

# APALA/NJ Newsletter

Vol. 1 – December 2010/January 2011

ANEY CHANDY *President* • SAPANA SHAH *President Elect* • ERIC FIKRY *Vice President* • PAUL YOON *Treasurer* • ERIC WONG *Secretary*

## Message from APALA/NJ President ➔



**Aney Chandy**

APALA/NJ PRESIDENT, 2010-2011

*Editor, Volume 1 of APALA/NJ Newsletter*

### Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Welcome to our very first issue of the APALA/NJ Newsletter.

If we envision greatness, we will achieve it.

Every Executive Board, since APALA/NJ was formed in 1985, has worked diligently to advance and promote APALA/NJ's mission and its members. The 2010-2011 Executive Board hopes that the creation of this newsletter gives us the opportunity to highlight the tremendous achievements of our members and our organization.

We hope that you enjoy this first installment of our newsletter and we hope that as we continue to develop this newsletter, you will volunteer to submit articles for publication, information regarding notable community events, and/or relevant announcements relating to our members in the legal profession.

In 2011, APALA/NJ will continue to focus on serving the needs of our members. As indicated in the "Looking Ahead" section of this newsletter, APALA will be initiating fresh programming, including programs to assist us in fulfilling NJ's new Continuing Legal Education requirements and opportunities to serve the greater APA community.

APALA/NJ is successful because of its robust and active membership. Please periodically log onto our website at [www.apalanj.com](http://www.apalanj.com) for information regarding upcoming events.

Do you have a comment or suggestion or do you want to contribute to the next edition of our newsletter?  
E-mail [apalapres@gmail.com](mailto:apalapres@gmail.com).

### *In the Spotlight:*

APALA/NJ member columnist, Khizar Sheikh, sits down with Judge Sue Pai Yang, Workers' Compensation Judge and Co-Founder of APALA/NJ. —pg. 7



## APALA/NJ *After Hours* ➔

The second half of 2010 was as fun and active as the first half of our year!

After a tremendously successful Northeast Regional Conference, APALA/NJ continued to host numerous events and activities to serve our members in the second half of 2010.



### ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

On Thursday, August 12, 2010, the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey hosted its 5th Annual APALA/NJ Golf Classic & Dinner. More than 70 golfers braved some stormy weather and played a round at the beautiful Wild Turkey Golf Club of The Crystal Springs Resorts, Hamburg, New Jersey, and another 35 members and friends joined us for dinner at the Club. After a great meal, we held an exciting live auction where, thanks to our sponsors, APALA/NJ auctioned off prizes ranging from a Wii to luxury box seats at the new Meadowlands Stadium. This year's Classic was a great success. Best of all, APALA/NJ donated half of the proceeds from the Classic to the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund ("AALDEF").



### MOCK INTERVIEW WORKSHOPS

APALA/NJ hosted 2 mock interview workshops for law students. The first was held on August 2, 2010 at Rutgers Law School in Camden, NJ and the second was held on September 7, 2010 at the Genova Burns & Giantomasi law firm in Newark, NJ. A total of approximately 30 students attended these events, which included a power point presentation on interviewing tips and mock interviews with practicing attorney members of APALA/NJ.

### APALA/NJ CO-HOSTS CHINESE JURISTS

On September 24, APALA/NJ partnered with APALA/NJ Past President **Judge Sue Pai Yang** and the National Association of Women Judges to host a dinner at Don Pepe's, Newark, NJ for a judicial delegation from Zhenjiang Province, China. The delegation was led by **Justice Shenyuan Zhu**, Vice President of the High People's Court of Zhejiang.



### FALL NETWORKING EVENT

The APALA/NJ Fall Networking Event took place on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 (5:30 - 8:00 p.m.). The event was held at Cork Restaurant, 90 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, New Jersey ([www.corknj.com](http://www.corknj.com)). APALA/NJ member, Kevin Lau of Greer Scocca & Lau was a sponsor of this event and made a donation to the APALA/NJ Scholarship Fund. All proceeds from this event have been designated for the APALA/NJ Scholarship Fund.



