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# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Message from the President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mission Statement / History of AABANY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Awards &amp; Recognitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Annual Dinner Sponsors &amp; Community Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fall Conference &amp; Winetasting Sponsors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Membership Secretary’s Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Treasurer’s Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Year In Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Committee Chair List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Administrative &amp; Standing Committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Academic Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Asia Practice Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Career Placement Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Commercial Bankruptcy &amp; Restructuring Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Corporate Law Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Government Service &amp; Public Interest Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Immigration &amp; Nationality Law Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>In-House Counsel Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Intellectual Property Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Issues Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Judiciary Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Labor &amp; Employment Law Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>LGBT Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Litigation Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Military &amp; Veteran Affairs Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Pro Bono &amp; Community Service Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Professional Development Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Prosecutors’ Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Real Estate Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Solo &amp; Small Firm Practice Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Student Outreach Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Tax Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Women’s Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Young Lawyers Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Mentorship Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>The AABANY Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unless otherwise indicated, all event photographs appearing in this Year End Report were taken by AABANY staff.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

February 9, 2016

Dear AABANY Members and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our 2015 Year End Report. In 2015, AABANY and its members “charted new frontiers” making this year one of our most memorable years yet.

Our membership and financial health are at their strongest, and our activities ranging from CLEs to trial re-enactments to networking events to partnerships with other bar and community associations are as varied and plentiful as they have ever been, thanks to the unbridled dedication and passion of our members to AABANY’s mission. In 2015, we launched our first Diversity Career Fair as part of the 2015 Fall Conference. This year we also unveiled our Pro Bono Monthly Clinic in successful fashion.

Please feel free to contact any of AABANY’s Officers, Directors or Committee Chairs through www.aabany.org if you have any questions about what you see in this report, suggestions on what AABANY should think about planning in 2016, or requests to become a member. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your President this past year, and I am truly excited to see what lies ahead for AABANY under the leadership of President-Elect Susan Shin and beyond.

Yours truly,

William Wang
AABANY President
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

HON. RAJA RAJESWARI, Staten Island Criminal Court, was sworn in by Mayor De Blasio on April 27, 2015 as the first female South Asian judge in New York.

HON. KATHRYN PAEK, Manhattan Criminal Court, was sworn in by Mayor De Blasio on April 27, 2015 as the first female Korean American judge in New York.

HON. DORIS LING-COHAN was named among the 75 most accomplished female attorneys by the National Law Journal.

HON. JEFFREY OING was honored at the 39th Annual Jewish Lawyers Guild Dinner held at the New York Hilton on March 26, 2015.

HON. DENNY CHIN received the New York State Bar Association’s Hon. George Bundy Smith Pioneer Award at their 9th Annual Smooth Moves Program for attorneys of color.

HON. ALEXANDER JEONG was confirmed by the New York State Senate to the New York State Court of Claims.

HON. PEGGY KUO was appointed as United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

HON. DON LEO was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio as Kings County Criminal Court Judge.

KIN W. NG was promoted to Chief of the Immigration Fraud Unit in the Kings County District Attorney’s Office.

KENNETH CHIN, Partner at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers.

HUHNSIK CHUNG, AABANY Advisory Committee Member, joined Baker & McKenzie’s North American Banking, Finance, & Major Projects Practice Group as a Partner in New York.

DEV SEN, a former AABANY Board Director, joined Boies, Schiller & Flexner’s Corporate Group as a Partner.

DON H. LIU, AABANY Advisory Committee Member, was honored at the Korean American League for Civic Action 15th Anniversary Benefit Gala.

KATHY HIRATA CHIN, Partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, was named one of New York Law Journal’s Diversity Initiative Honorees. She was also named one of the New York City Bar Association’s 2015 Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award Winners.

ROSEMARY YU, former AABANY Prosecutors’ Committee Co-Chair, received the NYPD Asian Jade Society’s Lifetime Community Service Award.

VINOO VARGHESE, former AABANY Board Director, was honored by Brooklyn Law School’s APALSA as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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AUSTIN SO, In-House Counsel Committee Co-Chair was named one of The Legal Intelligencer’s Diverse Attorneys of 2015. He was profiled in the September 2015 Practical Law Journal, named one of New Jersey Law Journal’s Diverse Attorneys of 2015, named one of Council of Urban Professionals’ Catalysts for Change in Law, and named one of Philadelphia Business Journal’s 2015 Corporate Counsel Award recipients.

MICHAEL H. PARK, Career Placement Committee Co-Chair (and a NAPABA Best Under 40 awardee), joined Consovoy McCarthy, which became Consovoy McCarthy & Park after his arrival.

WILLIAM WANG, AABANY President, GLENN LAU-KEE, AABANY Past President and the New York State Bar Association’s first Asian American President, and HON. RANDALL ENG, longtime AABANY member, each published an article for New York Law Journal’s special Law Day Issue on the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

JOON H. KIM was elevated to Deputy U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, serving directly under U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, AABANY’s 2015 Annual Dinner Public Service Leadership Award recipient.

IRENE CHIU, VP and General Counsel of GCA Therapeutics, was honored by the National Diversity Council as one of the recipients of the Most Powerful and Influential Women Award at their Tri-State Diversity & Leadership Conference.

PARKIN LEE, Advisory Committee Member, was named CEO of Rockefeller Group Investment Management.

ANITA WU, Government Service & Public Interest Committee Co-Chair, was honored with a Pioneer Spirit Award at Asian Americans for Equality’s 8th Annual Community Development Conference.

HELEN WAN, author of The Partner Track, was honored by the New York Chinese Cultural Center.

PAULINE YEUNG-HA, Board Director, was honored at the Chinese Planning Council, Inc. – Brooklyn Branch’s 36th Anniversary Gala.

RIO GUERRERO, Immigration and Nationality Law Committee Co-Chair, was honored by the Pan American Concerned Citizens Action League, Inc. (PACCAL) for his leadership and service in the legal profession.

BRIAN SONG, Military & Veteran Affairs Committee Chair, became the first Korean American to be elected to partnership at BakerHostetler.
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- Jenner & Block LLP
- Marks Paneth LLP
- North American Real Estate Investment Group
- Starbridge Commercial

IP Committee, Litigation Committee, Labor & Employment Law Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, Government Service & Public Interest Committee Dinner:
- Thomson Reuters

In-House Counsel Committee Dinner:
- Ford Harrison
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY’S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Irene Tan, Membership Secretary
Amy Ngai
Jack Chen

The Membership Committee is focused on the strategic development of membership retention and expansion, and strives to provide targeted and relevant programming to members. Presently, AABANY has more than 1,068 active, dues-paying members. Of the total membership, 29.4 percent identified themselves as lawyers in the private sector and 12.8 percent as lawyers in the public sector. Law students comprise 22.5 percent of the total membership.

On March 18, 2015, the Membership Committee held its first Membership Steering Committee Meeting at the offices of Dorsey & Whitney. During the meeting, Steering Committee Members discussed ideas for programming and long-term strategic goals for the organization. Over the course of the year, the Membership Committee revamped its marketing materials this year, including its Membership Application Form and membership website page, and developed an informative brochure on the benefits of joining AABANY. The Membership Committee also developed and rolled out a competitive package rate for individuals to attend the Fall Conference and to obtain an annual membership.

In addition, the Membership Committee collaborated with committees to provide targeted programming to members through the Get-to-Know AABANY Networking Series and the Getting-on-Track Career Development Series.

On July 10, 2015, the Membership Committee, the Young Lawyers Committee, the Student Outreach Committee, the Pro Bono Committee, the Real Estate Committee, and the AABANY Mentorship Program welcomed lawyers, law students, prospective lawyers, and AABANY members and non-members at its annual summer Get to Know AABANY Happy Hour at the Rubin Museum of Art’s K2 Lounge. The Membership Committee plans to host two more “Get-to-Know AABANY” events before the end of the fiscal year.

On October 14, 2015, the Membership Committee, IP Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, and Career Placement Committee hosted Landing Your First Corporate Gig: Tips for Counsel in the Art Gallery at Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP. The event included a diverse group of panelists that shared their unique experiences on working in-house. Panelists emphasized the importance of networking and demonstrating value to the organization.

On November 11, 2015, the Membership Committee spearheaded its Joint Bar Program with the South Asian Bar Association of New York (“SABANY”). For a limited time, AABANY is offering SABANY members reduced membership rates. AABANY members can also take advantage of reduced membership rates for AABANY. If successful, the Membership Committee hopes to expand the program to other bar associations in the future.

On January 20, 2016, the Membership Committee, Career Placement Committee, and Young Lawyers Committee hosted Networking for Lawyers at the offices of RGP where speakers shared practical networking tips. See Young Lawyers Committee Report.

Over the course of the year, the Membership Committee has also participated in a number of roadshows at various law schools and law firms to promote the organization and to encourage individuals to join AABANY. For 2016, the Membership Committee plans to continue to develop and host interesting and targeted programming for its members and prospective members.
TREASURER’S REPORT

TREASURER
Naf Kwun

In 2015, AABANY charted new frontiers by developing innovative and quality programming, expanding services to its members and the local community, increasing our membership roll, and helping to raise the profile of its members and supporters as we celebrated their many achievements over the year.

For the 2015 fiscal year, the Board approved a general operational budget of approximately $533,000, including a committee budget of $32,000. With this budget, AABANY expanded the number of its committees and programming, enhanced its signature events, and funded numerous CLEs and other events.

At the Annual Meeting on February 12, 2015, the members approved a bylaw provision which changed AABANY’s fiscal year from February 1 through January 31 to April 1 through March 31. By the end of the stub period (March 31, 2015), our income exceeded our expenses by approximately $60,000. As we head into the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year, we are on track to meet our fundraising goals for the year, with fundraising for the Annual Dinner—AABANY’s principal source of revenue—well underway.

As of January 28, 2016, our investment account balance is $461,010.88 and our operating account balance is $98,495.69. This year, the Finance Committee undertook a comprehensive review of AABANY’s investment portfolio to ensure that AABANY’s funds were being invested in accordance with the conservative approach set forth in AABANY’s Investment Policy, and continues to evaluate alternative arrangements in furtherance of such policy. AABANY’s total performance return for 2015 (including cash and investments) was -0.8%.

We thank you for your support and involvement this year and invite you to join us in 2016 as we speak up, rise up, and lift up to empower a diverse and united legal community.
2016 AT A GLANCE
Thanks to the tremendous support of our members and friends, we pursued our theme for 2015 of Charting New Frontiers to great success, offering many important opportunities and celebrating the many accomplishments of the Asian American legal community. In addition to the formation of our new Asia Practice Committee, our over thirty Committees remained active and engaged, catering to the many needs of our membership and the community at large. Growing more rapidly than expected this past year, the Don H. Liu Scholars Program expanded their reach into eight states. The former Joint Minority Bar Judicial Internship Program merged with the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor High School Judicial Internship Program to form the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program, Inc. Through the tireless efforts of our leadership, we have expanded opportunities in both private and public sectors.

As we reflect on the last year of breaking barriers and achieving new heights, we also look ahead to next year. With the theme of Speak Up | Rise Up | Lift Up, we hope to not only celebrate individual accomplishments of our members but also rise as a community and continue to empower others. We hope that you will continue to be a part of our family and join us for our 2016 Annual Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street on February 24, 2016: http://bit.ly/anndinn16

We thank our members, friends, sponsors, and community partners for all their efforts in creating a truly fruitful year for AABANY. Below, we offer major highlights from the Fiscal Year 2015 (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016), as well as from our Annual Meeting and Annual Dinner.
February 25, 2015

Our 26th Anniversary Annual Dinner, themed Charting New Frontiers and held at Cipriani Wall Street, celebrated the magnificent strides that AABANY has made in getting a seat at the table, meeting amazing trailblazers, and changing the game. The evening’s honorees humbled and inspired us all: the Women’s Leadership Award went to Jenny R. Yang, Chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; the Corporate Counsel Leadership Award went to An-Ping Hsieh, Vice President and General Counsel of Hubbell Incorporated; and the Public Service Leadership Award went to Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. MSNBC Anchor Richard Lui once again presided over the evening’s proceedings as Master of Ceremonies. Announced at the 2014 Anniversary Dinner as a $15,000 financial scholarship with unparalleled mentoring, Don Liu himself presented the inaugural Don H. Liu Scholarships to law students Keli Huang and Michelle Li. The touching presentation brought tears to the eyes of many audience members in an inspiring display of triumph and gratitude. For her diligent work developing membership initiatives, Membership Secretary Irene Tan won this year’s AABANY MVP Award. Considered by some the best-dressed and most engaging Annual Dinner, the night was a huge success and we were pleased to celebrate this anniversary gala with approximately 750 federal and state court judges, bar association leaders, representatives of elected officials and dignitaries, attorneys from large and small firms, corporate law departments, prosecutors’ offices, government agencies, law students, and friends of AABANY. Providing the necessary support for AABANY’s year-round programming, the Annual Dinner generated the momentum of good cheer to take on the coming year’s challenges and opportunities.

All videos, photos, print materials, sponsors, and distinguished guests from the evening can be found at: http://www.aabany.org/?page=521

February 12, 2015

AABANY held its Annual Meeting 2015 at Arnold & Porter, voting to approve bylaws changes and electing the AABANY Officers & Directors for the upcoming fiscal year. After then-President Clara Ohr called the meeting to order, we bid farewell to outgoing Officers and Directors, heard the Membership Report, heard the Treasury Report, distributed AABANY’s year-end report, and reviewed the year before holding the vote. The general membership approved the slate of candidates presented by the Nominations Committee and the bylaws revisions. The Women’s Committee, led by Sapna Palla, Marianne Chow, and Naf Kwun, won the Committee of the Year award.

March 28, 2015 & April 4, 2015

On two consecutive Saturdays, AABANY, together with the Asian and Asian American alumni associations of Harvard Business School, Yale, Binghamton and Cornell, organized Special Group Tours of “Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion” at the New-York Historical Society. Working in conjunction with the Asian and Asian American alumni associations of the various universities, AABANY was able to bring more than 160 people over the two Saturdays to see this wonderful and worthwhile exhibit. AABANY was greatly assisted by guides who shared their wealth of knowledge and insight with the attendees: Rocky Chin, a founder of AABANY and an advocate for the APA community; Corky Lee, legendary photographer documenting the APA community for nearly four decades; Amy Chin, whose family history is told in the exhibit; and Amy Chu, the writer who helped to create the 12-panel graphic story version of Amy Chin’s family history. Among other topics, attendees learned of the Chinese Exclusion Acts, fraught history of trade with China, and bureaucratic immigration practices against Chinese Americans. We were excited to share and learn about this important yet all-too-often ignored part of American history.

