

ANDREW SARROL

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Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy for President-Elect of APALA-NJ for the 2018-2019 term. During the 2017-2018 term, I had the pleasure of serving as APALA-NJ's Secretary. I previously organized the Annual Holiday Party and served on various APALA-NJ committees, including the Young Lawyers Committee, Gala Committee, and Golf Outing Committee. Additionally, I represent APALA-NJ as a delegate to the NJ State Bar Association's Diversity Committee.

I am a Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Law and Public Safety's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. I graduated from the College of New Jersey and Seton Hall University School of Law. Following law school, I clerked for the Honorable Lisa F. Chrystal in Union County. I then practiced medical malpractice defense in Princeton before joining the Office of the Attorney General.

As President-Elect, I intend to focus on expanding our membership, engaging with the APA community, and developing a mentoring program.

Membership

As President-Elect, I will work to improve our membership numbers. Over the last several years, I have had the opportunity to meet many talented members of our organization. Those members have included judges, partners of multi-national law firms, government leaders, successful solo practitioners, and influential corporate counsel. APALA-NJ's membership runs deep within the New Jersey legal landscape. But we can do better. A broader member base will provide us with greater influence and resources to achieve our goals. To improve our membership numbers, I intend to set quarterly membership targets, promote the benefits of APALA-NJ membership to law firm and government diversity officers, and market APALA-NJ Associate membership to professionals in related industries.

Community Engagement

I also pledge to increase APALA-NJ's presence within the APA community at large. Over the last year, we have made strides in this area by participating in events with the Asian American Real Estate Association of NJ and the Korean Community Center of Greater Princeton. We should continue to nurture these relationships and expand our reach into other organizations. I intend to create a database of APA groups and initiate a series of community workshops focused on practical legal necessities like estate planning and real estate, as well as timely legal issues like immigration and interactions with law enforcement.

Mentorship

At last year's Gala, we had the honor of hearing from California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin H. Liu, author of the Portrait Project, a two-year study of APA standing within the legal profession. The study found that lack of mentorship was a major barrier to APA career advancement. Therefore, I intend to create a mentorship program for law students and new lawyers. Given the success of our prior mock interview workshops, we could extend them into a more formalized mentorship program.

Beyond these three focus areas, I will begin preparations for APALA-NJ to host the NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference in 2020. This will be an opportunity to showcase the strength of our organization and the talents of our members. Our members will be able to network with attorneys throughout the region, participate in CLE panels, and contribute to the national conversation about APA issues.

It would be an honor to serve as President-Elect of APALA-NJ. This organization has done tremendous work to promote the APA community, and I would like to contribute to its continuing success. Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve.