

# Ashwath S. Trasi

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## Candidate Statement for 2018-2019 APALA-NJ Secretary

Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy for Secretary of APALA-NJ for the 2018-2019 year.

I am currently a Legal Specialist for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families (DCF), serving as in-house counsel to the agency in employment matters. In this capacity I preside over Departmental Discipline and Grievance Hearings, respond to claims of discrimination filed in the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and New Jersey's Division of Civil Rights (DCR), act as a liaison to New Jersey's Office of the Attorney General in employment litigation matters, and advise DCF's Offices of Human Resources, Employee Relations, and Equal Employment/Affirmative Action on important legal and legislative matters.

I have been an active member of APALA-NJ for the past year. Recently, I have taken on the responsibility of designing and distributing APALA-NJ's weekly announcements, posting information about APALA-NJ's, and other local and national bars' events, as well as notices of job opportunities. I am also assisting in organizing this year's Annual Gala. Throughout this past year I also attended numerous APALA-NJ events including the Southern New Jersey Membership Drive, Mock Interview Workshops, the Lunar Banquet, the Corporate Counsel Leaders Fireside Chat, and APALA-NJ sponsored CLE Programs.

It would be an honor to be selected as the Secretary of APALA-NJ help further APALA-NJ's mission of promoting the Asian-Pacific-American community locally and nationally. This past year I have truly enjoyed getting to know APALA-NJ's brilliant, accomplished, and talented members. I hope to continue to be a part of this valuable organization, and help it continue to grow and succeed.