June 15, 2015

AABANY launched the Speakers Bureau seeking to develop a robust roster of AABANY members who are interested in sharing their legal knowledge and expertise. We want to provide opportunities to connect members with relevant speaker requests from AABANY Committees, bar associations, and other organizations. This is an excellent opportunity for members to not only hone their presentation skills but also to raise their profiles as experts in their practice areas. Those interested in participating in the Speakers Bureau can complete this form: http://bit.ly/aabany-speakers
June 24, 2015

AABANY held its 8th Annual Winetasting & Networking Reception for Law Firm Partners and Senior In-House Counsel. Thanks to Sonia Low, Board Director and General Counsel of the ONE Group Hospitality, we held the Winetasting at STK Downtown, formerly known as Tenjune. There were approximately 125 people present at this invite-only event, organized by the Corporate Law Committee and the In-House Counsel Committee. This annual event is one of AABANY’s flagship events, directed towards a major segment of our membership. Each year, we attempt to create an exclusive and enjoyable evening for all those invited. Thanks to our Corporate Law Committee Chairs and In-House Counsel Committee Chairs, we celebrated another successful event.

June 30, 2015

The Prosecutors Committee held its 7th Annual Reception at Brooklyn Law School, honoring Deputy U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim and the family of fallen hero Detective Wenjian Liu. Covered by both The World Journal and The Korea Times, this reception was one of the Prosecutors Committee’s most powerful yet, paying homage to the work done by those in public service and the sacrifice of those in law enforcement. As in past years, senior leaders of the District Attorney’s Offices were invited to speak, each person touching upon what exactly makes this event and this Committee so unique. The esteemed Kings County District Attorney Ken Thompson noted that the Prosecutors Committee gives the District Attorney’s Offices a chance to recognize and celebrate the important work done by their Asian American friends and colleagues. In addition to honoring important figures in the community, the AABANY Prosecutors Reception also recognizes that our values and identity as Asian Americans may inform our attitudes in working in the public interest. One of the running jokes of the evening – sorry we disappointed our parents by not becoming doctors – played on the notion that perhaps becoming a lawyer is not the most common choice for Asian Americans, let alone becoming a lawyer who makes no money. Yet it is that humility and humor that underscores the pride in representing the people. As stated by Joon Kim in his speech for the evening, “As a prosecutor, you only have one job to do – and that job is doing the right thing.” Taking a pay cut from a 7-figure salary as Partner at the prominent law firm Cleary Gottlieb, Joon Kim described his choice to rejoin the U.S. Attorney’s Office as a no-brainer. In his role as a prosecutor, Joon Kim is proud to tell his children what he does every day – he puts criminals away, not as Batman, but as a lawyer who helps Batman. Each and every person who spoke recognized the
ultimate sacrifice of Detective Wenjian Liu and his parents. Det. Liu’s father shared that although they immigrated to this country and they faced difficulty with the language barrier, they experienced boundless joy due to their only son Wenjian. Although now Det. Liu has passed, his sacrifice has not been forgotten.

September 19, 2015

AABANY held its largest and most successful Fall Conference to date at the offices of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. We added law student sessions to our popular CLE and non-CLE panels on a diverse range of topics that included intellectual property, human trafficking, ethics, career advancement, and more. Focused on developing tangible skills through hands-on exercises, the full-day Trial Advocacy Program continued into its fourth year. During our Lunch Plenary Session, we presented the Kicking Glass: Two Decades and Counting video and panel discussion. In addition to once again offering law firm pitch sessions, we also included vendor pitches for those looking to develop business relationships. Rocky Chin, advocate for the Asian American community and one of the founders of AABANY, received the second Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award at the Cocktail Reception, where we also kicked off our Mentorship Program for 2015-2016. There were three Committee Dinners following the Fall Conference: the Real Estate, Solo & Small Firm Practice, and Tax Committees Dinner; the Intellectual Property, Litigation, Labor & Employment Law, Young Lawyers, and Government Service & Public Interest Committees Dinner; and the In-House Counsel Committee Dinner. This year’s standout at the Fall Conference was the Inaugural Diversity Career Fair and Expo.

September 19, 2015

Led by Membership Secretary and Career Placement Committee Co-Chair Irene Tan, the Inaugural Diversity Career Fair & Expo was held at our Sixth Annual Fall Conference: Charting New Frontiers. The Diversity Career Fair featured selected public sector and corporate sector employers who hosted informational sessions, met and greeted interested applicants, and in some instances, conducted first round on-site interviews. Several applicants were prescreened for the interviews, leading to a productive session of interviews on the day of the Fall Conference. Employers hosting first-round interviews included: Bronx County District Attorney’s Office; Kings County District Attorney’s Office; Nassau County District Attorney’s Office; New York County District Attorney’s Office; New York City

This year, the Trial Reenactment Team put on the Vietnamese Fishermen’s Association v. The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. We also launched an online resource for those looking for anything and everything related to the reenactments: http://reenactments.aabany.org/

Attendees of this year’s Annual Fall Conference listen attentively at one of the panel sessions. Held at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, the Conference was a major success this year as attendance overwhelmingly exceeded those of previous years. It was a group effort by all our leadership, our Committee and Program Chairs, and our friends at Cleary. To those who attended, thanks for contributing to our success.

Recipients of the Joint Minority Bar Judicial Internship Program (now known as the Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program) were recognized at the AABANY/AALFNY reception in the summer. Congratulations, law students!
Law Department; Queens County District Attorney’s Office; and Success Academy Charter Schools. Employers hosting information tables included: Bronx County District Attorney’s Office; Eastern District of New York, US Attorney’s Office (Civil Division); Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA); International Business Machines Corporation (IBM); JP Morgan Chase; Kings County District Attorney’s Office; Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY; Manhattan Legal Services; MassMutual Financial Group; Mental Hygiene Legal Service; NBCUniversal; Office of the New York State Attorney General; Queens County District Attorney’s Office; Queens Legal Services; RGP Legal; Richmond County District Attorney’s Office; Southern District of New York, US Attorney’s Office; Success Academy Charter Schools; and U.S. Navy JAG Corps. In addition, attendees had an opportunity to meet members of AABANY’s Career Placement Committee and receive career advice as well as learn more about other job openings.

**October 23, 2015**

AABANY joined with the Asian American Arts Alliance, Association of Asian American Yale Alumni, Binghamton University Asian and Asian American Alumni Council, Cornell Asian Alumni Association, FF Fraternity, Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance, Harvard Business School Asian American Alumni Association, Kollaboration New York, and Wellesley Asian Alumnae Alliance for a Night at the Theater to see the musical *Allegiance*, starring George Takei and Lea Salonga. A total of 128 people from the 9 groups signed up for the group outing. Attendees gathered for a pre-show networking reception at Hurley’s Saloon, next door to the theater. The play received positive reviews from our group: The story was powerful and moving, the performances were stellar and the sets were visually stunning. It was great to see so much Asian American talent on stage and even better to see a play about the Asian American experience, something that is sorely lacking in mainstream culture today. After the performance, our group stayed for a post-show talkback with the cast that included stars George Takei, Lea Salonga and Telly Leung. Their thoughtful and insightful remarks about the show and the history behind it capped off a wonderful night at the theater.

**November 5-8, 2015**

New York once again made a strong showing at the Annual National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“NAPABA”) Convention. Held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside from Nov. 5-8, the NAPABA Rising Convention brought together over 1,500 Asian Americans from all across the nation. Josh Hsu, former law clerk to the Hon. Denny Chin, and Karen Wu, past Co-Chair of the Pro Bono and Community Service Committee, were each recognized with NAPABA Best Under 40 Awards. The NAPABA Civil Rights Committee, which was formerly chaired by AABANY co-founder Rocky Chin, took home the NAPABA President’s Award. Some of AABANY’s own Co-Chairs – including Vincent Roldan, Dwight Yoo, Ligee Gu, Jenny Lee, Jane Chuang, and Chris Kwok – also ran the show during the NAPABA
Committee Meetings. On Saturday, Nov. 7, the AABANY Trial Re-enactment Team, led by Hon. Denny Chin and Kathy Hirata Chin, took to the stage at the NAPABA National Convention to perform *Vietnamese Fishermen v. KKK*. Set in the aftermath of the Fall of the Saigon, when Vietnamese immigrants arrived in the Gulf Coast and became fishermen, the case recounts their experience as targets of terrorizing tactics from the Ku Klux Klan designed to drive them out. The Vietnamese fishermen fought back with a lawsuit seeking a preliminary injunction against these actions. Including our Trial Reenactment, our members and friends spoke on no less than 25 panels.

**December 11, 2015**

AABANY held its Annual Holiday Party at Bounce Sporting Club in Chelsea. People came out, brought their friends, and celebrated the holiday season with AABANY over a delightful round of drinks.

**January 6, 2016**

AABANY launched our Historical Trial Reenactments Website, an online educational resource. Since 2007, under the leadership and direction of Hon. Denny Chin of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and Kathy Hirata Chin, Partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, AABANY has produced and performed a series of trial reenactments based on notable trials and cases involving Asian Americans. Performed by a core team of AABANY members at the Annual NAPABA Conventions, each dramatic program utilizes the format of a reenactment of an historic trial or appeal. We invite you to visit reenactments.aabany.org to relive and to learn about important aspects of American history that have too often been overlooked, ignored, or forgotten. The reenactments began as educational programs aimed at lawyers but due to the scope of issues and the power of each story to shed new light on neglected chapters of American history, their audience and influence have grown. Each case marks a different chapter in Asian American history, and each case had a significant impact on law and society – touching on themes such as race, discrimination, loyalty, human and civil rights, and the struggle for justice against bigotry, government persecution, and public opposition. AABANY’s online resource provides access to each of the nine trial reenactment scripts so far, news articles and information about past performances, and information on upcoming trial reenactment programs and performances. The site also provides instructions and guidelines about how you can perform one of AABANY’s trial reenactments yourself.
APA Heritage Month

May 12, 2015

AABANY members participated in a re-enactment of Justice Denied: Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio, at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP. The cast included Cadwalader Partner Kathy Hirata Chin, who together with her husband, Hon. Denny Chin of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, has spearheaded AABANY’s trial re-enactment project for the past nine years. Also in the cast were Cadwalader attorneys and AABANY members Lauren U.Y. Lee and Jessica Wong, as well as past NAPABA and AABANY President Andy Hahn, three past AABANY Presidents, Linda Lin, Clara Ohr and Yang Chen (also AABANY’s Executive Director). Hon. Lorna Schofield, the first Filipino American Article III judge, played the role of Hon. Thomas Tang of the Ninth Circuit. It was also a notable honor and privilege to be joined at the re-enactment by the family of Abraham Arditi, counsel for plaintiffs in Wards Cove. The Wards Cove re-enactment tells a story of racial discrimination in hiring, promotion, and working conditions in the Alaska salmon cannery industry. It recounts a long history of legal proceedings that ultimately led to defeat for the plaintiffs who sought to redress decades of discrimination against Asian American workers in the Wards Cove cannery. The case led to the United States Congress enacting the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which partially overturned the Supreme Court’s rulings in Wards Cove. In doing so, however, Congress left in place an exemption that carved out the case from the reach of the Civil Rights Act, thereby denying the class represented in Wards Cove from enjoying the benefits of the legislation. To quote from the re-enactment Gloria Caoile, of the Philippine Heritage Foundation: “This is like saying everyone can sit in front of the bus except for Rosa Parks.”

May 16, 2015

AABANY’s trial re-enactment team, led by Hon. Denny Chin and Kathy Hirata Chin, performed yet again at the New York Historical Society after their performance of 22 Lewd Chinese Women last year, this time re-enacting the Heart Mountain Draft Resisters case. Before an audience of more than 100 on a Saturday morning, the team presented a truncated version of the script. The Heart Mountain case tells the story of Japanese American internees at Heart Mountain, Wyoming who refused to sign up for the draft to protest the removal of Japanese American citizens from their homes without due process during World War II. The performance was followed by a discussion moderated by Judge Chin, in which Kathy Hirata Chin, Hon. Kiyo Matsumoto, Vincent Chang, and David Weinberg took part. During the question-and-answer portion of the program, many audience members took the opportunity to pose questions to the panel. Many high school and college students were in the audience, and the last question went to a high school student who asked what happened to the internees once they were released and went back to their lives. The harsh truth was that most of the internees lost their homes and had no jobs to go back to. Kathy Chin and Judge Matsumoto were able to draw from the sensitive personal experiences of their families during the discussion.
Panels and CLEs

March 26, 2015

Asian Women in Business hosted their Fifth Raising the Bar Forum: Asian Women Partners in Major Firms, featuring two of our 2014-2015 Board Directors, Teena-Ann Sankoorikal of Cravath and Susan Shin of Arnold & Porter. Hosted at Nixon Peabody to a full-capacity room of about 60 people, the event delved into the real experiences of Asian women who have successfully navigated the waters of big law. Teena-Ann and Susan were joined by Jasmine Ball of Debevoise & Plimpton, Linda Ji of Nixon Peabody and were moderated by Alice Young, Retired Partner at Kaye Scholer. Four starkly contrasting women (five if you count the moderator Alice Young, the first minority woman attorney to be the resident managing partner of a law firm’s New York branch office) somehow all made it to partner – a seemingly impossible feat already, not even considering the challenges that they had to face as women of color, and yet somehow they all made it. To an audience of both lawyers and nonlawyers, they shared their personal stories with one major takeaway – good judgment is key. Good judgment includes not only the ability to do excellent work, but the emotional intelligence to interact with people in a way that gets people to trust you. Whatever the individual mistake, the collective idea of the panel was not to make the same mistake twice, or at the very least, be able to reflect on that mistake and self-improve, perhaps with the help of mentors and sponsors.

March 31, 2015

Hon. Lorna G. Schofield, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, presented the 15th Annual Korematsu Lecture at New York University School of Law. Judge Schofield’s lecture, entitled “A New Judge and an Old Problem: A View of Bias from the Bench,” touched on the challenge of bias in judges and juries. She spoke about the importance of having a diverse jury to help attain impartiality in trials. Judge Schofield also shared her personal history of growing up in a place and time of less diversity and then coming to New York to study law and experiencing a vastly diverse city. In the process of becoming a judge, Judge Schofield developed a stronger appreciation for her own cultural heritage and background as a Filipino-American.

April 2, 2015

Practicing Attorneys for Law Students (PALS) held a career panel and networking reception on Careers in Compliance at Debevoise & Plimpton, featuring our Immediate Past President Clara J. Ohr, Legal Counsel and Compliance Officer, LUKOIL Pan Americas, LLC, among other distinguished panelists: Bari Koss, Executive Director, Legal and Compliance, Morgan Stanley; Andrew Lipton, Executive Director, Legal and Compliance, Morgan Stanley; and Alison Page, Senior Corporate Counsel, Global Innovative Pharma Compliance, Pfizer. The panel showcased attorneys with careers in the field of compliance, providing law students and junior attorneys of color with a general understanding of their position, career path, perspectives, and the growing opportunities for attorneys interested in pursuing a career in compliance. The panelists discussed the differences between other legal work and compliance while sharing their wisdom gained from personal experiences.

