

## 2009 YEAR END REPORT TO APALA/NJ MEMBERS

*Happy Holidays!* As we close out 2009, the APALA/NJ Board would like to highlight the work we were able to accomplish together as an organization this past year and some of the exciting things we have in store for 2010.

***New APALA/NJ Office.*** With the generous assistance of our benefactors, we have secured and begun to use our beautiful, new donated office space in central Newark. These facilities, which include a private office with dedicated phone line and access to shared conference rooms, are now available to APALA/NJ committees and members for meetings, and serves as a central location for our management of vital, historical APALA/NJ records.

***Financial Records and 501(c)(6) Status.*** To create greater transparency and efficiency in our finances, we have formed a Finance Committee, computerized our financial records, partnered with a new bank, HSBC, and retained new accountants, Acevedo & Pereira. Through these steps, we have completed comprehensive audits of our 2007 and 2008 finances and are presently finalizing 2009. Once completed, we will be able to prepare year-end financial statements for 2007-2009 that will support our application for 501(c)(6) status, which we intend to file in early 2010.

***Charitable Organization Status.*** We have initiated the process to establish a separate, charitable arm that will qualify for 501(c)(3) status. We have retained pro bono counsel to assist with this process, are working to revise our existing By-Laws as needed, and are preparing the required projected budgets (3 years) to support 501(c)(3) status for our new APALA/NJ "Foundation". We envision the new entity will be formed and operational in 2010, and will allow us to enhance our ability to raise funds to support the charitable and educational aspects of our mission.

***Programming.*** We continued the tradition of successful programs like our Lunar Banquet, Golf Outing, Annual Dinner, Mock Interview Workshop, Corporate Counsel event, and other seminars and networking events. Please check out photos from past events on our website! We also began a terrific, new tradition, collaborating with our sister specialty bars, including the NJSBA Diversity Committee, the GSBA, the HBA, the ABWL and SABA-NJ, on the well-attended "Pathways to the State Judiciary" panel. (See NJ Law Journal Article, week of December 3, 2009)

***Policy.*** We continued to work with the Governor's Office and Legislature to advocate for greater representation in our State's judiciary and in other government positions. (See Editorial by APALA/NJ President in NJ Law Journal, week of August 17, 2009) We recognize there is much more work to be done, but are proud of the advancements made by APAs this year, including: Chinh Le, Director of the NJ Div. on Civil Rights; Terry Yang, Workers Compensation Judge; Mala Narayan, Tax Court Judge; and Gurpreet Singh, Chief of Staff for the NJ Attorney General.

***Community Service.*** Continuing our strong tradition of supporting the broader APA communities, APALA/NJ honored Manavi ([www.manavi.org](http://www.manavi.org)) at our Golf Outing and presented Manavi with a \$1,500 donation to support its important mission. APALA/NJ was also on the forefront of the NJ legal community's collaborative efforts to build a statue honoring Justice Brennan - one of the nation and State's most prominent jurists.

***2010 Northeast Regional.*** We are pleased to have been selected to host the 2010 NAPABA Northeast Regional, which we will host at the beautiful Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick, NJ ([www.TheHeldrich.com](http://www.TheHeldrich.com)) from Friday June 11, 2010 through Sunday, June 12, 2010. We will be counting on assistance from all of you in order to make this event a success!

***Website Improvements - Membership and Attorney Referral Directories.*** We have made improvements to our website, including the creation of an improved on-line membership form, new on-line membership directory, and our new on-line Attorney Referral Directory which will be launched January 1, 2010.

***Looking Ahead.*** We have so much planned for 2010! Our kick-off membership drive event will be on Thursday, January 21, 2010. Please save the date! Keep an eye out for upcoming APALA e-mails and in the NJ Law Journal in January for key events and dates, and over the next few weeks, check out our website for the details.

David Kwon  
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