**PATHWAYS TO THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY**

On October 20, 2010, APALA/NJ co-hosted the Pathways to the Federal Judiciary event with six other specialty bar associations, including the South Asian Bar Association, the Garden State Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, the Muslim Bar Association, the Association of Black Women Lawyers, and the NJ State Bar Association (Diversity Committee). The panel discussion, moderated by **John Lacey**, President of the Federal Bar Association, focused on the appointment and confirmation process of a federal judicial candidate. The distinguished panelists included **Judge Julio M. Fuentes** (United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals), **Magistrate Judge Karen Williams** (District of New Jersey) and **Gailon McGowen**, Former Legal Counsel to Senator Bradley. The panel discussion was held at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Participants in the event received CLE credits. The host committee of specialty bar associations were also presented with a bust of former Supreme Court Justice Brennan for their collective efforts in raising money for the statue honoring Justice Brennan that has been erected at the



**DIWALI EVENT**

On November 4, 2010, APALA/NJ co-sponsored a Diwali Event at the Sumei Multidisciplinary Arts Center, 85 Hamilton Street Floor 1, Newark, NJ from 5:30pm to 11pm. The five day festival of Diwali occurs on the new moon between October 13 and November 14. In Hinduism, across many parts of India and Nepal, it is the homecoming of Rama after a 14-year exile in the forest and his victory over the Ravana. In the legend, the people of Ayodhya (the capital of his kingdom) welcomed Rama by lighting rows (avali) of lamps (dipa), thus its name: dipawali.



*If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one.*  
—Mother Teresa

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE EVENTS**

During the month of November, APALA/NJ partnered with the APA law student organizations at our NJ law schools as well as the other specialty bar associations to do a number of service events throughout the state of NJ, including serving at Soup Kitchens. In addition to donating goods to local shelters throughout the State, members had the opportunity to volunteer in following service days:

- **Saturday, November 20, 2010 (12 to 3pm)**  
Volunteers assembled sandwiches at Rutgers Law School in Newark. The sandwiches were then distributed to needy members of the community through the Hoboken Shelter, Hoboken, NJ.
- **Saturday, November 20, 2010 (2 to 5pm)**  
Volunteers helped prepare a Thanksgiving feast and serve dinner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church located at 422 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey.

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY MIXER HOSTED BY HSBC FOR APALA/NJ**

On December 2, 2010, HSBC hosts a holiday mixer for APALA/NJ members at Spring Street Caffe e Trattoria in New Brunswick, NJ (6 to 8:30pm).



**REMEMBER**  
Renew your APALA/NJ membership for 2011 and check out our refreshed website after January 3, 2011.

## APALA/NJ Honors



### ED KIEL GETS TRAILBLAZER AWARD AT THE NATIONAL NAPABA CONFERENCE IN LOS ANGELES, CA

**Ed Kiel**, a partner at Cole Schotz Miesel Forman & Leonard, received this award for his outstanding *pro bono* assistance to the APA community.



### PAST PRESIDENT JUDGE SUE PAI YANG

**Judge Sue Pai Yang** is named as the Chair for the National Association of Women Judges Conference to be held in Newark, NJ in October 2011.



### JIN HWANG NAMED NORTHEAST REGIONAL GOVERNOR

The APALA/NJ Executive Board submitted APALA/NJ Member, **Jin Hwang**, to serve as the Northeast Regional Governor for the 2010-2012 term.



### ANEY CHANDY NAMED TO NAPABA'S 2010 "BEST LAWYERS UNDER 40" LIST

**Aney Chandy** has also been named the Co-Chair of NAPABA's BU40 Committee.

### APALA/NJ MEMBERS NAMED IN THE NJ LAW JOURNAL'S "FORTY UNDER FORTY"

In 2010, two APALA/NJ attorneys were named in the New Jersey Law Journal's special publication — "Forty Under Forty":



Henry Chou



Eric Fikry

Last year, three APALA/NJ attorneys were named in the New Jersey Law Journal's special publication — "Forty Under Forty":



Alka Bahal



David Kwon



Haekyoung Suh

# Diverse Attributes

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*Wishing all APALA-NJ members a  
wonderful holiday season!*

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Email: [anish.a.joshi@verizon.net](mailto:anish.a.joshi@verizon.net)  
Phone: 732-545-9600 Fax: 732-545-9772

## APALA/NJ Serves: Pay It Forward ➔

On November 5, 2010, we conducted the first organizational Board of Trustees meeting for the APALA/NJ Foundation, which has been organized to serve exclusively for charitable, literary and educational purposes pursuant to IRS Code 501(c)(3).



As such, once our 501(c)(3) application is approved, contributions made to the Foundation will be exempt from federal income tax. The Corporation shall support and benefit APALA/NJ by, among other things, soliciting, receiving, holding (either absolutely or in trust as a trustee), investing and managing gifts, grants, contributions and bequests which are intended to benefit the long-term goals, purposes and objectives of APALA/NJ, and by managing an endowment fund for the benefit of APALA/NJ. The APALA/NJ Foundation's premier activity will be to create and support the APALA/NJ Scholarship Fund.