June 17, 2015

AABANY co-sponsored the New York County Lawyers’ Association (NYCLA) panel and celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Hernandez v. Robles decision, the Evolution of Marriage Equality in New York State. Ten years ago, long time member of AABANY Justice Doris Ling-Cohan bravely decided in favor of marriage equality and put the controversial issue on its unique journey to later becoming the New York Marriage Equality Act in 2011. Justice Ling-Cohan sat on the panel with LGBTQ advocates Cathy Marino-Thomas, President of Marriage Equality USA, and Alphonso B. David, Esq., Counsel to Governor Andrew Cuomo. Civil rights attorney and LGBTQ advocate Yetta Kurland moderated. Panelists touched on the path towards achieving marriage equality in New York, from a subject of public outcry to an issue of increasing acceptance and approval. Mr. David stated that in 2005, the use of the words “gay marriage” was unspeakable and unacceptable. As the litigator in the Hernandez decision, Mr. David, along with Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund, singlehandedly brought a claim of a violation of the United States Constitution’s equal protection clause. Ms. Marino-Thomas praised these litigation efforts of Mr. David and his team as “making gold out of straw.” Despite these efforts, the panelists all disclosed the reality of an imminent appeal to undo the decision. Hernandez was ultimately reversed by the Court of Appeals. Despite the reversal, the uphill battle for acceptance and fight to move marriage equality as a key political issue continued to build momentum. Public approval ratings of marriage equality began to increase. The passage of the 2011 Marriage Equality Act in New York was the ultimate “sea change” for the panelists. This historic event exhibited the courage of the legislators to protect the disenfranchised. By the end of the hour, the distinguished panelists provided words of wisdom to the audience members about the future of marriage equality. Justice Ling-Cohan stressed the importance of coalition building with the LGBTQ community and communities of color.
June 18, 2015

At Phillips Lytle, LLP in New York City, AABANY co-sponsored the Filipino-American Lawyers Association of New York’s CLE, Changing Gears: Moving from Public Service to Private Service. Panelists Anna Mercado Clark (Associate at Phillips Lytle LLP), William Lopez (Associate at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP), and Concepcion A. Montoya (Partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP) led a discussion on the challenges and benefits of a career transition from public service to the private sector in the legal profession. Patricia Astorga moderated the panel. The evening included a discussion and presentation on the ethical considerations for lawyers moving from public to private practice. The CLE began with the panelists sharing their stories of transitioning from public service into the private sector. Both panelists expressed their decision for a career change was motivated by a personal goal to increase their skill set in various types of law. Furthermore, an additional benefit for such a career transition was undeniably the increase in salary. As with all benefits, the panelists expressed the difficulties they faced in the initial stages of transitioning into the private sector. The CLE struck attendees as not only humorous and warm, but exceptionally genuine and candid in addressing the differences in succeeding in different sectors.

June 23, 2015

The National Association of Asian American Professionals — New York’s Talk Tuesday: Legal Industry, featuring our very own AABANY President Will Wang on the panel. Panelists for the evening were: Will Wang, Asian American Bar Association of New York; Song Kim, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Rippi Gill, South Asian Bar Association of New York; and Bridgette Ahn, Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York. They discussed current legal topics, law firm life, and mentorship. Closing out the evening for the night, AABANY President Will Wang offered the following advice: Seek out a variety of mentors and it’s never too early to start networking – attend social events for work and you will be surprised at how much you’ve grown professionally and personally.
Community Outreach

February 12, 2015 & April 30, 2015

AABANY was once again proud to co-sponsor the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund’s DACA/DAPA Trainings. A significant number of Asian immigrants are among an estimated 300,000 additional undocumented individuals who may benefit from an expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. DACA offers temporary relief from the threat of deportation to young people and allows them to obtain employment authorization. In November 2014, the Obama administration announced the expansion of DACA and the creation of a new DAPA program, which began in May 2015. For many such individuals, this will be the first opportunity to legally work and live in this country. Through these trainings, we are supporting AALDEF’s efforts in seeking pro bono counsel to represent eligible people who qualify under these deferred action programs.

April 30, 2015

AABANY co-sponsored the South Asian Bar Association of New York’s Nepal Earthquake Relief Fundraiser with many other organizations, such as the Muslim Bar Association of New York, South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey, Network of Indian Professionals of New York, South Asian Journalists Association and others. The fundraiser was held at Pranna NYC to support the relief efforts of the devastating earthquake that left thousands dead and injured and countless lives uprooted throughout South Asia. Despite the short and immediate notice, SABANY’s response drew over 125 people to the event and raised a substantial amount towards improving conditions through Adhikaar, a Jackson Heights-based organization focused on improving the lives of the Nepali speaking community in NYC. Adhikaar spearheaded relief and recovery efforts in Nepal. AABANY was more than happy to support their efforts.

May 15, 2015

AABANY took part in the fourth annual Trivia Bowl hosted by the Asian American Journalists Association, New York Chapter. AABANY has participated in all the Trivia Bowls, except for year two, when we had a schedule conflict. This year’s team included Chris Kwok (Co-Chair, Labor & Employment Law Committee), Francis Chin (Chair, Professional Development Committee), Tsui Yee (Co-Chair, Immigration and Nationality Law Committee), Joey Tsai (Co-Chair, Litigation Committee), Yang Chen (Executive Director), Steve Shapiro (longtime member), Linda Lin (Past President and Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee), Rio Guerrero (Co-Chair, Immigration and Nationality Law Committee), Lige Gu (Recording Secretary, Co-Chair, Bankruptcy and Restructuring Committee), and Gabe Arce-Yee (Co-Chair, Young Lawyers Committee). The Trivia Bowl took place at Broad Street Ballroom, in the Financial District. In total, fifteen teams participated, mostly from news organizations, such as the New York Times, Newsday, ABC News, CBS News, NBCUniversal News Group and CNN Money. AALDEF and AABANY were the two teams from the legal industry. Even though the AABANY team did not take first place, two of our team members took home some great raffle prizes: Tsui Yee won a six-month subscription for his and her Birchbox sample boxes, filled with wonderful beauty and grooming products. Joey Tsai got four box seats to a Mets home game. Trivia Bowl is AAJA-NY’s annual fundraiser, to raise money for scholarships for APA journalism students, so it’s a great cause, and AABANY was pleased to be a part of it as a silver sponsor.

July 20, 2015

During our Annual AABANY/AALFNY Summer Reception, we celebrated the opportunities afforded to diverse law students in JMB JIP, the Asian American Law Fund of New York’s Community Scholarship Award Recipient Kamille Go, and the accomplishments of NYC Commissioner of Human Rights Carmelyn Malalis. We had over 170 attorneys, judges, and law students registered to attend. JMB JIP is a collaborative effort between AABANY, AALFNY, the Asian American Judges Association of New York, Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the New York Women’s Bar Association Foundation, Inc., the Puerto Rican Bar Association, and the South Asian Bar Association of New York to offer law students with a strong commitment to diversity to enhance and complement their legal education as summer judicial interns in New York metropolitan area courthouses. This reception not only offered the chance to celebrate but to connect in a welcome environment for mentorship and guidance. We thank the many law firms who sponsored this program and made it possible, including the evening’s host for the night, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

Please refer to the Government Service & Public Interest Committee Report on page 34, the Issues Committee Report on page 38, and the Pro Bono & Community Service Committee Report on page 47 for a more comprehensive look at our community outreach events.
COMMITTEE REPORTS
AABANY does its work through its many Committees. Below is a current list of Committees and Committee Chairs. Each Chair is appointed by the President to serve one-year terms. Committee reports from our Committees follow, detailing their events and programs during FY 2015. This information is available on our website at: http://www.aabany.org/?page=CommitteesPage

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<td>Issues Committee</td>
<td>Yan Cao / Song Kim / Christopher Kwok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judiciary Committee</td>
<td>Robert Leung / Linda Lin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor &amp; Employment Law Committee</td>
<td>Christopher Kwok / William Ng</td>
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<td>LGBT Committee</td>
<td>Glenn Magpantay</td>
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<td>Litigation Committee</td>
<td>Dai Wai Chin Feman / Carolyn Cornell</td>
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<td>Membership Committee</td>
<td>Jack Chen / Amy Ngai / Irene Tan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentorship Program</td>
<td>Edward Kang / David Sohn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military &amp; Veterans Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Brian Song</td>
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<td>Newsletter Committee</td>
<td>Naf Kwun</td>
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<td>Nominations Committee</td>
<td>Will Wang</td>
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<td>Pro Bono &amp; Community Service Committee</td>
<td>Vina Ha / June Lee / Samuel Lui</td>
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<td>Professional Development Committee</td>
<td>Francis Chin</td>
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<td>Prosecutors’ Committee</td>
<td>Monica Huang / James Lin / Kin Ng</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real Estate Committee</td>
<td>Cary Chan / Margaret Ling / Wendy Yu</td>
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<td>Solo &amp; Small Firm Practice Committee</td>
<td>Cary Chan / Tsui Yee / Wendy Yu</td>
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<td>Student Outreach Committee</td>
<td>Vicki Ger / Jackie Sitjar</td>
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<td>Tax Committee</td>
<td>Sahang-Hee Hahn / JoonBeom Pae</td>
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<td>Women’s Committee</td>
<td>Sapna Palla / Miyun Sung / Tammy Wang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Lawyers Committee</td>
<td>Gabe Arce-Yee / Amy Ngai / David Sohn</td>
</tr>
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ADMINISTRATIVE & STANDING COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Karen Lim (Chair)
Margaret Ling
Larry Wee

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 Associations; and

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

AWARDS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR
Mike Huang

The mission of AABANY’s Awards Committee is to seek out opportunities for our members and friends to be recognized for their exemplary work and leadership in the APA legal community and communities it serves. In addition to seeking out opportunities for our members to be recognized, the Awards Committee advocates and offers full support to our members during the nomination process. Identifying the need for APA leaders in our community to be recognized for their achievements and contributions, the Awards Committee is committed to raising the profile of APA attorneys whose work and service have made a meaningful impact.
COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Pauline Yeung-Ha (Chair)
Bobby Liu
William Ng

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. In addition to reviewing salary and benefits, the Committee is working on developing human resources policies such as paid time off, sick days and employee grievance to ensure best practices as AABANY grows. The Committee is also discussing development of a clear description of employee roles and responsibilities to cross-train staff. The Committee seeks to create policies that ensure all staff works together as seamlessly as possible in their respective roles.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Naf Kwun (Chair)
Bobby Liu
William Ng

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.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Will Wang (Chair)
Steve Chung
Robert Leung
Karen Lim
Susan Shin

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.
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE /

CHAIR: OPEN

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.

For more information on the AABANY Law Review, please visit their website or contact Linda Lin at linda.lin@aabany.org. If you are interested in becoming more involved or chairing the Academic Committee, please contact Executive Director Yang Chen at yang.chen@aabany.org.

The last issue of The AABANY Law Review featured several of our early trial reenactments, with plans to publish the next set.
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Alex Hao (alex.hao@aabany.org)
Margaret Ling (margaret.ling@aabany.org)

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 August 13, 2015 AABANY held an Asia Practice Committee General Interest Meeting and CLE Program at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. With about 60 attendees, the event was at capacity. The general interest meeting, led by Executive Director Yang Chen, began with a discussion about the need for an Asia Practice Committee within AABANY and soliciting interest from among the attendees in helping to launch it. Alex Hao, a partner at Jun He who helped AABANY organize the event, expressed that now was a great time for AABANY to start an Asia Practice Committee, with the high level of activity currently taking place between the United States and Asia. The CLE covered Latest Legal Developments in China and Their Impact on US Companies. Alex served as moderator and introduced the speakers: Adam Li, a partner at Jun He, who spoke about China’s Proposed Foreign Investment Law; Yingling Wei of Jun He, who spoke about China’s Latest Antitrust Enforcement Efforts; John Du, a partner at Jun He, and Ralph Levene, a partner at Wachtell, who engaged in a discussion comparing the latest anti-corruption efforts in China and the United States. Alex wrapped up the panel discussion with a short update on China’s outbound investments. All attendees received 1 CLE credit in Areas of Professional Practice. After the conclusion of the CLE program, the guests enjoyed a reception with wonderful food and drinks courtesy of Wachtell.

On November 19, AABANY hosted a Joint Committee Fall Networking Event at Duane Morris, LLP, co-sponsored by AABANY’s Real Estate, Solo and Small Firm Practice, and Tax Committees. This was a great opportunity to network with people in other committees and learn more about the new Asia Practice Committee that was in formation.

On January 19, the Committee also co-sponsored Getting Ahead of the Inbound Curve: Business, Real Estate, and Tax Considerations for Foreign Investments in U.S. Real Estate. Held at the offices of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP in New York, in a large conference room filled to capacity, the attendees learned from an expert panel about tax laws that apply to foreign entities seeking to invest in the United States. Alex Yong Hao, Partner in Jun He and Co-Chair of the Asia Practice Committee, began with an overview of investment trends by Chinese companies in the United States, noting the high level of investments by Chinese in real estate. Next, Baker Tilly Partner Don Ryu presented an overview of the tax codes that apply to foreign investors. JoonBeom Pae, Tax Committee Co-Chair and Associate at Weil, Gotshal, continued the discussion of tax laws applicable to non-resident aliens and foreign companies investing in the United States. Pietro Stuardi, Senior Tax Manager at Baker Tilly, discussed the various structures available to foreign investors and the tax consequences of each. The audience was highly engaged, offering pertinent and challenging questions to the panelists.

President Will Wang approved the formation of the Asia Practice Committee December 2015, and it now has over 100 members on its mailing list. Those seeking to get more involved should reach out to the Committee Co-Chairs at margaret.ling@aabany.org and alex.hao@aabany.org.
CAREER PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Robert Leung (robert.leung@aabany.org)
Michael Park (michael.park@aabany.org)
Irene Tan (irene.tan@aabany.org)

The primary purpose of the Career Placement Committee is to match qualified AABANY members with available legal positions. The Career Placement Committee runs the AABANY Career Exchange, which serves as a clearinghouse for matching qualified AABANY candidates with open legal positions. AABANY members who are aware of open legal positions or who are interested in learning about new opportunities are encouraged to contact the Committee Co-Chairs at careers@aabany.org. In addition, the Career Placement Committee offers programming throughout the year, which focuses on various aspects of career development.

On May 19, 2015, the Career Placement Committee hosted the FINRA Career Panel at the offices of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). Attendees learned about exciting opportunities within FINRA’s market intelligence, dispute resolution, and enforcement divisions, among others. The panelists included Susan Schroeder (Enforcement), Irfan Gilani, (Sales Practice), Tony Cavallaro (Office of Fraud Detection and Market Intelligence), and Erroll Angara (Dispute Resolution). The event attracted law students and experienced attorneys, and shed light on the wide variety of legal and nonlegal opportunities at FINRA.

In 2015, the Career Placement Committee continued its popular “Getting-On-Track” series. On October 14, 2015, the Career Placement Committee, IP Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, and Membership Committees hosted Landing Your First Corporate Gig: Tips for Counsel in the 308at156 Art Gallery at Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP. The panelists included Charles Chen (Deputy General Counsel, Intellectual Property, HICKIES), Lee Pham (Director of Global Intellectual Property Strategy, American Express), Gene Rhough (VP, Business & Legal Affairs, Global Digital Business, Sony Music Entertainment), and Jeff Tang (Intellectual Property Attorney, IBM). The panelists shared their experiences and perspectives on working in-house and the importance of “adding value” to the organization and understanding the business. After the panel, attendees mingled over wine and crackers while enjoying the beautiful exhibits in this unique space.

