

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF DORIS CHEUNG FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

To the Members of APALA-NJ:

I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of President Elect. I am counsel at Pashman Stein Walder Hayden P.C., practicing commercial litigation. I have admittedly not been a member of APALA-NJ for very long, but I have been privileged enough to see how a tight-knit community of brilliant legal professionals can support one another during even this short period.

I have met many of you during this past year at APALA-NJ events, and as the current VP-Membership, it feels immensely gratifying every time I receive a notification that a new member has signed up on the website, or that someone has renewed their membership. To me, this indicates that our organization serves a purpose, that it fills a need in our legal community, that there are like-minded people who find value in being a part of something bigger than just themselves. Too often, as Asian American and/or Pacific Islander attorneys, our unique perspectives get lost in the crowd or we are expected to act without giving voice to our cultural background. It can be reassuring simply to know that we are not alone.

Our organization provides that sense of community. But a sense of community in and of itself is not enough. APALA-NJ can, and should, serve the needs of its younger members while also providing value to its older members. This can be achieved through thoughtful programing, meaningful opportunities to contribute to the organization, and building up the reputation of the organization with the community at large. If I am elected as President Elect, a key goal would be to host events with organizations, companies, and individuals outside of the legal community to promote additional avenues of exposure. We have many excellent events that the organization does annually, but we need to achieve a balance of effective programming. Lastly, I want to improve how the board approaches duties internally to make it more efficient and balanced. These are my goals for the coming term, and I hope that you will support me in this effort.

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF MICHELLE YANG  
FOR SECRETARY**

Dear APALA-NJ Members:

Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy for the APALA-NJ Secretary position for 2024-2025.

I am currently an associate at Weiner Law Group, LLP in Parsippany, New Jersey. My main practice is in labor and employment and municipality work, representing public entities in labor and employment matters, conducting workplace investigations, and providing counseling on compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

I graduated from Rutgers University in 2015 and from Rutgers Law School in 2018. During law school, I was a secretary of Asian-Pacific American Law Students Association and a member of the Minority Student Program. After law school, I clerked for the Honorable Mark P. Ciarrocca, P.J.Cv. and the Honorable Joseph P. Perfilio, J.S.C. (Ret.) in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Union County.

I am an active member of the New Jersey State Bar Association and am part of the executive committee of the Young Lawyers Division. I am also an active member of the South Asian Bar Association. While I have not yet served as a Director or Executive Board member of APALA-NJ, I am proactive in my role as a member of APALA-NJ, being a part of this year's Gala planning committee. I am committed to furthering APALA-NJ's goals and mission, and I look forward to being able to continuously serve the AAPI community.

It would be my honor and pleasure to serve as the Secretary of APALA-NJ. Thank you for your consideration.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF AMANDA YU FOR TREASURER

Dear APALA-NJ Members:

I am writing to express my interest in and intent to serve as APALA-NJ's Treasurer for the 2024-2025 term.

I am currently a Partner at Drisgula Divorce & Family Law in Wayne, New Jersey. I practice exclusively in the area of family law, and have done so for the past decade. Prior to my admission in New York, New Jersey, and the District of New Jersey in 2015, I graduated from Rutgers University – Rutgers College in 2010 and Fordham University School of Law in 2014. Thereafter, I began my judicial clerkship for the Honorable Linda E. Mallozzi, J.S.C. in Union County, New Jersey.

This past term, in addition to being a lifetime member of APALA-NJ, I served as a member of the Board of Directors, organizing events such as the Newark Museum of Art Walking Tour and Networking Mixer Newark Museum of Art Walking Tour and Networking Mixer and the Past Presidents Dinner, and, most relevantly, assisting our current Treasurer, Sudha Raja, with her duties. I assisted Ms. Raja in her responsibilities as Treasurer such as presenting financial summaries at board meetings, keeping track of and modifying our budget as necessary, and managing the funds collected and expended for our many programs and events. As such, I have had the pleasure of serving on several committees as an overseer of all related financial matters. I have had the benefit of observing and learning from Ms. Raja's years of experience as APALA-NJ's Treasurer, and I am confident that I can competently perform the tasks required.

