

Janice V. Arellano
Candidate Statement for Director of APALA-NJ 2019-2020
(908) 252-4341
jvarellano@norris-law.com

APALA-NJ Members:

My name is Janice Arellano and I am a Litigation Associate at Norris McLaughlin in Bridgewater, NJ. Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy for a Director position during the 2019-2020 bar year. I served as director of APALA-NJ last year and thoroughly enjoyed my first year on the board. I have been able to reflect on my experience and evaluate my prospective goals for the next bar year.

As a Director, I had the privilege of working alongside fellow Board members under Jack Chan's leadership. We increased visibility and awareness regarding issues concerning the Asian-Pacific-American "APA" community, both inside and outside the legal profession. We supported APA judges who earned diversity awards through the New Jersey State Bar Association, developed programming to engage our future bar leaders by holding many events with law students, and collaborated with other bar associations. Last year, I assisted the Board with the annual Gala, annual Holiday Party, participated as a member of the APALA-NJ JPAC, and served as an APALA delegate to the Supreme Court Committee for Women in the Courts.

According to the American Bar Association's ("ABA") National Lawyer Population Survey for the Year 2018, APA lawyers only make up 3% of the legal profession. Asian-Americans are the largest minority group at major law firms, but they have the highest attrition rates and the lowest ratio of partners to associates. I want to learn about how to change those statistics for the long-term. For the upcoming bar year, it is my hope to continue to increase our visibility in the legal profession and in our community by connecting with APA organizations and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. My goals are to assist with engaging our members to get involved and use their talents to help the community but also support our members as they advance in the profession. My experience in other affinity bar associations as well as the ABA has provided me the opportunity to promote the needs of the APA community and informing others of APA concerns regarding long-term growth in the profession.

It would be an honor to serve as one of your Directors. Thank you for your consideration.