On September 19, 2015, the Career Placement Committee together with the In-House Counsel Committee hosted Exploring In-House Legal and Non-Legal Career Paths at AABANY’s 6th Annual Fall Conference at the offices of Cleary Gottlieb. This program focused on in-house career paths in areas such as compliance, quasi-business, and legal departments within business units and other alternative career paths. The panelists included Jeff Ikejiri, Esq. (Director-Legal & Regulatory, RGP), Tahmina Choudhury Rajib, Esq. (Director, PAS Compliance, Park Avenue Securities, GLIC), Helen Ong, Esq. (Compliance and Privacy Executive), and Michael Boyd, Esq. (Managing Director and the head of the Infrastructure, Power and Utilities team at NYL Investors LLC, a subsidiary of New York Life).

The Career Placement Committee also hosted its Inaugural Diversity Career Fair & Expo at the AABANY Fall Conference, which drew over two hundred attendees. The event included over twenty
participating employers from both the public and private sector, including FINRA, several District Attorney’s Offices, the Office of the New York State Attorney General, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, IBM, NBCUniversal, and the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. During the Diversity Career Fair & Expo, participating employers held informational sessions about careers and job opportunities at their respective companies. Some employers also hosted first-round interviews for selected candidates. Several applicants were prescreened for the interviews, leading to a productive session of interviews on the day of the Fall Conference. In fact, one of the candidates from the Diversity Career Fair & Expo went on to receive an offer from the Kings County DA’s Office.

On January 20, 2016, the Career Placement Committee, Young Lawyers Committee and Membership Committee hosted Networking for Lawyers at the offices of RGP. The event provided practical tips for networking from our distinguished panel, which included Pauline Yeung-Ha (Partner, Grimaldi & Yeung LLP), Austin So (Division General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Heraeus Incorporated), Robert Leung (Partner, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP), and Yang Chen (Executive Director, Asian American Bar Association of New York). Jeff Ikejiri (Director, RGP Legal) served as Moderator.

The Career Placement Committee looks forward to hosting interesting and relevant programming for its members and to continue identifying and fulfilling prospective job opportunities through the AABANY Career Exchange.
COMMERICAL BANKRUPTCY & RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE /

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Ligee Gu (ligee.gu@aabany.org)
Vincent Roldan (vincent.roldan@aabany.org)
Jessica Liou (jessica.liou@aabany.org)

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 Asian Pacific American bankruptcy and restructuring professionals.

In 2015, the Bankruptcy Committee continued to further Committee goals by putting together two CLE programs. The first, in July 2015, was a collaboration with the AABANY Real Estate Committee entitled Commercial Leases: Issues Surrounding Distressed Real Estate Companies. This program explored strategies and trends regarding distressed real estate, and how the current landscape offers those investors who are willing to invest in the space a significant opportunity.

The second, in September 2015, was a collaboration with the AABANY Litigation Committee entitled Bankruptcy Essentials for Litigators at the AABANY Fall Conference. This program introduced key bankruptcy issues that every commercial litigator should be able to spot and know, including the strategic use of an adversary’s bankruptcy. Our committee used experts from various fields to offer their different perspectives. Joining the discussion as panelists were AABANY Committee Chairs (Vincent Roldan, Partner at Ballon Stoll Bader & Nadler PC and Co-Chair of the AABANY Bankruptcy Committee, Jessica Liou, Senior Associate at Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, and Co-Chair of the AABANY Bankruptcy Committee), as well as Past President of AABANY James Chou, Partner at Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP.

The Bankruptcy Committee also had several social events, including a Group Dinner in March 2015 at Don’s Bogam BBQ & Wine Bar in New York.

Our committee is currently planning new events for 2016. 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 ligee.gu@aabany.org, jessica.liou@aabany.org, and vincent.roldan@aabany.org.
CORPORATE LAW COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Dwight Yoo (dwight.yoo@aabany.org)
Larry Wee (larry.wee@aabany.org)
Charlotte Kim (charlotte.kim@aabany.org)

VICE CHAIR
George Hang

The Corporate Law Committee consists of law firm attorneys who are interested in sharing their ideas and experience as law firm practitioners on a variety of issues facing APA lawyers through conferences, CLE classes, and social networking events. Our goal is to establish a forum in which our members can exchange ideas with and learn from one another, and we seek to help our members establish stronger relationships with other APA lawyers in the New York region.

On June 24, 2015, AABANY held its 8th Annual Winetasting & Networking Reception for Law Firm Partners and Senior In-House Counsel. Thanks to Sonia Low, Board Director and General Counsel of the ONE Group Hospitality, we held the Winetasting at STK Downtown, formerly known as Tenjune. There were approximately 125 people present at this invite-only event, held by the Corporate Law Committee and the In-House Counsel Committee. This annual event is one of AABANY’s flagship events, directed towards a major segment of our membership. Each year, we attempt to create an exclusive and enjoyable evening for all those invited.

On September 9, 2015, AABANY held a How to Pitch Panel in advance of the Fall Conference’s Pitch Sessions. One of the most candid discussions in AABANY’s recent memory, panelists shared their opinions that 90% of the time, a person has made up their mind before the pitch, and 100% of the time you spend with a person could be a part of the pitch you give them one day. Moderated and hosted by Corporate Law Committee Co-Chair Larry Wee of Paul Weiss, the panelists included: Sonia Low, The ONE Group; Austin So, Heraeus; Clara Ohr, LUKOIL Pan Americas; and Bobby Liu, MD Sass. Vice President of Programs and Operations Marianne Chow, Larry Wee, and George Hang organized the panel.

On September 19, 2015, the Committee actively participated in organizing the Pitch Sessions during the AABANY Fall Conference. (See the In-House Counsel Committee Report on page 36.) The Committee also sponsored the Business Development and Advancement for Firm Practitioners and In-House Attorneys — What Works, and What Doesn’t? Panel. To read more about the Fall Conference, see the Year-in-Review Report on page 13.

On December 3, Steve Chung led a session on Group Mentoring: Creating a Strategic Approach to Advancing Your Career. This event was the first in what Steve hopes will be a regular series focused on various topics dealing with career advancement. In this first session, Steve spoke directly and candidly to a packed room about knowing yourself and developing the ability to present yourself in a positive way. He engaged the group in written exercises and discussions around this topic. He and Paul, Weiss Partner Larry Wee presented role-playing exercises to demonstrate how a younger attorney interacts with (or should interact with) a more senior attorney or a person of authority. Some of the participants got up and shared with the group who they are and what is important to them. Steve offered constructive feedback and advice to each of them. At the end of the evening, Steve asked all the participants to write down their top takeaways from the session and to come up with at least two ways to take action from those takeaways. Steve offered many valuable ideas, concepts and thoughts that trying to encapsulate them all in a few sentences or a paragraph does not even come close to capturing all the insights and wisdom that he imparted.

This coming 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 and participation in the Fall Conference. 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.
GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Karen Kithan Yau (karen.yau@aabany.org)
Chai Park (chai.park@aabany.org)
Anita Wu (anita.wu@aabany.org)

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

During 2015-16, Co-Chair Karen Kithan Yau continued to serve as leadership in the Government Service and Public Interest (GSPI) Committee while new co-chairs Chai Park and Anita Wu joined the fray to bring new pro bono opportunities to AABANY members, and provided pro bono representation to low-income Asian Americans.

During 2015-16, the GSPI Committee, in conjunction with the Pro Bono & Community Service Committee and in partnership with Manhattan Legal Services, launched additional pro bono opportunities, including the SCRIE/DRIE Clinic on Dec. 16 to help low-income tenants apply for rent freeze. This initiative brought pro bono AABANY attorneys and law students to a Chinatown clinic to assist elderly rent regulated tenants to apply for SCRIE and DRIE benefits to effectively freeze rents for low-income tenants on a fixed income.

The GSPI Committee also worked to bring important issues to the public’s attention and promote vigorous debate and find resolutions. On April 17, 2015, the GSPI Committee and Korean American League for Civic Action (KALCA) presented a Forum on the Proposed Revisions to the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) at the CUNY’s Asian American/Asian Research Institute (AAARI-CUNY). With almost 100 people attending the event, the community gathered to hear from opposing sides of the debate about the validity of SHSAT and how the admissions process can be altered (or not) to promote racial diversity and educational equity.

On September 19, 2015, GSPI Committee co-sponsored a panel discussion during the Fall Conference on Affirmative Action, Negative Action, & Positive Action, about the impact of Fisher II. Professor Liz Ouyang and respected corporate lawyer Lee Cheng had a spirited debate, followed by a thoughtful question and answer period. Following the successful Fall Conference, the GSPI Committee joined other Committees in hosting a celebratory dinner.

Many members came to the dinner to mingle and discuss public interest careers and related topics.

On October 27, 2015, GSPI and Pro Bono & Community Service Committees teamed up for a Pro Bono Mixer at Singl Lounge to spread the word about their upcoming pro bono projects. AABANY is currently offering different opportunities to give back in the areas of immigration, housing, education, and general pro bono work. The mixer drew about 40 people throughout the night from all different sectors and all different levels of attorneys.

During 2015-16, the GSPI Committee continued to get together during membership meetings, which drew the attendance of a dedicated group of old and new GSPI members, fostering the development of new leadership.

For the remainder of the fiscal year, GSPI Committee will continue to engage our members in continuing our pro bono efforts. In addition, GSPI Committee is planning a panel discussion on the criminal justice system and the role of Asian Pacific Americans in it. The GSPI Committee is also planning to survey our members about their interests in order to form an agenda for FY 2016.

AABANY volunteered at Community Law Day, distributing information to those in need of legal services. PBCS Committee Co-Chair June noted, “it felt great to get out there and actually be seen as opposed to just a voice behind a phone.”
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW COMMITTEE /

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Rio M. Guerrero, (rio.guerrero@aabany.org)
Tsui Yee (tsui.yee@aabany.org)
Amanda Bernardo (amanda.bernardo@aabany.org)

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

On April 1, 2015, the Immigration & Nationality Law Committee and the Women’s Committee co-sponsored a Reading with Author Melissa Schneider from her book The Ugly Wife is a Treasure at Home at Kinokuniya Bookstore. Ms. Schneider guided us through the developments of romantic revolutions in Communist China and interspersed excerpts from personal memories of those who endured the Cultural Revolution and the generations that followed. The collection of intimate and remarkable stories in her book gave a rare view of Chinese history, social customs, and Communism from the perspective of today’s ordinary citizens.

On July 17, 2015, the Committee teamed up with the Student Outreach Committee and Women’s Committee to help AABANY members de-stress in a slow flow and restorative yoga class called Yoga for Lawyers at YoGanesh. Wendy Harris, a small firm legal practitioner and yoga instructor, taught a yoga class that emphasized breathing and quality of the practice of yoga over the achievement or look of a particular pose. Light snacks and refreshments followed.

On September 19, 2015, the Committee held a panel discussion entitled Hot Topics in Immigration Law at the AABANY Fall Conference. The panel discussed President Obama’s announcement of his plans for an executive action that would have given Deferred Action to millions of undocumented parents and youths, and Department of Homeland Security’s change in policies of that announcement. The panel also discussed the litigation and developments in legislation for relatives of U.S. military veterans, ICE detainees, and work authorization for new classes of immigrants. Speakers included Melissa Chua of the Immigrant Protection Unit in New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) and Annie Wang of Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF).

On November 14, 2015, the Committee held a volunteer Immigration Clinic in collaboration with the LGBT Committee, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, and SALGA-NYC at the LGBT Center. Volunteer attorneys provided one-on-one consultations for attendees regarding a range of immigration issues including family and employment-based visas, deportation, DACA, student visas, and general immigration questions.

On January 21, 2016, the Committee held the first of a two-part CLE entitled, (Almost) Everything You Wanted to Know About EB-5 But Didn’t Have Anyone To Ask at Dorsey & Whitney LLP. The CLE addressed the series of bills proposed in the House and the Senate in 2015 seeking to reform the EB-5 investor visa program, all proposing different measures for reform and improvement. This EB-5 program provided information for any attorneys interested in learning about EB-5 regardless of practice area. Discussion topics included what the EB-5 Program is, how immigration law and securities rules interact in the EB-5 Program, the different types of EB-5 programs, and the EB-5 immigration process. The second part of the program will be held in early 2016 at a date and time to be determined.

On January 21, 2016, the Immigration Committee teamed up with the LGBT Committee for pro bono work with SALGA in November. Immigration is an LGBT issue and an APA issue.

Everyone loves a good love story. Thanks to the Immigration & Nationality Law and Women’s Committees for organizing this book reading.

Julia Park of AAEB5 became the person to answer all your EB-5 questions in the first half of this two-part series. Stay tuned for the next Immigration Committee CLE in March.
The In-House Counsel Committee (“IHCC”) is comprised of in-house counsels interested in sharing their ideas and experiences as members of corporate legal departments on a variety of issues facing Asian-Pacific American lawyers and providing a support network for in-house counsel members. The IHCC has sponsored networking events, CLE courses, and other programs.

The IHCC held its Kick Off Meeting on May 28, 2015 at the offices of Blank Rome to discuss the events planned for the year and meet existing and new committee members.

The main event for the IHCC was the 8th Annual Wine-Tasting and Networking Reception for In-House Counsel and Law Firm Partners on June 24, 2015, co-hosted by the IHCC and AABANY’s Corporate Law Committee (“CLC”) at STK Downtown with generous support from The ONE Group Hospitality Inc., and our Headline Sponsors, Planet Data, Prosperian Wealth Management and Summit Financial Printing, our Premier Sponsor, Perkins Coie, and our Sponsors, Haynes & Boone, Hudson Court Reporting, Mayer Brown, Reed Smith and RGP Legal. The evening provided an opportunity to bring together IHCC and CLC members, their colleagues, potential new members, and some of AABANY’s top sponsors. The attendees represented in-house counsel from over 53 corporations and other organizations and attorneys from 36 law firms.

The IHCC hosted a Networking Event on July 19, 2015 at the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (“CONCACAF”) Gold Cup quarterfinal match, generously sponsored by The Rockefeller Group.

The IHCC actively participated in the Annual AABANY Fall Conference on September 19, 2015 by sponsoring or co-sponsoring three programs — Exploring In-House Legal and Non-Legal Career Paths, Business Development & Advancement for Firm Practitioners and In-House Attorneys: What Works and What Doesn’t, and the General Counsel Roundtable — as well as the In-House Counsel Forum. General counsels and senior in-house counsels were invited to participate in the In-House Counsel Forum to discuss pressing issues of particular importance to in-house counsel. The IHCC also co-sponsored the Pitch Sessions with the CLC. The pitch sessions provided an opportunity for law firm attorneys to make pitches to in-house attorneys that indicated a current need for legal representation from an outside law firm. In preparation for the pitch sessions, the IHCC co-sponsored a panel on September 9, 2015 on How To Do A Pitch prior to the Fall Conference. The IHCC also hosted a Committee Dinner following the Fall Conference generously sponsored by Ford Harrison.