In addition to my work with APALA-NJ, I am an active member of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA), and serve on the Family Law Executive Committee (FLEC) where I also act as the liaison between FLEC and APALA-NJ. I have also served on the editorial board of the *New Jersey Family Lawyer* (NJFL) since 2020, and am currently an Acting Managing Editor. Locally, I am a member of the Bergen County Bar Association and the Passaic County Bar Association. In addition to my involvement in my State and local Bar Associations, I serve on the Executive Committee of the Fordham Law Alumni Attorneys of Color ("AAC") affinity group and Chair of the New Attorneys Division. I also serve as a Co-Chair of the Recent Graduate Committee at Fordham Law. I also serve the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) as one of two Regional Coordinators of The Judge Thomas Tang and Dr. Pearl Tang Moot Court Competition.

It has always been and will continue to be my goal to promote and support the mission statement of APALA-NJ both inside the organization and outside of it. It would be my honor and pleasure to serve as APALA-NJ's Treasurer for the 2024-2025 term. Thank you for your consideration.

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF RASMEET CHAHIL FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP**

I am looking forward to serving APALA-NJ and helping it grow and expand its reach even more. As an APALA-NJ Director for the 2023-2024 term, I was a Co-Chair of our Golf Committee, which put on a successful event raising a significant amount of money for APALA, and I planned two other networking events for our membership. I also assisted generally with sponsorships, including our sponsorship efforts for our upcoming 2024 Gala. Finally, I serve on the Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee for APALA-NJ, which has vetted and supported a number of candidates this term.

As VP of Membership, I hope to continue this important work. It is important to me personally to be among others who share my culture and heritage, and to uplift one another, particularly as Asians have traditionally been underrepresented in the legal community. My Indian heritage is an inseparable part of me, and I have been involved with cultural/affinity groups since high school, from being part of a Bhangra group in high school, to being in a South Asian sorority in high school, to being on the board of APALSA at my law school, to being on the board of SABA-NJ for two years, and now on the APALA-NJ board.

I am an associate at Lowenstein Sandler, the largest firm in the state, and have already gotten my firm more involved with APALA, which I will continue doing as VP of Membership. I am proud that Lowenstein is a Diamond sponsor for our 2024 Gala. I am looking forward to a continued strong connection between APALA and Lowenstein.

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF LENA KIM**  
**FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Dear APALA-NJ Members,

Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy for the APALA-NJ Vice President of Communications position.

I am currently an Associate at Jackson Lewis P.C. in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. My practice focuses on representing employers in workplace matters, including litigation as well as preventative advice and counseling. My professional experience includes representing and counseling school boards and other public entities on matters related to governance, labor and employment, and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University and my Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers Law School – Newark. During law school, I was a member of the Minority Student Program and served as a Teaching Fellow, where I led a legal skills study group for first year minority law students. Following law school, I clerked for the Honorable Lourdes I. Santiago (Ret.), J.S.C., in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hudson County.

During the 2023-2024 term, I served as the Vice President of Communications. In this role, I assisted in the planning of numerous events, including the Holiday Party, Lunar New Year Banquet, and Meet the Judges Event. I also prepared most, if not all, of the APALA-NJ social media posts on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook, including promotional materials for events sponsored by APALA-NJ and other affinity bar organizations, celebratory posts honoring achievements of AAPI individuals in the legal community, and posts shouting out generous sponsors of APALA-NJ. I was also heavily involved in the planning and organizing of various events as a Director during the 2022-2023 term. Moreover, I served on the APALA-NJ Gala Committee since 2022, and Co-Chaired the APALA-NJ Gala in 2022.

As Vice President of Communications, I hope to continue the excellent work APALA-NJ has been doing to further bring together, support, and enhance AAPI and other minorities in the legal field. It would be an honor to continue to serve as the Vice President of Communications under the leadership of incoming President, Allan Zhang.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF ARUPA BARUA FOR DIRECTOR**

Dear APAPLA-NJ Members:

I have served on APALA-NJ's Board since 2016 in various capacities. Additionally, I have been a member of APALA-NJ's Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee (JPAC) for the past five years. I now ask for your support as I would like to continue as a Director for APALA-NJ for this upcoming year. I am committed to the success of this organization, and I look forward to continuing to work towards furthering APALA-NJ's goals and missions.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Ms. Arupa Barua currently serves as the Ethics Liaison Officer (ELO) for the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). In this position, she is responsible for administering NJDOT's ethics compliance program. As NJDOT's ELO, she works to ensure that employees are in compliance with State ethics codes, laws, regulations, and executive orders.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Barua was the Motor Vehicle Commission's ("MVC") Equal Employment Opportunity ("EEO") Officer and Title VI Coordinator. In this role, she worked to ensure that the MVC was in compliance with all applicable State and Federal anti-discrimination laws, which include, but are not limited to, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In furthering this goal, Ms. Barua successfully implemented a number of procedures and policies that have assisted in eliminating barriers for employees and members of public.

