

President-Elect Candidate Statement for Jin Y. Hwang

My name is Jin Hwang, and I am honored to be nominated and would like to serve as APALA/NJ's President-Elect for 2009-2010.

I have been a committed officer and member of APALA/NJ since 2006. It is a marvelous organization that has been making great strides in increasing its positive visibility within the Asian-American legal community, both with attorneys and law school students, and beyond. I am the current Vice-President and chair of the Public Affairs Committee, was previously the Treasurer, and have been a co-chair of the revitalized Professional Development Committee for over the past two years. Further, I was also an integral member of the 2007 NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference Planning Committee as well as co-chair of the Program Committee.

In addition, I have been a dedicated member of all four APALA/NJ Annual Golf Outing Committees, including this year's outing to take place at the Ballyowen Golf Course on August 10, 2009, where I hope to see innumerable golf aficionados and novices alike. Events like this foster an informal atmosphere for attorneys to network with potential and current clients as well as with attorneys within APALA/NJ, other specialty bars, or in general. This type of event is structured to help increase funds so that APALA/NJ can, among other things, continue to sponsor members to attend various functions as representatives of APALA/NJ, subsidize Professional Development seminars, and donate money to charities or non-profits such as the Red Cross last year after the earthquakes in China or the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund the previous year.

When I am not working on APALA/NJ matters and events, I am in-house counsel with a national wireless company with offices in Morristown.

I envision APALA/NJ continuing to be vocal about issues important to the Asian-American community, either on its own or in conjunction with other organizations like AALDEF and NAPABA, such as responding to Texas State Rep. Betty Brown's recent offensive comments. I also want APALA/NJ to continue its work in nominating successful Asian American candidates for judgeships. Our bench should accurately reflect the large population of Asian Americans and Asian American lawyers in New Jersey because we have a very talented pool of attorneys, justice should be blind, and it is the right thing to do.

I continue to be open to members' recommendations regarding future events, policy stances on various issues affecting the Asian-American community and the legal community, and hope to have more events that are held in conjunction with other bars (specialty or otherwise) in New Jersey or those in our sister states. Building lasting bridges within not only the Asian but also larger legal community is crucial in having our voice heard and engendering change.

In close, I would consider it a privilege to serve and request your strong support to become APALA/NJ's President-Elect for 2009-2010.