### APALA/NJ FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

**Cliff Birge, Ronald Chen, Lora Fong, Frank Giantomasi, Gurbir Grewal, Eugene Huang, Moly Hung, Jin Hwang, Edward Kiel, Sumana Mitra, Jong Sook Nee, Rajiv Parikh, Mamta Patel, Michele Wu, David Kwon** (*Ex Officio Trustee* — Immediate Past President of APALA/NJ), **Aney Chandy** (*Ex Officio Trustee* — President of APALA/NJ), **Sapana Shah** (*Ex Officio Trustee* — President Elect of APALA/NJ)

### APALA/NJ FOUNDATION



**Ronald Chen**  
PRESIDENT



**Michele Wu**  
PRESIDENT ELECT



**David Kwon**  
TREASURER



**Raj Parikh**  
SECRETARY



**Moly Hung**

### DONATE TO APALA/NJ FOUNDATION

After our 501(c)(3) application is approved, you will be able to make a tax deductible charitable donation to the APALA/NJ Foundation by logging on to the APALA/NJ Foundation webpage at [www.apalanj.com](http://www.apalanj.com).

### APALA/NJ FOUNDATION DIRECTOR OF GIVING AND RELATIONSHIPS

*The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.*

—Nelson Henderson

## In the Spotlight: Judge Sue Pai Yang

By Khizar Sheikh

**Judge Sue Pai Yang** — WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE

*Judge Yang was APALA/NJ's first president, New Jersey's third Asian-American judge, and New Jersey's first Workers' Compensation judge. As she gears up as Chair of the October 2011 National Association of Women Judges National Conference in Newark, New Jersey, I had the privilege of catching up with her for a few minutes over green tea and Chinese pastries.*



**KS: When were you appointed as a Judge, and what kinds of cases do you hear?**

JY: I was appointed as a Workers' Compensation Judge in 2002. I hear cases involving workplace injuries.

**KS: Did you always want to become a Judge?**

JY: My interest in becoming a judge came about gradually. Judge Marilyn Loftus, then of the Essex County Superior Court, Law Division, offered me the opportunity to closely observe the role of a judge as her law clerk. Then after serving as a Deputy Attorney General for five years, founding and managing my own practice for ten years with two associates, and being very involved with township, county, state and national politics, I expressed my interest and was invited to serve.

**KS: There were not many APA judges when you graduated.**

JY: There were none in New Jersey. Working together to be recognized was one of the main reasons why a handful of us formed APALA/NJ over two decades ago. Our first meeting was at a Chinese restaurant in Livingston. Five attorneys showed up. I am amazed at the growth of the organization today.

**KS: What were some of the issues that the APA legal community faced at the time of APALA/NJ's founding?**

JY: Finding jobs was the major issue. Law firms were not used to hiring Asian Americans. Judge Loftus encouraged me to go to the Attorney General's office instead of immediately starting my own practice.

Another issue was having representation in the mainstream bar. We sought to be represented on the Board of Trustees of New Jersey State Bar Association when I was Chair of the Minorities in the Profession Committee of the NJSBA. It may surprise people today that inclusion was a contentious issue at that time. The controversy landed me on the front page of the NJ Law Journal. We and others prevailed. I became the first Asian American to serve in one of two of the newly designated at-large board seats.

**KS: That seems to dovetail with your experience as an activist prior to your going to law school.**

JY: Yes. My husband and I founded the New Jersey Chapter of the Pacific Asian Coalition and we did a lot of organizing. Identifying ourselves as Asian Americans was a new concept in the 1970s.

**KS: In your view, what are some of the main issues surrounding the APA attorney community today?**

JY: An issue today is pushing our boundary of possibilities; i.e., inclusion at the highest levels of the judiciary, government service and the largest law firms. I just returned from the National Association of Women Judges' Conference in San Francisco and met their next Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court — an Asian American. I also met other Asian Americans who serve on California's Federal District Court, Superior Court and Administrative Law Court. These levels of success will also become realities for us here in New Jersey if we continue to work hard and together.

**KS: Both of your daughters are attorneys.**

JY: Yes, Jenny is a partner in a Washington D.C. law firm representing plaintiffs on class-action employment law litigation. Arlene lives in New Jersey and just returned to the law after a hiatus to raise two children. She now works for Homeland Security.