Ms. Barua also worked as a Deputy Attorney General (DAG) for the State of New Jersey's Office of the Attorney General for several years. As a DAG, she was assigned to the Employment Counseling and Labor section, where she worked to represent and advise State agencies on employment and labor matters, including employment discrimination claims filed by State employees with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights (DCR).

Ms. Barua is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. She was born in Bangladesh and immigrated with her family to the United States when she was six years old. Ms. Barua was raised in Detroit, Michigan and is the first in her immediate family to pursue a postsecondary education. She received her B.A. from Michigan State University's James Madison College of Public Affairs, majoring in International Relations with a minor in International Development, Muslim Studies, and Asian Studies. Ms. Barua received her Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers University School of Law in Camden.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF SIMI BHANDARI FOR DIRECTOR

Dear APALA-NJ Members;

I have been a member of APALA-NJ for past couple year's. It is my honor to be nominated as a candidate to serve on APALA-NJ's Board this upcoming year, I have a keen interest in giving back to our community by providing pro bono legal services in Immigration & community-based lawyering, As a APALA member I've had the opportunity to meet some very intelligent & well-connected people. So I hereby seek your support to serve on board of APALA-NJ for 2024.

### BIOGRAPHY:

Ms. Simple "Simi" Bhandari is an Attorney admitted to practice law in NYS. She is a member of NYSBA, NYCLA, LSNJ, PROBONONJ, APALA-NJ, SABA-NJ & NAPABA. Ms. Bhandari also holds a NJ Real Estate license and is a member of NJMLS, GSMLS, NCJAR & NAR. She practices Immigration, Real Estate & eDiscovery side of Litigation. She reviews Leases, contracts, ALTA title surveys & documents for privilege/responsiveness. She provides Pro Bono services & legal assistance to juvenile's by helping them become lawful permanent residents through sponsorship in Queens County Court. She also provides Pro Bono legal services to low income families in Immigration, contracts & some real estate matters through LSNJ.

During her law school days at Touro Law Center in Long Island, NYC, Ms. Bhandari took part in Immigration Law Clinic serving immigrants at all stages of deportation including filing for Asylum petitions to those fleeing persecution. Apart from Law degree, Ms. Bhandari also has a Bachelor's Degree in Economics (B.A.) & a Masters Degree in International Law (L.L.M). Ms. Bhandari is a Life-long learner and would some day like to pursue a P.H.D in International Law, Religion & Politics.

Ms. Bhandari grew up in India and came to United States in late 1990's as an immigrant. It was a dream come true and as caring human being she now helps other children fulfill their American Dream through her Pro Bono work.

Again, It would be a privilege for Ms. Bhandari to serve as a director of APALA-NJ this fiscal year. Thank you.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF GABRIELLE CANAIE FOR DIRECTOR

Dear APALA-NJ Members:

It is an honor to be nominated as a candidate to run for the Board of Directors for APALA-NJ 2024-2025 term. Please accept the following statement in support of my candidacy for Director.

I am presently a Senior Associate Attorney with the Weiner Law Group, located in Parsippany, New Jersey. The opportunity to excel professionally, connect with members of the legal community, and to create a positive impact is my passion.

I currently serve as Bergen County Representative for the New Jersey State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”). As the Bergen County Representative, I am a part of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; the Wellness Committee; the Philanthropy Committee; the Seminars Committee; and the Sponsorship Committee. Next year, I will have the privilege of continuing to serve the YLD as an at-large voting member on the Executive Board. I hope to bring my knowledge and experience from my current Executive Board position to APALA-NJ. I truly enjoy rolling up my sleeves and giving back to the community, and I am always ready to provide assistance and support to other committees and members.