The IHCC co-hosted a Fall Happy Hour on November 17, 2015 with the generous sponsorship of Planet Data.

The IHCC will continue to develop programs and events to meet the needs and interests of its members.
The Intellectual Property Committee was started in 2011 with the goals of: (1) providing practical skills training, support and opportunities for practicing and aspiring intellectual property lawyers in the New York area; (2) providing resources for artists, authors, and inventors in the Asian American community; and (3) serving as a forum to explore U.S.-Asia intellectual property issues. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the IP Committee furthered its goals through engaging and insightful events for its members.

Further developing the IP Committee’s popular workshop series, on May 27, 2015, the IP Committee and Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton, LLP co-sponsored a CLE Trademark Skills Workshop entitled: Ack! What Do I Do Now? My Trademark Application Has Just Been Rejected! The workshop was moderated by Committee Member Jenny Greisman and the panelists were Kilpatrick Townsend Attorney Tina Mepani and NBCUniversal Counsel Divya Jayachandran. They explored a variety of strategies and hands-on skills for responding to common rationale as to why an U.S. Trademark Examiner may refuse registration of a trademark application. Approximately 20 attendees participated in this interactive workshop, which offered 1 CLE credit.

On September 19, 2015, AABANY held its 6th Annual Fall Conference: Charting New Frontiers. At the conference, the IP Committee presented a special CLE panel entitled Racial Diversity in Casting which explored the trends of diverse casting and the controversial topics of “whitewashing”, “yellowface”, and “not-ethnic-enough” treatment. Panelists included Jennifer Betit Yen, President, Asian American Film Lab, Christine Toy Johnson, Steering Committee member, Asian American Performers Action Coalition, Huseina Sulaimanee, Counsel, SAG-AFTRA, and Adam Moore, National Director, EEO & Diversity, SAG-AFTRA. The panel was moderated by Committee Co-Chair Jane Chuang. The panel created an engaging forum where panelists and attendees engaged in free-flow conversation about the importance of diversity in on-screen media, the application of anti-discrimination laws, and the potential legal remedies to balance artistic freedom and equal opportunity in casting.

On October 14, 2015, the IP Committee, along with the Career Placement Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, and the Membership Committee hosted Landing Your First Corporate Gig: Tips for Counsel in the 308at156 Art Gallery at Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP. Moderated by IP Committee Co-Chair Stacy Wu, the panel consisted of: Charles Chen, Deputy General Counsel, Intellectual Property, HICKIES; Lee Pham, Director of Global Intellectual Property Strategy, American Express; Gene RROUGH, VP, Business & Legal Affairs, Global Digital Business, Sony Music Entertainment; and Jeff Tang, Intellectual Property Attorney, IBM. The panel offered attendees a dynamic view of the paths that lead to in-house counsel jobs. This was due to the fact that although all of the attorneys on the panel are now in-house, only one of them went through the “traditional” law firm to in-house route. Each panelist shared their unique experiences of taking the initiative in their own training and discovering what makes an attorney essential to a corporation – showing enthusiasm and adding value. The roundtable discussed the importance of keeping yourself engaged to prevent your career from plateauing.

Currently, on the slate for March of 2016 is a CLE event exploring tax issues in intellectual property law. The event will be co-sponsored by the Tax Committee. The first part of the program will focus on the structuring of offshore IP vehicles as well as recent updates in this area. The second part of the program will focus on the business strategies of such IP vehicles and the potential issues to consider when licensing IP from such vehicles. Also on the slate for February 18, 2016 is a Lunar New Year Event to celebrate the Lunar New Year and to bring different IP Committee constituents together to network and share experiences.
AABANY’s Issues Committee examines and considers a variety of issues that impact, directly or indirectly, the APA community and provides recommendations to AABANY’s Board on whether or not the association should, consistent with its mission, take action on the issues, and if so, in what way and to what extent. AABANY’s Issues Committee continues to seek motivated legal talent to join this committee in expanding AABANY’s activity in accordance with its stated mission of advocating for the APA community.

The Issues Committee sprang back into life in 2015, with three major events over the course of the year that focused on Asian Americans and education. Two events were related to the Specialized High School Admission Test (SHSAT) in New York City, and the efforts to change the admissions policy to gain entry into the most sought-after schools - Stuyvesant, Bronx Science and Brooklyn Tech.

On Friday, April 17, 2015, AABANY and the Korean American League for Civic Action (KALCA) teamed up at CUNY’s Asian American/Asian Research Institute (AAARI-CUNY) to present a Forum on the Proposed Revisions to the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) Admissions Process. With almost 100 people in attendance for the event, the community gathered to hear from opposing sides of the SHSAT issue.

The panelists, moderated by Clara Hemphill of InsideSchools.org were:

• Jonathan Halabi UFT Chapter Leader, High School of American Studies, Co-Chair of UFT Specialized High School Task Force
• Rachel M. Kleinman, Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
• Edward Q. Seto, retired High School Principal and Former School Superintendent in NYC and
• Mike M. Mascetti, Executive Director, The Science Schools Initiative

For those not familiar with the issue, there is a special category of high schools in New York City, including Stuyvesant, Brooklyn Tech, and Bronx Science, that have a single criterion for admission – high performance on the SHSAT. Without regard to any other factor, admissions based on the test at these high schools – as opposed to other specialized screened high schools and other high schools in New York City – has led to an overwhelming majority of the students coming from Asian American families. Despite the SHSAT high schools having reported some of the most socioeconomically diverse students – a large number of students coming from poor Asian immigrant households – the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a complaint in September 2012 against the New York City Department of Education and the New York State Department of Education alleging that the SHSAT led to a disparate impact on black and Latino applicants for specialized high school admissions, in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The panel discussed the lack of good high school options for students from all boroughs, whether the students who did not perform on the test could compete with their peers who had, and whether the students at these high schools actually out-performed other advanced high schools. In fact, the panel found that it agreed...
on quite a bit – that there are not better options for black and Latino neighborhoods, that awareness needs to be raised about the test, and that the state of options for underprivileged students of all minority backgrounds – black, Latino, and Asian American students – is an embarrassment.

The evening began with AABANY’s Labor & Employment Law Committee Co-Chair Chris Kwok introducing the history and background of the SHSAT, to place the discussion within context. Between the panel and the question-and-answer segment of the panel, we were lucky enough to see a short clip of Tested, a documentary following a group of eighth graders preparing to take the SHSAT in order to gain admission to one of these high schools. The preview was introduced by Jeff Yang, one of the documentary film’s producers.

The forum was made possible by the cooperation of three AABANY Committees: Issues Committee, Labor & Employment Law Committee, and Government Service & Public Interest Committee. In addition, we worked with community organization KALCA and AAARI-CUNY hosted.

On September 19, 2015, the Issues Committee hosted a panel entitled Affirmative Action, Negative Action, & Neutral Action: Impact on Admissions in Higher Education at the AABANY Fall Conference, with speakers Lee Cheng, Chief Legal Officer, SVP of Corporate Development and Corporate Secretary, Newegg.com and Elizabeth OuYang, Adjunct Professor, Columbia University and New York University. The panel was moderated by Chris Kwok, Co-Chair. Fireworks flew as this weighty issue was debated, and AABANY was very lucky to have such esteemed speakers on the panel.

Two days later, on September 21, 2015, the Issues Committee followed up the April SHSAT panel discussion with a Screening of TESTED in its entirety at the Time Warner Center screening room. The event was hosted by the Asian American employee groups at Time Warner and co-sponsored by KALCA. The director, cast, and crew were all in attendance. With an audience of over 100, the event was again well attended. The screening was followed by an in-person Q&A with the “stars” of the film, and followed by a reception.

On an issue of crucial importance to Asian Americans in New York City (and beyond), AABANY played a critical role in encouraging dialogue, ensuring that the Asian American community played a vital role in shaping the discussion. As we look forward to the next year, the Issues Committee looks to be even more engaged in vital issues that face the Asian American community.

AABANY also thanks Relic Sun, who actively served as Issues Committee Chair until September 2015.

We wish all those students in the Tested documentary success, no matter what high school they ended up in.
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Robert Leung (robert.leung@aabany.org)
Linda Lin (linda.lin@aabany.org)

The Judiciary Committee leads AABANY’s efforts to increase the number of qualified Asian Pacific American (“APA”) attorneys in the federal, state, and local judiciary and to advocate for the interests of APA judges, including increasing judicial pay and preserving judicial independence.

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

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

We started off the year with a strong executive team with

- Michael Park as Vice Chair,
- Naf Kwun as Secretary,
- Peggy Kuo, Diane Gujarati, & Richard Tsai as Pipeline Development Co-Chairs, and
- Bryan An, Jennifer Chiang, & David Mou as Special Events Co-Chairs

We also welcomed our very first JC Law Student Intern Linhadley Eljah to our team.

We also launched the AABANY Judicial Leadership Council to bring together key players in the federal and state selection process.

This past year was a tremendous success. Throughout 2015, the Judiciary Committee continued to vet, support, and advise candidates for various judicial positions. Most prominently, we vetted four candidates for U.S. District Judge positions and supported them with letters to the pertinent Senators. We also vetted two candidates for Magistrate Judge positions and supported them with letters as well. We are happy to report that one of the candidates is now a US Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of New York.

On the state side, we vetted and endorsed two candidates for the New York Court of Appeals. We also supported the application of a sitting judge for the New York Court of Claims and a sitting judge for the New York State Appellate Division. Finally, we vetted and supported four candidates’ applications for the New York City Criminal, Family, and Civil courts by the Mayor’s office and through the election process.

The Committee launched a judicial pipeline educational series – **Bootcamp: Road to the Bench** – to building a larger and deeper pipeline of qualified APA judicial candidates.
The first program of the series was held on September 19, 2015 at the AABANY Fall Conference and entitled “Getting Started: Becoming a Judge – An Overview.” The panelists included: Hon. John Lansden, New York City Housing Court; Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Term, First Department; Hon. Kiyo Matsumoto, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Hon. Delissa Ridgway, United States Court of International Trade; Hon. Noel Brennan, New York City Immigration Court (in her personal capacity) and Peggy Kuo, Esq. (moderator) currently US Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York and formerly Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings. This first program provided an overview of the federal and state judicial selection process.

The second program was held on January 13, 2016 hosted at the law firm of Seyfarth Shaw and entitled “The Written Application.” The featured panelists include: Hon. Elizabeth Stong, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of NY; Hon. Barry Cozier, Vice Chair, Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary, Senior Counsel, LeClairRyan; Robert Begleiter, Chair, EDNY Magistrate Judge Selection Panel, Partner, Constantine Cannon; and Hon. Lillian Wan (moderator), NYC Family Court Judge, Kings County. This program provided hands-on advice on how to present yourself and your accomplishments most successfully in a written application for various judicial positions.

The third will be held on February 22, 2016 and is entitled “The Interview – Preparing for the Panel Interview.” This program will focus on interviews before various judicial selection panels.

The final program of the series to be held in May will focus on “Endorsements.”

The Judiciary Committee also recruited and prepared AABANY members to serve on various judicial screening panels, including the New York County Democratic Committee’s Independent Judicial Screening Panels and the Joint Minority Bar Screening Panel. In addition, members of our Judicial Leadership Council serve on the Eastern District Magistrate Judge Selection Panel, Southern District Magistrate Judge Selection Panel, and The Mayor’s Advisory Committee On The Judiciary.

The Judiciary Committee looks forward to continuing its work in 2016. If you have any questions about the committee or about the judiciary and the judicial selection process, please do not hesitate to contact us at judiciary@aabany.org.

Pictured here at the AABANY/AALFNY Reception where the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program was presented to the AABANY community, from left to right: Hon. John Lansden, Former Intern Chris Arcitio, and Director of the SCS JIP Linda Lin.

As we learned from Hon. Lillian Wan, Robert Begleiter, Hon. Barry Cozier, and Hon. Elizabeth Stong, the judicial application process begins long before you even glance at the written application. Sometimes the hardest part is looking at the person in the mirror and telling yourself, “I could be looking at a judge one day.”
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW COMMITTEE /

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Christopher Kwok (christopher.kwok@aabany.org)
William Ng (william.ng@aabany.org)

VICE CHAIRS
David Mou
Jessica Agarwal

The Labor & Employment Law Committee (“L&E Committee”) looks to promote the professional development of lawyers and human resources professionals practicing or engaging in Labor & Employment law through CLE programs, career panels, and networking events. The 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.

In 2015, AABANY’s L&E Committee completed its second year. The L&E Committee and its members organized and participated in many educational, social, and networking programs within AABANY and our sister bar associations.

On Thursday, August 13, 2015, AABANY’s L&E Committee, along with the Metropolitan Black Bar Association’s (MBBA) Labor & Employment Law Committee and the New York State Bar Association’s (NYSBA) Labor & Employment Law Section, organized a joint “Networking Your Brand” program at the New York City office of Morgan Lewis.

The panelists shared their perspectives on branding and how they established a brand in their legal practice. They also provided practical advice to attorneys looking to expand their brand for career promotion and business development reasons. During the question and answer session, the panelists offered feedback on how to respond to setbacks while developing a brand. They shared their experiences drawn from their diverse legal backgrounds in the private and public sector, as well as in their positions as corporate counsel or independent arbitrators. The panelists included the following attorneys: Sheila S. Boston, Partner, Kaye Scholer LLP; Theodore K. Cheng, Partner, Fox Horan & Camerini LLP and Independent Arbitrator/Mediator; Thomas Giovanni, Executive Assistant Corporation Counsel for Government Policy for the New York City Law Department; Sonya D. Johnson, Senior Counsel, National Grid USA; and Rosemary A. Townley, Arbitrator.

The joint program was moderated by Tanya N. Blocker, Senior Counsel, Labor & Employment Law Division of the New York City Law Department and Chair of MBBA’s Labor & Employment Law Committee and William H. Ng, Associate, Littler Mendelson, P.C. and Co-Chair of AABANY’s L&E Committee. More than fifty attorneys and individuals working in the legal industry attended the program. After the program, the attendees networked with the panelists and enjoyed a reception with food and drinks provided by our host Morgan Lewis.

During AABANY’s 2015 Fall Conference held on Saturday, September 19, 2015, the L&E Committee assisted with organizing a panel entitled Justice for All: LGBT Civil Rights and the API Community, a panel of esteemed attorneys, including, Tom Lepak, Senior Trial Attorney, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The program sought to address recent developments in securing the rights and equality for LGBT people by reviewing the state of same-sex marriage, educational issues and school bullying, religious exemptions, immigration, gentrification issues impacting communities of color, and housing/employment and non-discrimination protections.

On Wednesday, November 4, 2015, L&E Committee Co-Chair William Ng moderated a program entitled Opportunities in Labor & Employment, which was organized by the Practicing Attorneys for Law Students Program, Inc. (PALS) and held at the New York
On Friday, November 13, 2015, the L&E Committee hosted Mark Gaston Pearce, Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for a discussion on his life and career path – his perspective and path to policy maker. Spearheaded by Joane Wong (Founding Member of the L&E Committee) and David Mou (Vice Chair of Labor & Employment Law Committee), the event was co-sponsored by the Labor & Employment Law Section of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), the MBBA, and the Murphy Institute – CUNY. It was held at the offices of Outten & Golden LLP, who generously provided space and support services for the event.

