

# BO HAN

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Dear APALA-NJ Members:

Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy for Secretary of APALA-NJ for the 2019-2020 term.

During the 2018-2019 term, I have proudly served as Co-Chair of the APALA-NJ In-House Committee. As APALA-NJ members, we know that lack of mentorship and professional networks are major barriers to career advancement in the Asian-Pacific American (“APA”) community. During this term, I worked with my Co-Chairs to spearhead a unique networking event for in-house and outside counsel at Grounds for Sculpture. This event allowed for members of the APA community to network in a relaxed setting while enjoying a curated tour of sculptures by a celebrated Japanese artist. Our In-House Committee is also organizing a fireside chat with a panel of accomplished APA in-house attorneys in April 2019. In addition, I served as a panelist at APALA-NJ’s South Jersey Mock Interview Workshop at Rutgers Law School organized by the Professional Development Committee. This successful workshop allowed law students to practice interviewing while receiving real-time feedback from practicing attorneys.

I would be honored to serve as Secretary of APALA-NJ to help further our mission of ensuring greater representation of APA attorneys in various sectors of the legal profession. My passion for diversity and inclusion stems from my personal background. I immigrated from Taiyuan, China to North Carolina when I was seven years old, and was reunited with my parents who had immigrated a couple years before me. My family and I experienced the difficulties of assimilating into a new culture and of overcoming those difficulties in pursuit of the American dream. During my time at New York University School of Law, I promoted APA interests as Co-Chair of the Symposium/Korematsu Lecture Committee of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. After law school, from 2010-2017, I began my legal career at WilmerHale LLP in Boston, MA, where I focused on patent prosecution, counseling, and litigation in the life sciences and biotechnology space. At WilmerHale, I maintained an active *pro bono* practice, and successfully represented several political asylum seekers in front of the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. I am currently Senior Counsel in the Intellectual Property Department at Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) in Princeton, NJ, where I handle the full scope of global biopharmaceutical patent issues. At BMS, I look forward to serving as a mentor in our Law Department Diversity & Inclusion Summer Internship Program.

Throughout my time in-house and in private practice, I have been passionate about advocating for diversity and inclusion, including for the APA community. I am excited about the opportunity to serve as Secretary of APALA-NJ, and to continue the success of APALA-NJ in promoting APA interests. Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,



Bo Han