As an APALA-NJ member, I have had the opportunity to attend the numerous inspiring events and programming that APALA-NJ hosts throughout the year. I have also had the privilege of working with other APALA-NJ members on planning the upcoming 2024 Gala.

In addition to the YLD, I am currently a member of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, the South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey, and the Essex County Bar Association. As an APALA-NJ Director, I hope to strengthen APALA-NJ’s connection with other associations and inspire new members to join.

Community involvement has been a throughline in both my personal and professional experiences. As a first-generation American, and first attorney in my family, I know all too well the challenges that attorneys face in their careers today. APALA-NJ provides a unique space for attorneys to obtain mentorship and to be inspired to continue to succeed. I look forward to contributing to the legacy of APALA-NJ to positively impact the careers of all attorneys statewide.

I ask that you vote for me for the position of Director, so that I may continue to support APALA-NJ and spread the organization’s mission across the State. Thank you for your consideration.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF IRENE CHIU FOR DIRECTOR

Dear APALA-NJ Members:

It is my honor to be nominated as a candidate again for the Board of Directors for APALA-NJ for 2024-2025. I have been serving on the board of APALA-NJ and chair its in-house committee. In addition to my director responsibilities, I have also secured sponsors for APALA-NJ gala, hosted GC/in-house counsel event, and provided mentorship (directly/indirectly) to other members.

In addition to the American and state bar associations, I have been an active member of various Asian American bar associations since year 2000 – including NAPABA, AABANY, APALA-NJ, and TAPABA. As an activist for DEI and women’s initiatives, I also wholeheartedly support other minority bar associations as well as women’s bar associations. To support the community, I also sit on the board of trustee of Princeton Charter School.

I am the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at MicroPort Orthopedics Inc. with an exceptional track record in the legal field spanning over 24 years especially in the life science areas. MicroPort Orthopedics, a subsidiary of MicroPort Scientific Corp. (“MPSC”), is a global medical device company that designs and manufactures hip and knee products for over 50 years and sells in over 80 countries. MPSC, a publicly listed company on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (0853.HKSE), acquired the OrthoRecon business from Wright Medical Group in 2014, which became MicroPort Orthopedics. I also sit on the board of several MicroPort entities and is the President of its French subsidiary.

Since joining MicroPort in 2021, I am responsible for all legal and compliance matters globally. Prior to joining MicroPort, I held multiple C-suite level positions, including Vice President & General Counsel at GCA Therapeutics Ltd., a privately held specialty pharmaceutical company; Managing Director, General Counsel at NAL Pharmaceuticals Ltd., an international drug development company; and Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel at Systagenix Wound Management (a divestiture of J&J, and later as part of Acelity/3M), a global advanced wound care company. Previously, I was an experienced international corporate attorney (with finance / accounting background) in private practice with international law firms Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP and Hodgson Russ LLP. I was also associated with the White-Collar Crimes Division at the US Attorney’s Office, DC (summer intern) and the Hong Kong legislator (externship).

I’m a licensed attorney in the US (NY and NJ) and a qualified solicitor in the UK, with a JD degree (with Honors) and a BS degree in Business Administration (Magna Cum Laude) from SUNY Buffalo Law School, a Certificate in Financial Management from Cornell University, and Certificates of Healthcare Compliance (US, APAC and LATAM) from Seton Hall Law School. I am fluent in Chinese and possess knowledge of Japanese.

If re-elected, I would like to use my experience and connections to continue influencing and supporting APALA-NJ to further-develop and enhance its network, membership and outreach. I also want to further develop APALA-NJ’s in-house committee to have annual event consists of other General Counsels. As a seasonal director serving various for-profit and non-profit boards

for over 2 decades, I would continue to provide my service to steer APALA-NJ in achieving the next stage, including broadening its partnership with other bar associations and communities, raise significant funds to support the APA population in need, and mentoring/supporting the next generation of APA leaders. As a director, I will continue to provide strategic guidance to the Board and the officers to efficiently run this organization to enhance member engagement, serve our community, advocate for AAPI rights, and ensure organizational excellence.

Other than the short-term financial balancing, we must also maintain a long-term plan that addresses the many needs of the organization. I have led some of meaningful fundraisings in the past and would like to continue assisting APALA-NJ in its fundraising endeavors. The added resources can help APALA-NJ to support other wellness programs which would benefit many attorneys balancing work/life during this ever challenging time.