Drawing an audience of over 75 on a Friday night was no easy feat, and those that attended heard an intimate conversation as Chairman Pearce shared stories of his experiences as an undergrad at Cornell University and State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. After law school, he worked at the NLRB for 15 years until he had an offer at age 40 to go into private practice. He described the challenges and risk of leaving his comfort zone and jumping into private practice, where he eventually was a founding partner of a labor and employment firm. When President Obama was looking to fill slots in the NRLB, Chairman Pearce had an opportunity to rejoin the Federal government, coming full circle in his career. He also answered tough questions about implicit bias and diversity issues in the legal profession. All in all, it was a wonderful night of networking among the different co-sponsors, and a good time was had by all.

In 2016, the L&E Committee looks forward to working with other AABANY committees, Asian Pacific American organizations and sister bar associations to organize valuable educational programs and provide opportunities for those interested in labor and employment to network and socialize in order to help the committee grow.

For those interested in finding out more about the L&E Committee, please contact Co-Chairs William Ng at william.ng@aabany.org and Christopher Kwok at chris.kwok@aabany.org.
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Glenn Magpantay (glenn.magpantay@aabany.org)

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

On October 26, 2015, nearly 80 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. 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 on DACA. Attendees heard from Commissioner Carmelyn P. Malalis, who was appointed Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights by Mayor Bill de Blasio, talked about her transition from private practice to government and how her mentors helped in this process. This event was a collaboration of Skadden Arps, as well as LeGaL – The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, and South Asian Bar Association of New York.

In collaboration with the AABANY Immigration & Nationality Law Committee, on Saturday, November 14, the LGBT Committee hosted an LGBT Immigration Legal Advice Clinic for the South Asian Lesbian & Gay Association (SALGA) at the LGBT Center in the West Village. Immigration attorneys, assisted by law students and volunteer lawyers, met with approximately twenty clients, on matters ranging from visas, adjustment of status based on marriage, employment issues, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and other issues.

The Committee also promotes understanding and awareness. Committee member John Vang wrote an article about the US Supreme Court’s historic decision legalizing same-sex marriage published in The AABANY Advocate - Summer 2015 Issue, “Obergefell v. Hodges: A Victory for Asian Pacific Americans.” Committee members also presented Justice for All: LGBT Civil Rights and the API Community at both the AABANY Fall Conference in September and National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Convention in New Orleans in November.
LITIGATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Carolyn Cornell (carolyn.cornell@aabany.org)
Dai Wai Chin Feman (daiwai.chinfeman@aabany.org)

The Litigation Committee is dedicated to attorneys and law students who are interested in litigation. The Committee provides a forum and resources for networking and learning, and sponsors events that are of interest to its members. For 2015-2016, the Committee organized the following events.

On May 13, 2015, Planet Data and AABANY’s Litigation Committee presented Mobile eDiscovery: If Only There Was an App for That! at Seyfarth Shaw LLP. Discussing the effects of mobile device culture on the legal world, this ethics CLE featured: Michael Yim, Partner, FordHarrison LLP; James Yu, Senior Counsel, Seyfarth Shaw LLP; Howard J. Reissner, Esq., CEO, Planet Data; and Brad Berkshire, Vice President of Consulting and Digital Forensics, Planet Data. Former Litigation Committee Co-Chair Joey Tsai, Founder of Tsai PLLC, moderated the panel. Our panelists shared their experience dealing with the relatively uncharted territories of data, technology, and privacy within the context of labor and employment law. They also raised legal concerns, technical issues with mobile device discovery, and an attorney’s ethical obligation to understand mobile technology.

On May 18, 2015, the AABANY Litigation Committee and the American Arbitration Association co-sponsored a program at Seyfarth Shaw LLP entitled Implicit Bias in Arbitration, which explored the existence of implicit bias in decision-makers like judges and arbitrators through theory, social science research, and anecdotal evidence. The approximately 35 attendees participated in an interactive presentation conducted by Professor Rachel Godsil of Seton Hall Law School, after which she joined distinguished arbitrators Tai-Heng Cheng and Carol Young on a panel discussion moderated by Theo Cheng, Chair of the AABANY’s Litigation ADR Subcommittee.

On July 15, 2015, the Committee held its First Meeting with new leadership at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Members brainstormed events for the upcoming year and ways to get members to participate more actively in the Committee.

On August 9, 2015, the Litigation Committee, the Young Lawyers Committee, and the Tax Committee held AABANY’s Annual Picnic in Central Park. Family and friends were invited for food and games. Many members attended and enjoyed meeting and getting to know each other.

During the AABANY Fall Conference on September 19, 2015, the Committee held its annual Trial Advocacy Program, which trained participants on making opening and closing statements, as well as on conducting effective direct and cross examinations. Among the all-star faculty were the Honorable Kiyoko A. Matsumoto from the Eastern District of New York, Susan Halatyn, Tristan Loanzon, Rodney Villazor, Joe Gim, Vinoo Varghese, Victor Olds, David Mou, Concepcion Montoya, Kevin Murphy, Anna Mercado Clark, Yasuhiro Saito, Sam Yee, Steve Madra, and Umar Sheikh. The Committee thanks all of the students and the faculty for their participation.

On January 19, 2016, the Litigation Committee co-sponsored an event with the Filipino American Lawyers of New York featuring a talk with the Honorable Lorna G. Schofield of the Southern District of New York, the first Filipino American federal district judge in the United States. Judge Schofield spoke about her experience as a woman and a person of color in various segments of the legal profession and the professional and personal development lessons she learned while working as a federal prosecutor, in private practice, and in the federal judiciary.

As we wind down the fiscal year, the Committee is exploring other programs that focus on developing litigation skills, as well as providing other opportunities for AABANY members to meet each other.

The Committee thanks former Co-Chairs Joey Tsai and Abe Cho for their service as Co-Chairs.
MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE /

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Brian Song (brian.song@aabany.org)

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.

If you’re interested in getting involved, please email Committee Chair Brian Song at brian.song@aabany.org.

Here, MVA Chair Brian Song performs at the Wards Cove Trial Reenactment at New York City Bar. He recently became the first Korean American to be elected to Partner at BakerHostetler. Congratulations, Brian!
The Pro Bono & Community Service Committee encourages AABANY members to assist underserved people and communities. The Committee provides opportunities for pro bono work by developing programs targeting issues affecting low-income people. We also aim to promote AABANY’s partnerships with community organizations and legal service providers.

On May 1, 2015, AABANY came out to join Community Law Day in the park outside of the Civil Court building at 111 Centre Street among other wonderful organizations, including Sanctuary for Families and the Legal Aid Society. Our table was manned and visited that afternoon by President Will Wang, Pro Bono & Community Service Co-Chairs Samuel Lui and June Lee, Labor & Employment Law Committee Co-Chair Chris Kwok, Government Service & Public Interest Committee Co-Chair Anita Wu, Cynthia Weaver, and Simone Nguyen. We distributed information to those in need of legal assistance and connect with many members of the Chinatown and downtown community. PBCS Co-Chair June Lee, Queens Legal Services, remarked that it was great to go out and see the people who needed help face-to-face as opposed to picking up a phone call and not necessarily being able to read their emotional cues.

On October 27, 2015, the Committee co-sponsored a Pro Bono Mixer at Singl Lounge with the Government Service and Public Interest Committee to promote upcoming pro bono projects. The mixer drew from many different sectors and levels of attorneys. Attendees were able to network and learn about ways to become engaged in AABANY’s pro bono work.

On December 16, 2015, the Committee organized a SCRIE & DRIE Clinic where AABANY members assisted senior and disabled tenants complete applications for Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE). Volunteers received a training conducted by Samuel Lui prior to meeting with clients to assist with applications. The event, which was well-attended by AABANY volunteers as well as community members, took place at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) Chinese Community Center, Inc. Anita Wu, of the Government Service and Public Interest Committee, conducted an educational outreach program at CCBA on December 4, 2015 in order to raise awareness of the SCRIE/DRIE remedies.

This year, the Committee is proud to have launched Monthly Legal Advice Clinics, which provide free legal advice to low-income community members. The first clinic took place on December 9, 2015. Located at CCBA Chinese Community Center, Inc. at 62 Mott Street, this recurring clinic aims to serve Chinese-speaking clients by providing volunteer Chinese-speaking interpreters as well as volunteer attorneys. The clinics take place on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30PM-8:30PM. Our hope is that the clinic will provide much-needed assistance to an underserved population and engage AABANY in a hands-on client service experience. Law students and attorneys interested in volunteering should contact June Lee at june.lee@aabany.org.

During FY 2015, on behalf of AABANY, Samuel Lui responded to many calls from those seeking legal advice, many of whom did not speak English and were in need of free to low-cost service.

Do you have questions about a legal issue?

Date
Every second Wednesday of the month
Starting December 9, 2015
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Location
Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
62 Mott Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10013

Come to our free legal clinic
Call to make an appointment
(212) 226-6280
Please bring all documents pertaining to your issue(s)
This clinic is limited to legal advice only. It does not provide legal representation.
The continuing mission of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) is to advance the skills and knowledge of AABANY’s members as they advance in their professional careers. We provide opportunities for members to work together through our programs.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

This year we are proud to have provided a wide variety of free or low-cost Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs for our members and the New York legal community. All of our programs are organized and presented by volunteers. 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 Community Partners, which included Minkwon Center for Community Action, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Chinese Business Lawyers Association, Asian Real Estate Association of America – New York East Chapter, the New York City Bar Association, and South Asian Bar Association of New York, as well as the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association at Columbia 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 the Office of Court Administration.

In total, we offered more than 50 credits of continuing legal education. This included 4.5 credits of ethics. All of these credits were free for AABANY members except for the AABANY Fall Conference ($100 for members, which included breakfast, lunch, cocktail hour, and dinner). This represents a great savings over the cost of CLE programs elsewhere.

AABANY FALL CONFERENCE

The sixth AABANY Fall Conference was held on September 19, 2015 at the law firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in New York City. Thirteen 1.5-credit programs were presented by AABANY’s Committees on civil rights, immigration, business, real estate, intellectual property, and entertainment law, and also included our popular General Counsel Roundtable. The luncheon plenary session featured Kicking Glass: Two Decades and Counting, a panel discussion revisiting our 1995 documentary of Asian American women in the New York legal world, and how things have changed since then. A full-day intensive Trial Advocacy Program was taught by experienced judges and attorneys.

HON. THOMAS TANG MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Samuel Yee and Francis Chin assisted law student teams from the Northeast Region in this year’s Hon. Thomas Tang Moot Court competition. This year’s question focused upon whether a prosecutor’s failure to disclose inadmissible exculpatory evidence to a defendant violates the Constitution’s guarantee of due process.

HISTORICAL TRIAL REENACTMENTS

HEART MOUNTAIN: CONSCIENCE, LOYALTY AND THE CONSTITUTION

A condensed version of our 2012 production regarding the “No-No-No” draft resisters at the Heart Mountain Japanese internment camp during World War II was presented to New-York Historical Society members on May 16. This production touched upon themes that were incorporated in the recent Broadway musical production Allegiance, starring George Takei and Lea Salonga.

THE VIETNAMESE FISHERMEN AND THE KU KLUX KLAN


WARDS COVE PACKING CO. V. ATONIO

A joint production of leaders of the New York City Bar and AABANY performed “Justice Denied: Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio” to large and attentive audiences on May 12 at Cadwalader, and on December 7 at the New York City Bar Association. This presentation dealt with the employment discrimination cases raised by native Alaskan and Filipino cannery workers and heard by the Supreme Court (490 U.S. 642 (1989)), the 1991 Civil Rights Act and NAPABA’s fight against the amendment that exempted the Wards Cove Packing Co. from the relief that would have been given these workers.

REENACTMENTS WEBSITE

A new website, http://reenactments.aabany.org, has been established to maintain a public archive of all of AABANY’s productions, as well as encouraging local groups to use our materials. Thanks to Margaret Langston and Simone Nguyen for compiling and designing the website.
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| TOTAL                          | 5 | 41.5 | 7 | 1.5 | 55 |

YEAR END REPORT 2015
PROSECUTORS’ COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Monica Huang (monica.huang@aabany.org)
James Lin (james.lin@aabany.org)
Kin Ng (kin.ng@aabany.org)

The goals of the Prosecutors’ Committee include the advancement and professional development of Asian-American prosecutors, the establishment of a network between former and current Asian-American prosecutors, the recruitment of Asian-American law students to become prosecutors, and the cultivation of trust and communication between the Asian-American community and the local prosecutors’ offices. There are currently over one hundred Asian-American prosecutors serving New York City.

On June 4, 2015, the Prosecutors’ Committee held a Joint Mixer with the Government Service and Public Interest Committee in the West Village at the Galway Hooker Bar. Complimentary appetizers were served as over 30 members caught up with each other and made new friends. Also present were law school interns from the various New York City district attorney offices as well as from the Nassau County DA’s and the NYS Attorney General’s Offices. Many expressed their interest in joining AABANY and the two sponsoring committees.

On June 30, 2015, the Prosecutors’ Committee organized and held their Annual Reception at Brooklyn Law School, honoring Deputy U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim and the family of fallen N.Y.P.D. Detective Wenjian Liu. Elected District Attorneys and senior leadership of the various District Attorneys’ Offices spoke, each reflecting on the event’s importance and uniqueness. In his welcoming remarks, Brooklyn D.A. Ken Thompson stated that the event, in addition to honoring important figures in the Asian American community, also gave an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the important work of Asian Americans in government and public service, an often unpopular career choice among many Asian American parents. He noted that APA prosecutors possessed enormous pride and honor in representing the People. Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, introduced his newly appointed second-in-command, Mr. Joon H. Kim. Mr. Kim stated that as “a prosecutor, you only have one job to do... and that job is doing the right thing.” He went on and told the audience that it is with pride that he tells his children that “he puts criminals away, not as Batman, but as a lawyer who helps Batman.”

Throughout the evening, each speaker spoke eloquently about the ultimate sacrifice of Detective Wenjian Liu and his parents. Kin Ng, Co-Chair of the Prosecutors’ Committee, spoke of Det. Liu’s life, the spirit of Det. Liu’s family, and read aloud the translated remarks of Det. Liu’s father. Motivated by the tragedy of 9/11, Det. Liu chose to join the N.Y.P.D. to protect the city and his community. There was not a dry eye among the attendees as Det. Liu’s father, mother, and widow received a warm standing ovation. Although no words can adequately describe their grief and pain, the audience thanked the family for their sacrifice.

In attendance were over 100 attorneys, law students, and friends. Other V.I.P. attendees were the Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan, Queens Executive ADA Jesse Sligh, and Staten Island Executive ADA Tim Koller. The event was covered in the media by Korean Times, World Journal, Epoch Times, and Sing Tao.