**KS: Thank you very much for spending some time with me today.**

JY: It was my pleasure.



**Khizar Sheikh, Esq.**  
LOWENSTEIN SANDLER

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 20, 2011

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**NEW MEMBER & MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT**  
Thursday, January 20, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30pm

- » **FREE** for Members who Renew Membership for 2011 (includes food and one free drink)!
- » Non-Active 2011 Members: \$20 Cover (includes food and one free drink)!

## APALA/NJ 2010 Members on the Move 📍

- 01 **Phil Kwon** became the First Assistant Attorney General in the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety.
- 02 **Hany Mawla** became a NJ Superior Court Judge.
- 03 APALA/NJ President-Elect, **Sapana Shah**, opened up her new office — Law Offices of Sapana Shah — located at 895 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City, NJ.
- 04 **Grace Park** became Senior Corporate Counsel, Litigation at Pfizer in Madison, NJ.
- 05 APALA/NJ Secretary, **Eric Wong**, became an associate at Greenberg Traurig in Florham Park, NJ.
- 06 **Francis Giantomasi** became a named partner of the newly formed Genova Burns Giantomasi law firm in Newark, NJ.
- 07 **Michael Yap** was promoted to Chief Legal Officer of International Investments at Prudential.
- 08 **Melissa Longo** was appointed to serve as the First Assistant Corporation Counsel, City of Hoboken, NJ.
- 09 **Gurbir Grewal** became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of NJ.



01



02



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# The Do's and Don'ts of Interviewing

In August and September 2010, APALA/NJ hosted mock interview workshops for law students and recent graduates. The workshops were a great success and provided students and recent grads with valuable tools as they enter the competitive job market.

For those of you who weren't able to make it, below is a summary of some interviewing do's and don'ts!

## DO

### BE PREPARED!

- Learn about the firm or company.
- Understand the requirements of the position that you are seeking.
- Review your qualifications for the job.
- Practice interviewing.
- Prepare for the interview with the same commitment that you prepare for an exam.

### BE MINDFUL OF YOUR PERSONAL APPEARANCE:

- Be well groomed. No stains or sloppy clothes.
- Dress appropriately. You must wear a suit!
- You must wear socks or hosiery.
- It is better to err on the side of being too conservative.

### BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

- Tell me about yourself. BE CONCISE!
- What do you know about our firm/company?
- Why should we hire you?
- Why do you want to work here?
- Can you work well under deadlines or pressure?
- What other positions are you considering?
- What are your strengths?
- What are your weaknesses?
- How are you doing in law school?

- Have you ever worked in a law firm/company before?
- Tell us about your prior experience?
- What kind of hours are you used to working or do you expect to work?
- Do you have any questions for me?

### AT THE INTERVIEW:

- Be early.
- Learn the name of your interviewer and greet him/her with a firm handshake.
- Use good manners with EVERYONE you meet.
- Relax and answer each question concisely.
- Use proper English – avoid slang.
- Be positive, enthusiastic and a team player.
- Avoid negative comments about past employers.
- Use body language to show interest – eye contact, no slouching.
- Listen.
- Speak clearly.
- Have examples.
- Admit not knowing.
- Relate answers to career.
- Take notes.
- Don't memorize answers to questions.

## DON'T

- Chew gum, smoke or bring your own cup of coffee into an interview.
- Wear open toe shoes.
- Ask if you have the job.
- Answer what you want instead of what is asked.
- Overtalk or undertalk.
- Make assumptions.
- Interrupt.
- Question your own answers.
- Guess or make up answers.
- Be negative.
- Send unrelated thank you's.
- Use the wrong names or company name in correspondence or conversation.

### Closing the Interview



Do not ask questions about salary and benefits unless a job offer is made.



Thank the interviewer when you leave, make eye contact and shake hands.



Send a short thank you note following the interview.

## APALA/NJ 2010: *The Year in Review* ↻

With the collective support of all of our members, committees and officers, 2010 was an exciting and productive year for APALA/NJ!



JUNE (cont'd)

- The Gala Dinner featured Lt. Governor **Kim Gaudagno** (NJ) and Honorees: **Philip Kwon**, NJ First Assistant Attorney General; **Preet Bharara**, U.S. Attorney for the SDNY; **Paul Uyehara**, U.S. Department of Justice (Civil Rights); **Sandra Leung**, General Counsel of Bristol-Myers Squibb and **Marc Berson**, Chairman of the Fidelco Group.
- We unveiled our first annual APALA/NJ Scholarship Program, which awards \$1000 scholarships to three deserving students from Rutgers Newark, Rutgers Camden and Seton Hall Law Schools. The 2010 Awardees were: **Jae Won Joo** (Seton Hall Law School), **Jack Hwang** (Rutgers Newark Law School) and **Jacquie Huynh-Linenberg** (Rutgers Camden Law School). In addition, we also made a donation to the NAPABA Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$2000.



