b) multinational companies, (c) capital markets and financial services, and (d) private equity.

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

Committee Co-Chairs:

Yan Sin
Jennifer H. Wu
Tiffany Miao

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.

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

The Women’s Committee continued to host breakfast meetings at Urbanspace Vanderbilt. On June 20, 2018, the Committee hosted a breakfast meeting with Marianne Chow Newman, counsel at the Hearst Corporation and previous Co-Chair of the Women’s Committee, over coffee and pastries. Marianne shared candid stories from her legal career thus far, including her journey transitioning from an associate at a large law firm to in-house counsel at the Hearst Corporation and the challenges that she encountered and overcame along the way. The September breakfast meeting featured Katherine Loanzon, Managing Director at Kinney Recruiting. Katherine talked about how to change fields in the legal industry, what the job market was like and what it was like to work as a legal recruiter.

On August 8, the Women’s Committee participated in a court visit organized by the United East Athletics Association with U.S. Magistrate Judge Peggy Kuo of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York. Attendees observed civil court proceedings and discussed the cases and court procedure with Judge Kuo over lunch.

At the AABANY Fall Conference on September 22, 2018, the In-House Counsel Committee, the Women’s Committee and the Issues Committee co-hosted the panel “In-House Counsel in the #MeToo Era: Designing Systems and Processes to Establish a Corporate Culture of Respect.” This panel proposed, from an in-house counsel perspective, a collaborative approach which allowed all involved to meet and discuss their feelings, perspectives, and values without fear. By designing an internal dispute resolution system, in-house counsel took a proactive role to craft an amicable and mutually acceptable solution that helped both employer and employee to maintain a professional and respectful relationship.

The Women’s Committee also hosted at the Fall Conference the Public Speaking and Jury Consultant Workshop. The workshop on public speaking (Chiara Motley from GK Training and Communications) and legal strategy (David Weinberg from JuryGroup) discussed how to increase professional presence and refine pitch and message whether it’s in front of an
audience of one (in an elevator pitch) or an audience of many in a variety of professional settings. The public speaking portion was followed by a jury consultant presentation. A jury consultant spoke on how to profile jurors, approaches to voir dire and how to maximize communications with the jury.

On November 1, 2018, the Women’s Committee co-hosted a panel event with the New York Diversity Committee of BakerHostetler, the Muslim Bar Association of New York, the Association of Black Women Attorneys, and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association at BakerHostetler, entitled “After the Networking Event: Best Practices for Building and Maintaining Client Relationships.” The panelists shared ideas on attracting new clients, maintaining fruitful client relationships, and overcoming challenges that diverse female attorneys face in these endeavors.

On February 7, 2019, the Women’s Committee held another successful brown bag lunch, featuring Joyce Lai from ConsenSys. Members learned about blockchain technology and alternative organizational structures, and were also able to share their own experiences working at law firms, transitioning into the tech industry, and balancing family and work.

On March 29, 2019, the Women’s Committee hosted its Axe Throwing Social at Indoor Extreme Sports in Long Island City. Attendees found axe throwing to be a great activity for releasing stress. The event was co-sponsored by the Young Lawyers Committee.
Committee Co-Chairs:
Ona Lu
Tiffany Miao

The AABANY Young Lawyers Committee ("YLC") focuses on the concerns of lawyers admitted to practice ten years or less but is open to all lawyers and law students. Activities include networking receptions, panel discussions and CLE courses of interest to newly-admitted attorneys.

On August 15, 2018, AABANY’s Young Lawyers, IP and Asia Practice Committees co-hosted August’s Monthly Membership Happy Hour at Ainsworth Midtown. The Happy Hour was co-sponsored by the Membership Committee, under the leadership of David Sohn, and all attendees had the chance to mingle and network with Committee leaders and members as well as lawyers in various practice areas.

On August 25, 2018, AABANY’s Young Lawyers and Litigation Committees hosted the Annual Picnic, which took place at the Pool Lawn, in the north end of Central Park, by the West 100th Street entrance. It was a beautiful and peaceful sunny day for a picnic, and many AABANY members, with family and friends in tow, got to meet and mingle with each other over banh mi sandwiches and dumplings.

On March 29, 2019, AABANY’s Young Lawyers Committee co-sponsored the Women’s Committee Axe Throwing Social. For more details, see the Women’s Committee report.
Mentorship Program

Chair: Shruti Chopra

The Mentorship Program was initiated in response to a demand for a more formalized program after a long history of AABANY members engaging in informal mentoring relationships.

Currently, there are over 100 mentors and mentees participating in the program. The mission of the program is to connect mentors with mentees and provide them with the structure and opportunities to support professional growth and development. When matching mentors with mentees, the program focuses on professional goals as well as personal interests and hobbies, to facilitate long-lasting relationships that are compatible both personally and professionally. Paired-up mentors and mentees meet on their own as well as at a variety of AABANY events. The Mentorship Program 2018-19 has been exclusively sponsored by Baker & McKenzie LLP, and we remain grateful for their gracious and generous support of AABANY and the Mentorship Program.

The Mentorship Program kicked off with its first event hosted on June 6, 2018, at the Baker & McKenzie offices in Midtown Manhattan overlooking the New York Public Library and Bryant Park. The event was headlined with a talk from Gabrielle Lyse Brown on the importance of mentorship, and sharing some valuable tips and tricks on getting the most out of the Mentorship Program. Over 70 mentors and mentees attended the event, providing an opportunity for participants and attorneys to meet and introduce each other.

On March 29, 2019, the Mentorship Committee held its Mentorship Program End of Year Reception at Baker & McKenzie LLP.

The Mentorship Program is also planning ahead for 2019 and looking to add additional events, including networking and panel discussions. The 2019-20 Mentorship Program is expected to launch in May 2019.

For the upcoming year, the Mentorship Program will continue to organize networking events and other opportunities to support its participants’ professional growth and advancement. Moreover, it will be developing guidelines to help foster meaningful and rewarding mentoring relationships.
AABANY Advocate
Issues can be viewed on the AABANY website at https://www.aabany.org/page/165

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