With the help of the AABANY Career Placement Committee, the Prosecutors’ Committee played a major role in AABANY’s Inaugural Diversity Career Fair & Expo which took place during the AABANY Fall Conference, September 19, 2015, at the law offices of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. The Prosecutors Committee sponsored seven employers: District Attorney Offices from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Nassau County, Queens, and Staten Island, and the New York State Attorney General’s Office. These seven offices hosted informational sessions and tables for interested job applicants. Moreover, five of the participants – the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Nassau County, and Queens District Attorney’s offices – actually conducted first-round, on-site interviews of
applicants for internships and full-time Assistant District Attorney positions. The presence of these sponsor employers created a buzz for both law students and attorneys attending the job fair. It also provided the law enforcement employers the opportunity to interact with those attendees who had not otherwise contemplated a potential prosecutorial career. Overall the Prosecutors’ Committee felt the job fair was a win-win for both employers and applicants and looks forward to AABANY’s future Fall Conferences.

AABANY Fall Conference also included the Prosecutors’ Committee Panel on Human Trafficking: Modern Day Prosecution and Law Enforcement Strategies, which offered 1.5 Credits, Professional Practice. Panelists included: Honorable Toko Serita, Presiding Justice of the Queens County Human Trafficking Intervention Court; A.U.S.A. Amanda Kramer, S.D.N.Y., Human Trafficking Coordinator; A.D.A. Jessica Melton, Supervisor of the Queens District Attorney’s Office’s Human Trafficking Unit; Rosie Wang, Legal Fellow, Sanctuary for Families; and Moderator A.D.A. James Lin, Co-Chair of the AABANY Prosecutors’ Committee and a Homicide Prosecutor, NY County District Attorney’s office. This well-attended panel presented an overview of both state and federal laws enacted over the past 10-15 years that combat human trafficking and protect the victims of human trafficking, including laws that help victims gain legal immigration status, obtain social services, punish domestic violence, etc. The panelists and the presentation focused on the holistic approach of law enforcement in this growing area of concern: prosecuting traffickers; protecting victims; and preventing the practice of trafficking. The panel addressed how attorneys and citizens could, in general, help victims and law enforcement in cracking down on local human trafficking activity in their own neighborhoods.

On December 14, 2015, the Prosecutors’ Committee celebrated the season with a Holiday Cocktail Party at Tavern on Third in their own private library room. Complimentary appetizers, including sliders, chicken wings and fingers, pizza, and crudité, were served as over 40 members caught up with each other and made new friends. AABANY President William Wang, AABANY Board Director Robert Leung, past AABANY & NAPABA President Andrew Hahn, and AABANY Executive Director Yang Chen joined in the festivities. AABANY and the Prosecutors’ Committee welcomed several rookie prosecutors from the various New York City district attorney offices as well as from the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office who attended their first committee event. Also present were several APA lawyers who expressed interest in becoming prosecutors.

If it weren’t for Kin Ng’s influence, the Diversity Career Fair & Expo at our Fall Conference may never have come to fruition. It’s members like Kin that make AABANY great. Pictured here at one of our Fall Conference Committee Dinners from left to right: Professional Development Committee Chair Francis Chin, Hon. Don Leo, Vinoo Varghese, Prosecutors Committee Co-Chair Jim Lin, Kin Ng, VP-Finance & Development Will Ng, and President Will Wang.

Prosecutors and friends celebrate the holidays despite the cold at Tavern on Third.

Joon Kim abandoned a 7-figure salary to join the U.S. Attorney’s Office as Preet Bharara’s second-in-demand, in a move that Joon described as a no-brainer.
REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE /

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Cary Chan (cary.chan@aabany.org)
Margaret Ling (margaret.ling@aabany.org)
Wendy Yu (wendy.yu@aabany.org)

The Real Estate Committee provides support and professional development to APA attorneys at all levels, including new and experienced attorneys. The Committee also addresses the needs of law students seeking to pursue a career in real estate law. Special attention has been given to community outreach in the outer boroughs and solo and small firm practitioners in an effort to expand membership and participation across all of New York City.

The Committee addresses topics concerning transactional, management, development of real property and latest statutes and changes in New York’s real property laws through CLE seminars, discussion and networking sessions with corporate and bank sponsorships.

The Committee often partnered with Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Citibank, Cathay Bank, East West Bank, Baker, Tilly, Virchow Krause, LLP, Herrick, Feinstein, LLP, and Akerman LLP during the fiscal year. With the influx of Asian investors in New York, the Committee has also connected and partnered with more Chinese law firms and Asian corporations. In addition, the Committee has also partnered with many community organizations: Asian Americans for Equality, Queens Asian Bar Association, Asian Real Estate Association of America, Asian Real Estate Professional Association, Minkwon, Chaaya, KALAGNY, and others.

On February 24, 2015, Our Real Estate Committee and Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee, in co-sponsorship with the Asian Real Estate Association of America – New York East Chapter and Chase Bank held New Construction and Renovations – The Process: Legal, Financing, Title, and Municipal Approvals and Lunar New Year Celebration at Mudan Banquet Hall in Flushing, Queens.

Among the panelists were AABANY member Robert B. Moy, Esq., Partner, Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP, and Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of the Real Estate Committee. More than 120 people registered for this program, which included a delicious buffet dinner and a lion dance after the conclusion of the panel’s presentation, in celebration of the Lunar New Year. AABANY members received 1.0 CLE credits in Professional Practice.

On April 28, 2015 AABANY’s Real Estate Committee held another important CLE: “What? No more HUD-1? What You Need to Know About the New Closing Disclosure Form.” The event was held at Bank of America Home Loans Center. Speakers included our very own Margaret T. Ling, Esq., Senior Counsel and VP of First Nationwide Title Agency, LLC and Hon K. Lai, Attorney at Vanchieri & Ferrier LLP. Co-sponsors include AREAA-New York East Chapter, First Nationwide Title, LLC, and Vanchieri & Ferrier LLP. Attendees received 1.0 CLE credits in Areas of Professional Practice.

On May 29, 2015, the Real Estate Committee organized an informative lunchtime CLE for aspiring and experienced attorneys at the office of Morrison & Foerster, LLP, New York Lien Law: Protecting the Priority of Lender’s Lien, featuring John A. Frates, Esq., Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Stewart Title Insurance Company. This CLE offered 1 credit hour towards Areas of Professional Practice.

On July 10, 2015, the AABANY Membership Committee, the Young Lawyer’s Committee, the Student Outreach Committee, the Pro Bono Committee, the Real Estate Committee, and the AABANY Mentorship Program welcomed lawyers, law students, prospective lawyers, and AABANY members and non-members to a summer Get to Know AABANY Happy Hour at the Rubin Museum of Art’s K2 Lounge. Membership Secretary Irene Tan and Mentorship Program Coordinator David Sohn were on hand to meet and greet all attendees and spread the word about the amazing work of AABANY. Hors d’oeuvres were served and attendees were invited to a 2-for-1 special cash bar. Program applications also opened the
same day for the 2015-2016 Mentorship Program. Members and non-members caught up with old friends and connected with new ones over good drinks and good company.

On November 12, the AABANY Real Estate and Solo Small Firm Practice Committee, AREAA-New York East, First Nationwide Title Agency LLC, Westcor Land Title Insurance Company sponsored a CLE: What? No More HUD-1? What You Need to Know About the New Closing Disclosure Forms, attended by 30 Attorneys at Bank of America Home Loans in Forest Hills, Queens.

On November 19, AABANY hosted a Joint Committee Fall Networking Event at Duane Morris, LLP, co-sponsored by AABANY’s Real Estate, Solo and Small Firm Practice, and Tax Committees. This was a great opportunity to network with people in other committees and learn more about the new Asia Practice Committee that was then in formation.

On January 19, the Committee co-sponsored Getting Ahead of the Inbound Curve: Business, Real Estate, and Tax Considerations. See the Asia Practice Committee Report on page 29 for more details.

On January 26, the Committee teamed up with the Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee to host a New Year Networking Event at Citi, co-sponsored by Citi Commercial Bank, AREAA - NY East, and First Nationwide Title Agency LLC at the Citibank building in Court Square in Long Island City. Gathering on the 50th floor with fabulous views of the Manhattan skyline, the attendees got to mix and mingle with bankers, brokers, lawyers and other professionals in the real estate industry. Margaret Ling, Co-Chair of AABANY’s Real Estate Committee, moderated a short discussion about all the new and exciting development projects happening in Queens. During the presentation, one of the speakers, George Eliopoulos, passed around his hat to collect business cards, after which he drew one card out of the hat to award a special prize. The lucky winner was none other than AABANY Executive Director Yang Chen who went home with … a rubber chicken.

The Real Estate Committee looks forward to its New Year Celebration on February 18, The Latest Asian Real Estate Projects in Queens and Beyond at Mudan Banquet Hall in Flushing, Queens. This upcoming event includes a CLE portion and Lunar Celebration with Buffet Dinner. Speakers include: Jonathan Plotkin, Senior Managing Director, Colliers International; Robert B. Moy, Esq., Partner, Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP; and Margaret Ling, Esq., Senior Counsel & Vice President, First Nationwide Title Agency, LLC. This event is sponsored by Chase - Equal Opportunity Housing, AABANY, AREAA - New York East Chapter, Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP, and First Nationwide Title, LLC. This event is free and space is limited to the first 150 AABANY and AREAA-NY East members.

Thanks to Margaret Ling, our outreach into Queens has been improved year after year. At the recent New Year’s Networking Event in Long Island City, attendees enjoyed the wonderful company with a grand view of the Manhattan skyline.

Margaret Ling worked tirelessly this year. After Board Meeting after CLE after networking event, she found time to mentor young attorneys, organize the most sought-after dinners, and even shuttle Queens-folks home from late-night AABANY events from time to time. Here she is working up to the wire the morning of the Fall Conference, after driving herself and Executive Director Yang Chen out from Queens.
SOLO & SMALL FIRM PRACTICE COMMITTEE /

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Cary Chan (cary.chan@aabany.org)
Tsui Yee (tsui.yee@aabany.org)
Wendy Yu (wendy.yu@aabany.org)

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

On April 28, 2015 The Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee co-sponsored the AABANY’s Real Estate Committee CLE: “What? No more HUD-1? What You Need to Know About the New Closing Disclosure Form.” See Real Estate Committee Report on page 52 for more details.

On May 29, 2015, the Committee co-sponsored New York Lien Law: Protecting the Priority of Lender’s Lien. See Real Estate Committee Report on page 52 for more details.

On July 14, 2015, Executive Director Yang Chen led the ABA’s National Dialogue for Solo and Small Firm Lawyers at Thomson Hall in Manhattan’s Financial District. The National Dialogue was a unique forum where solo and small firm lawyers, along with state and local bar leadership, discussed the common needs, challenges and concerns of this largest segment of practicing attorneys. The National Dialogue was part of the ABA’s “You Reimagined: Big Firm to Small Firm – It’s All About You,” co-sponsored by AABANY and the New York State Bar Association. The ABA GPSolo Division, chaired by Amy Lin Meyerson (and past president of NAPABA), organized the event. Alex Lee, NAPABA VP of Finance and Development, himself a solo practitioner, was also in attendance. Tsui Yee, Co-Chair of AABANY’s and NYCLA’s Solo and Small Firm Practice Committees, joined the National Dialogue and offered some of her ideas and views as a small firm practitioner.

On November 12, the AABANY Real Estate and Solo Small Firm Practice Committee, AREAA-New York East, First Nationwide Title Agency LLC, Westcor Land Title Insurance Company sponsored a CLE: What? No More HUD-1? What You Need to Know About the New Closing Disclosure Forms, attended by 30 Attorneys at Bank of America Home Loans in Forest Hills, Queens.

On January 19, the Committee co-sponsored Getting Ahead of the Inbound Curve: Business, Real Estate, and Tax Considerations. See the Tax Committee Report on page 56 for more details.

On January 26, the Committee teamed up with the Real Estate Committee to host a New Year Networking Event at Citi, co-sponsored by Citi Commercial Bank, AREAA - NY East, and First Nationwide Title Agency LLC.

The Committee will also co-sponsor the The Latest Asian Real Estate Projects in Queens CLE and Banquet at Mudan Banquet Hall on February 18 with the Real Estate Committee.

Due to the new housing disclosure form, the Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee and Real Estate Committee had their hands full presenting their, “What? No more HUD-1?” CLE presentation multiple times.
STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
Vicki Ger (vicki.ger@aabany.org)
Jaclyn Sitjar (jackie.sitjar@aabany.org)

The Student Outreach Committee (SOC) strives to equip Asian Pacific American (APA) students with concrete skills to excel academically and professionally. In addition, the SOC seeks to serve as a bridge between law students, attorneys and other legal professionals, encouraging APA students to be active in the APA legal community. In this regard, the SOC sponsors and co-sponsors a variety of outreach initiatives, career/skills programs, networking events, and social activities.

Due to its large student and recent graduate base, the SOC has also assisted its fellow Committees in recruiting and coordinating volunteers for committee-level and organization events. Currently, there are more than 200 APA law student members in AABANY, and the SOC works with approximately 18 law schools in the tri-state region. Throughout 2015, the SOC has continued its work to serve and connect with law students by hosting a variety of events and programming.

The SOC supported the Annual Dinner on February 25 by recruiting and organizing volunteers for both the day of, in which students staffed the event and provided logistical support, and the evening prior, when they lent their invaluable assistance in preparing programs and name tags.

The SOC joined the Immigration & Nationality Law and Women's Committees in coordinating a Yoga for Lawyers on July 17 at YoGanesh in Manhattan where both members and non-members were invited to network in a relaxing environment.

On August 25 at the Public House, the SOC hosted an APALSA Outreach Event. Attended by law student leaders representing seven area law schools, the SOC led a discussion of ideas and opportunities for collaboration between the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) groups and AABANY during the 2015-16 academic year and beyond. By engaging with student leaders specifically, the SOC has been able to strengthen its ties with student groups in a way that will facilitate long term partnerships.

Following the August 25 event, the SOC organized and participated in “Roadshow” Outreach Events at four area law schools during the Fall 2015 semester. On September 8, AABANY spoke with law students at Fordham University; on September 15, the SOC presented to law students at St. John’s University; on October 26, the SOC coordinated a roadshow at the Cardozo School of Law; and on October 27, the SOC organized a resume review at New York University where 11 AABANY volunteer attorneys met with over 30 NYU law students.

The SOC began recruiting Fall Conference volunteers over the summer and ultimately managed more than 30 volunteer positions for AABANY’s Fall Conference on September 19. 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. This year, the SOC introduced and utilized a web-based tool called VolunteerSpot to successfully streamline the volunteer registration process.

The SOC has also helped organize volunteers as requested and needed by other AABANY committees or AABANY members. Notably, the SOC organized volunteers for the In-House Counsel & Corporate Law Wine Tasting & Network Reception on June 24, the Kicking Glass: Two Decades and Counting screening in May, mock jurors for local law schools’ moot court, and the AABANY Legal Advice Clinic.