APALA/NJ held the first of two mock interview workshops for students at Rutgers Law School (Camden). Students learned invaluable interviewing skills that prepared them for the upcoming interview season.

The August 12th Annual Golf Outing was a tremendous success with over 70 golfers and an additional 35 attendees at the dinner at the Crystal Springs Resort in Hamburg, NJ. As a result of the diligent efforts of the Golf Committee, we were able to make a donation of half the proceeds of this event to ALDEEF.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

APALA/NJ hosted the second mock interview workshop for students at the law firm of Genova Burns & Giantomasi in Newark, NJ. Students learned invaluable interviewing skills that prepared them for the upcoming interview season.

APALA/NJ co-sponsored and coordinated the Pathways to the Federal Judiciary program with 6 other NJ specialty bar associations. Numerous dignitaries, including federal judges and Senate staff, participated in this informative panel.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

APALA/NJ partnered with other specialty bar associations to participate in service events during the Thanksgiving season.

On December 2, 2010, HSBC hosted a holiday mixer for APALA/NJ members at Spring Street Caffè e Trattoria in New Brunswick, NJ.

DECEMBER





 *Save the Date*

# APALA/NJ Annual Dinner & Installation of Officers

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011 at 6PM at the HELDRICH HOTEL, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW

## *Special Guest*

TBA

## *Honorees*

Trailblazer Award — **Kevin O'Toole, Esq. (NJ State Senator)**

Corporate Counsel Award — **TBA**

Professional Achievement Award — **TBA**

APALA/NJ PRESENTS THE APALA/NJ FOUNDATION CHARITY CASINO NIGHT at 9PM

**APALA**  
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## Gold Members ➔

Mark Ali  
Cliff Birge  
Paul Chan  
Aney Chandy  
Peter Chen  
Sunil Garg  
Francis Giantomasi  
Eugene Huang

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Gary Pasricha  
Mamta Patel  
Parag Patel  
Khizar Sheikh  
Kin-wah Tong  
Peter Suzuki  
Phong Tran



## Become an APALA/NJ Member or Renew Your Membership in 2011! ➔

### Our 2011 Annual Renewal and New Member Membership Drive starts on January 1, 2011.

Join or renew your membership now and your membership is good for the entire 2011 calendar year until December 31, 2011. Membership must be renewed on an annual basis. Just log onto our website at [www.apalanj.com](http://www.apalanj.com) to renew or become a member!

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding APALA/NJ membership, please contact [apalapres2@gmail.com](mailto:apalapres2@gmail.com).

**New!**

#### LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Beginning in January 2011, for only \$1,000 you can become a lifetime member. Benefits include all the benefits of Regular and Gold membership, special recognition in APALA/NJ publications and at events, and you will never have to renew your membership

#### BENEFITS OF REGULAR MEMBERSHIP ONLY \$40 PER CALENDAR YEAR!

- Support the infrastructure of the Organization that works hard to serve YOU!
- Access our new on-line Membership Directory and our new Attorney Referral Directory.
- Automatic membership in the National Asian and Pacific American Bar Association with all of the attendant benefits of NAPABA membership.
- Eligible to be nominated by APALA/NJ for positions on judicial committees and other bar association committees.
- Preferential rates for certain APALA/NJ events.
- Get direct e-mail notices of job opportunities.
- Participation in APALA/NJ committees to further the mission of the organization.

#### BENEFITS OF GOLD MEMBERSHIP - \$200 PER CALENDAR YEAR!

- Get all the benefits of Regular Membership +
- Receive special recognition at APALA/NJ events.
- Receive priority in limited capacity events.
- Have your firm advertisement posted on our Attorney Referral Directory for FREE for the year of Gold Membership.

Are you interested in becoming more actively involved in APALA/NJ?

#### DO YOU WANT TO JOIN AN APALA/NJ COMMITTEE?

Log onto the Committees page of our website at [www.apalanj.com](http://www.apalanj.com) to find out the names and contact information for all of our committee chairs. Reach out to the committee chair of the committee that you are interested in serving. We need your help!

## APALA/NJ 2011: *Looking Ahead* ➔

