

KENNETH C. LOUIS

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Candidate Statement for 2018-2019 APALA-NJ Board of Directors

Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy for the APALA-NJ Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 year. I am an associate at the law firm of Paris Ackerman LLP in Roseland, NJ and specialize in franchise M&A and commercial real estate transactions. I have been heavily involved with APALA-NJ since I was a student at Rutgers Law in Newark.

Our membership does not hew to any singular definition of “Asian Pacific American” and we hail from different backgrounds with respect to national origin, culture, faith and even the circumstances of how we first arrived in this country. Diversity is our strength and our mission to serve the APA legal community, and the APA community in general, is inherently intersectional.

All too often, as immigrants or children of immigrants, we believe that our American story began with our family’s immigration. However, our story is merely the latest chapter in a long history of APAs in America that began with Filipinos escaping Spanish Galleons in colonial Louisiana, to Chinese laborers in the gold fields of California, continuing through to Sikh farmers cultivating California’s Central Valley just a generation later, and including the many highs and lows of the Asian Pacific American community during the twentieth century. Our American story is as rich and as long as any other American story, and the adversity faced by our forebears have echoes in today’s political environment.

It would be a tremendous honor to serve as one your Directors in the upcoming year. If elected, I will strive to continue APALA-NJ’s mission and to let our community know that we are not alone, whether as professionals of color or in grand arc of American legal history.