Thank you to the AABANY team for their leadership and dedication. Thank you also to all our volunteer students and attorneys, especially those who show up early, stay late, and give up Friday nights to ensure AABANY’s events are a great success.

Volunteers were the friendly faces at our Fall Conference. Our events truly wouldn’t be able to function without the help of our generous volunteers. If you’re interested in getting involved, email our Co-Chairs Vicki Ger at vicki.ger@aabany.org and Jackie Sitjar at jackie.sitjar@aabany.org. We could always use the help.

Not only does volunteering offer the benefit of being able to meet older and more experienced attorneys, it also just provides a good chance to get to know other people who are all working towards making an event great.

A large part of AABANY is composed of law students. It’s no surprise that the Student Outreach Committee was happy to co-sponsor a Get-to-Know-AABANY Happy Hour this past summer.

Photo Credit: Hoping Zhu (all photos on this page)
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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).

This year has been one of noticeable development for the Tax Committee. Since having established itself last year as one of AABANY’s newest Committees, the Tax Committee has expanded the scope of its events significantly. During its second year of operations, the Tax Committee focused on three key objectives: developing its peer group mentorship; collaboration with other AABANY Committees; and increased discussion of tax issues relevant to the greater New York City area.

On June 17, 2015, the Tax Committee held its Opening Tax Dinner & Mixer. Hosted by Dechert, the event allowed its members to catch up after a brief hiatus. New members introduced themselves to the group; we identified this year’s peer group mentors; and discussed the Tax Committee’s upcoming events for the 2015-16 year.

On August 9, 2015, the Tax Committee co-hosted a Picnic in Central Park with the Litigation Committee and Young Lawyers Committee. This was the Tax Committee’s first opportunity to collaborate with these two Committees, and it provided an excellent opportunity to get to know other members at AABANY in a fun and casual setting.

During the next couple of months, the Tax Committee’s peer groups held two Tax Dinners. A senior peer group mentor organized each dinner and invited members to discuss a key tax development. These events enabled its members to meet over dinner and to discuss recent tax developments. On September 10, 2015, Shiukey Hung (Morrison & Foerster) and Rich Williams (Dentons) hosted the first Tax Dinner at Joe’s Shanghai and led the discussion of certain tax issues relating to foreign persons’ investments in U.S. real property, and on October 13, 2015, Sharon Kim (Ashurst) and Jeff Kang (Seward & Kissel) hosted the second Tax Dinner at the same place and led the discussion of loan origination activities in the United States and its tax implications. The Tax Committee expects to host another Tax Dinner in the remaining months of the 2015-16 year, focusing on practical tax issues in drafting and reviewing stock acquisition agreements.

The Tax Committee also led a CLE panel discussion at the AABANY Fall Conference. On September 19, 2015, the Tax Committee led a discussion on 2015 Tax Highlights, which focused on key federal and state tax developments for the current year. This year’s speakers included guest speaker Amish Shah (Sutherland Asbill & Brennan), Tax Committee Co-Chair JoonBeom Pae (Weil Gotshal & Manges), Jeff Kang (Seward & Kissel), and Sahang-Hee Hahn (MassMutual Financial Group). Afterward, the Tax Committee co-hosted a Fall Conference Dinner with the Real Estate Committee.

On November 19, 2015, the Tax Committee co-hosted the AABANY Joint Committee Fall Networking Event. This event allowed members of the Tax Committee to network with members of the Real Estate Committee, Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee, and Asia Practice Committee. Hosted by Duane Morris, this event was among the first cross-networking opportunities co-hosted by these particular Committees and was extremely well-attended.

On January 19, 2016, the Tax Committee co-hosted an event with the Real Estate Committee and the Asia Practice Committee at the offices of Baker Tilly. The topic was Getting Ahead of the Inbound Curve: Business, Real Estate, and Tax Considerations for Foreign Investments in U.S. Real Estate. We enjoyed robust discussion of the key business and tax legal issues relevant to foreign inbound investment in real estate.

It has been an exciting year of development thus far for the Tax Committee. We look forward to our further development, through the activities and interests of its members, as we continue to progress into 2016.
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 April 1, 2015, our Women’s Committee and Immigration & Nationality Law Committee hosted a special Book Reading & Signing of Melissa Schneider’s The Ugly Wife is a Treasure at Home, a collection of true-as-remembered tales of the evolving love and times in China. Melissa, who moved to China two days after her own wedding, traced China’s tumultuous politics and history through interviewing many, many Chinese citizens on the most intimate details of their personal lives. During AABANY’s book reading hosted at Kinokuniya, the Japanese bookstore by Bryant Park, she shared the love lives of three people in particular: her cab driver, a man reliving his student years, and a woman the day before her wedding. The overarching lesson was that of course, love is hard in any time and that it does not exist in a cultural vacuum.

On May 26, 2015, AABANY, the Asian American Law Fund of New York, Inc. (AALFNY), and White & Case LLP presented the New York Premiere of Kicking Glass from the Boardroom to the Courtroom: Two Decades and Counting, a follow-up to a 1995 video produced by AABANY regarding the position of Asian American women in the legal profession. The New York screening of Kicking Glass attracted approximately 100 attendees and was simultaneously live-broadcast to the White & Case offices in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Miami and Tampa. First presented at the NAPABA Convention in 1995, the first Kicking Glass video explored Asian American women attorneys’ views on barriers to the highest levels of the profession, the successes they achieved, and what success meant to them. Among the issues addressed were the “Asian woman” stereotype, and how to get recognition for one’s work, parity in the workplace, and achieving a work/life balance. Headed by the AABANY Women’s Committee, the 2015 Kicking Glass video followed up on these important issues with several of the attorneys from the 1995 video as well as a new group of women and law students for their perspectives on the progress that has been made and the hurdles that remain. Following the screening, Sylvia Fung Chin, Partner at White & Case, moderated a candid panel discussion that included speakers featured in the video: Hon. Pamela Chen, United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York; Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, Appellate Term, First Department, Supreme Court of the State of New York; Sapna Palla, Partner, Wiggin and Dana LLP (AABANY Women’s Committee Co-Chair); Poojitha Rao, Principal, Rao Law LLC; Grace Shim, Executive Director, MinKwon Center for Community Action; and Helen Wan, Author, The Partner Track. The event not only brought to light the progress that has been made in the past two decades, but also how much progress there is left to make, underscoring AABANY’s role in charting those new frontiers through mentorship and advocacy.

On June 30, 2015, the Women’s Committee Kickoff Meeting was held at the Offices of Wiggin and Dana. Having won last year’s Committee of the Year award, they not only noted their success in past years, but they also discussed opportunities to carry this momentum forward by continuing their active and engaging programming with opportunities to connect, mentor or be mentored, and connect with other female attorneys in the New York area.

On July 17, 2015, in an effort to get AABANY fit for the summer, the Immigration & Nationality Law Committee, Student Outreach Committee, and Women’s Committee hosted Yoga for Lawyers, led by part-time yoga instructor and part-time lawyer Wendy Harris at YoGanesh. Wendy created a safe and warm environment to unwind from a long week as we moved through Slow Flow and Restorative Yoga. After class, we snacked on Clif Bars, Kind Bars, and water, starting our weekend off in a healthy way.

On September 13, 2015, AABANY Ran for the Cure with the Susan G. Komen Foundation in Central Park. Those running included President Will Wang; Immediate Past President Clara Ohr; Vice President of Programs and Operations Marianne Chow; Miyun Sung, Women’s Committee Co-Chair and Organizer; Jack Chen, Membership Committee Co-Chair; and Grace Lee.

On September 19, 2015, the Women’s Committee presented Kicking Glass from the Boardroom to the Courtroom: Two Decades and Counting as the Luncheon Plenary Session for the AABANY Fall Conference. See the Year-in-Review Report on page 13 for more details about the Fall Conference.
On October 21, 2015, at the 308 at 156 Art Gallery of Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP, AABANY’s Women’s Committee teamed up with Eve Guillergan and Gloria Koo of KALAGNY to host a **Networking Benefit for the New York Asian Women’s Center (NYAWC)**. A 33-year-old organization that supports women and families, NYAWC provides multilingual support programs for families from all cultural backgrounds offering shelter services, job training, and counseling. Supporters, friends, and early pioneers of the program joined us this evening. Many representatives shared the wonderful work and support provided by NYAWC for victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking. Among the speakers that evening were Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Term, 1st Department, and a Founding Member of NYAWC, who shared stories of personally picking up survivors in her own car and bringing them to a safe place. Even though organizations like NYAWC can provide support for victims, the stigma and struggle for those looking to reclaim independence are real. Attendees could make donations to NYAWC or donate their gently used interview-ready handbags. They were also encouraged to donate their time to serve this population in need.

Men were invited and more than welcome at the Women’s Committee Yoga for Lawyers. We all need to decompress once in a while.

Despite being one of the largest Committees, the Women’s Committee remains tight-knit and active. They had a rooftop reception to kick off the year.

Kicking Glass was the standout Women’s Committee event of the year, featured for both APA Heritage Month at White & Case (pictured) and as the Fall Conference Luncheon plenary session.

*Photo Credit: Karen Zhou*
YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE

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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.

This year, YLC started up its Running Club once again. On May 4, 2015 and July 16, 2015, amateur and veteran runners of AABANY took advantage of the warm weather to stretch their legs in a 3-5 mile run along the scenic Hudson River, from Battery Park to the West Side Highway. We also joined forces with the Women’s Committee and Pro Bono Committee to form an AABANY Team to participate in the 25th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Central Park on September 13, 2015.

YLC continued to co-sponsor happy hours this year. On June 17, 2015, the YLC held its Kickoff Meeting and happy hour with the Mentorship Committee at Rare Rooftop. On July 10, 2015, we held a “Get to Know AABANY” Happy Hour at the Rubin Museum of Art with the Student Outreach Committee, the Pro Bono Committee, the Real Estate Committee, and the Mentorship Committee. Attendees networked over drinks and hors d’oeuvres.

As part of the “Volunteer with AABANY” event series, YLC helped revitalize Astoria Park in Queens on July 25, 2015 and Sara D. Roosevelt Park in downtown Manhattan on October 24, 2015. YLC is planning on holding another volunteer event at Xavier Mission, a soup kitchen, sometime in February 2016.

As for YLC’s traditional annual events, on August 9, 2015, we held AABANY’s 8th Annual Picnic at Central Park, co-sponsored by the Litigation Committee and the Tax Committee. Friends and family of AABANY spent the afternoon enjoying banh mi sandwiches and tossing frisbees underneath a sunny blue sky.

On December 2, 2015, we held a Financial and Estate Planning Workshop at Ameriprise Financial Service, which was presented by Niraj Chhabra and Reshma Shah. Members learned about financial issues important to young lawyers, including student loan repayment strategies, retirement planning, family planning, tax reduction strategies, planning for aging parents, and budgeting while earning New Jersey CLE credits.

YLC co-sponsored a Networking for Lawyers Workshop on January 20, 2016. The workshop featured advice on how to prepare for, meaningfully participate, and follow up after a networking event from a diverse panel of law firm, in-house and non-practicing attorneys.

We had a fruitful year and hope to provide more career, social and networking events for young lawyers in the coming year.

The YLC spruced up Chinatown and enjoyed the spoils with a delicious dim sum brunch at Jing Fong.

The AABANY Running Club was revived this year! Will you join us in getting back in shape and running a marathon or two?
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM /

COORDINATORS
David Sohn (david.sohn@aabany.org)
Edward Kang (edward.kang@aabany.org)

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

The mission of the program is to connect mentors with mentees and provide them with the structure and opportunities to support professional growth and development. When matching mentors with mentees, the program focuses on personal interests and hobbies, in addition to practice areas, in order to facilitate long-lasting relationships that are compatible both personally and professionally. Paired-up mentors and mentees connected on their own as well as at a variety of AABANY events.

On June 17, 2015, the Mentorship Program held a Happy Hour in conjunction with the Young Lawyers Committee at Rare Rooftop, providing a chance for mentors and mentees to get together. Attendees also were able to meet Edward Kang and David Sohn, Co-Coordinators of the Mentorship Program for 2015-16.

On July 10, 2015, the Mentorship Program, with the Student Outreach, Young Lawyers, Pro Bono, and Real Estate Committees, held a Mid-Summer Happy Hour at the Rubin Museum of Art, as part of the Get-to-Know AABANY series. Mentees had an opportunity to catch up with their mentors and network with fellow colleagues. Attendees included those who were interested in learning more about the Mentorship Program and from participants in this year’s program. The opening of registration for the 2015-16 Mentorship Program was also announced during the event.

On August 20, 2015, AABANY hosted its End-of-Summer Happy Hour at the Ainsworth Park, organized by the Mentorship Program. The event was attended by around 40 people, and was an opportunity to learn about the 2015-2016 Mentorship Program as well as the Fall Conference.

The 2015-16 Mentorship Program was launched at AABANY’s Fall Conference, where mentors and mentees from the previous program years were able to reconnect and those from this program year were able to meet and introduce each other.

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.
HOLIDAY 2015
• Sixth Annual Fall Conference a Success
• Letter from President Will Wang
• AABANY Co-Sponsors Screening of SHSAT Documentary
• Review of ‘Racial Diversity in Casting: Changing the Game’
• AABANY Third Quarter 2015 Review
• Sponsor Spotlight: Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

FALL 2015
• Letter from President Will Wang
• Profile on Parkin Lee: Charting New Frontiers in the C-Suite
• Auction, Artifacts, & George Takei: Preserving a Part of Japanese-American History Through ADR
• AABANY Second Quarter Review 2015
• Auction, Artifacts, & George Takei: Preserving a Part of Japanese-American History Through ADR

SUMMER 2015
• 2015 Fall Conference Sneak Peek
• Obergefell v. Hodges: A Victory for Asian Pacific Americans
• Letter from Pres. Will Wang
• Launch of U-Visa Pro Bono Program a Success
• APA Heritage Month Recap

SPRING 2015
• AABANY Annual Dinner
• Letter from the President - 800 Years of Magna Carta: Fundamental Liberties Must be Protected
• Diverse Group of Judges Sworn in by Mayor
• AABANY Trial Re-enactment Team Performs at the New-York Historical Society
• First Quarter 2015 Review
• Sponsor Spotlight: Summit Financial Printing

WINTER 2015
• Profile: Glenn Magpantay: Giving Voice to the Voiceless
• Switching Tracks: Alternative Careers for Lawyers
• Profile: Lawyer and Filmmaker Steven De Castro Tells the Story of Fred Ho’s Last Year
• Fourth Quarter 2014 Review
• Sponsor Spotlight: Planet Data
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Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Thanks to those who led AABANY in Charting New Frontiers.

From left to right, Directors and Officers present at the 2015 Annual Dinner: Clara Ohr, Naf Kwun, James Chou, James Lin, Margaret Ling, William Ng, Irene Tan, Pauline Yeung-Ha, Francis Chin, Jane Chuang, Christina Lee, Bobby Liu, Susan Shin, Linda Lin, William Wang, Karen Lim, Marianne Chow, Ligee Gu, Yang Chen, and Jean Lee. Photo Credit: Karen Zhou

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