

Janice V. Arellano

Candidate Statement for Director of APALA-NJ 2018-2019

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Dear APALA-NJ:

Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy for a Director position during the 2018-2019 bar year. I am a Litigation Associate at Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. in Bridgewater, NJ. I previously worked at an insurance defense firm in Edison, NJ.

As a daughter of an Ecuadorian father and Filipina mother, I am the product of 1965 immigration laws and family reunification systems. Since that time, I have seen the Asian-Pacific-American community thrive but I have also witnessed the many barriers our communities face on a daily basis. My commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession is one of the many reasons I am seeking to pursue a position this year on the Board. Since law school, I have participated in the American Bar Association Section of Litigation's Minority Trial Lawyer Committee and currently serve as co-chair. I have benefited from both the William M. Marutani Fellowship program of the Asian-Pacific American Lawyers Association of Pennsylvania (APABA-PA) and the scholarship fund of the Hispanic Bar Association of PA (HBA-PA) while I was a student at Temple Law. Since moving back to my home state of NJ during my clerkship year, I have become familiar with the APALA-NJ organization by attending and participating in the Mock Interview programs, mixers with other affinity bar associations, the annual Lunar Banquet, Diwali Banquet and annual Galas.

This year, I have been fortunate to serve on the Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee (JPAC) for APALA-NJ. I believe that endorsing highly qualified candidates through JPAC would help the APA community gain much needed visibility in the public sector. As a Director of the APALA-NJ, it is my hope to do more community outreach and educate the community about key legal issues which impact them but also to empower APA citizens of NJ to not be afraid to utilize our legal system when needed. I believe that great work cannot be done alone, so it is also my hope to help APALA-NJ continue to collaborate with other state, local and affinity bar associations to provide excellent events and programming.

It would be an honor to serve as a Board member of APALA-NJ. Thank you for your time and consideration.