I plan to continue using my professional and personal skills to serve the many needs of APALA-NJ. While being successful in my career, I believe in giving back and planting seeds. My decades of volunteer experience have proved that giving back to the society is the best way to move forward in life. Every support we give can create someone else's "story to success". Therefore, the legacy of giving continues.

I appreciate the trust that the APALA-NJ have in me, and I would do my absolute best to continue serving the organization in the years to come. It would be my honor to serve again on APALA-NJ Board of Directors.

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF RIO GUERRERO  
FOR DIRECTOR**

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF IRENE HSIEH FOR DIRECTOR

Dear APALA-NJ Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement in support of my candidacy for APALA-NJ Director for 2024-2025.

My name is Irene Hsieh and I am a partner with Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis, LLP, where I have been since I started as a summer associate. I concentrate my practice in commercial litigation, with a focus on employment law, Title IX, and business litigation. I obtained my undergraduate degree in English and Political Science from Rutgers University and my J.D. from Columbia Law School.

I have been on the Board of APALA-NJ for four years now. I'm currently serving my second term as a Director (I previously served as a Director in 2020-2021). I have also served as Secretary for two years (2021-2023). I have enjoyed my time as a Board member and am proud to have helped in coordinating APALA-NJ's diverse slate of educational and social programming. This year, I was on the planning committee again for the Lunar New Year celebration. Our committee worked hard to put on another wonderful event, which was especially exciting this year with the addition of live performances. We have had many other APALA events this year that continue to strengthen our community by providing opportunities for our members to gather and connect. For example, the Holiday Dinner and Past Presidents' Dinner were great socializing opportunities made even better with the addition of delicious food and karaoke. Our Meet the Judges event provided a special opportunity to converse with AAPI judges in an intimate and informal atmosphere. I've appreciated the opportunity to contribute to this year of meaningful events through my participation as a Board Director.

Another initiative I'm excited about kicking off this year is the Mentorship Program. I've signed up as a mentor and look forward to the opportunity to share my experience and help young AAPI lawyers find their professional footing. To me, that is what APALA-NJ is truly about – helping form a strong network of AAPI lawyers with a myriad of experiences, connections, and resources who are all mutually invested in our community's shared success.

APALA-NJ provides a special opportunity to uplift the AAPI legal community and work together with other groups throughout the state. I hope to have the opportunity to serve again as Director next year to continue in our efforts to bring our members together. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF JESSICA MA FOR DIRECTOR

Dear APALA-NJ members:

I am a trial attorney at O'Connor Parsons Lane & Noble, a plaintiff's law firm in Springfield, NJ, and I am running to serve as a Director. Having done criminal and civil trial work since graduating law school in 2013, one of the biggest disparities I have seen is the underrepresentation of the AAPI community in court--attorneys and clients alike. I believe organizations like ours play a pivotal role in making our legal system more accessible to those who have traditionally shied away. That is why I am passionate about serving.

After my clerkship, I worked as a prosecutor and then a civil defense attorney. However, it was not until I began representing individuals -- everyday people who are hurt and looking for help -- did I truly appreciate just how daunting our legal system can be for those on the outside. This trepidation is often compounded for members of the AAPI community, many of whom have the added burden of overcoming a cultural or language barrier. I believe APALA-NJ, with its large network of legal professionals, is a step towards bridging that gap.

I would be honored to serve on the Board and to help grow this organization into a prominent and vital resource for New Jersey's AAPI community. Thank you for your consideration.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF NICHOLAS PRADAXAY FOR DIRECTOR

Dear APALA-NJ Members:

Thanks to your votes, I have been fortunate to serve as a Board Director of APALA-NJ this past year. I have been involved with APALA-NJ since my time at Rutgers Law School where I served as the President of APALSA, but this past year as Board member has given me a greater appreciation for the organization and our members. I hope to have your support again in my campaign to be reelected to the Board this coming year and to keep representing this growing organization.

This past year, I saw our organization make great strides in reestablishing APALA-NJ's identity and setting up future leadership for greater opportunity. These successes are the direct result of our expanding membership and the collaborative efforts between the new and experienced leadership on our Board. Despite being the most junior member of the Board, I became immediately involved and was tasked with many significant responsibilities for the organization. This past year I was heavily involved in the planning and handling of sponsorships for the organization's two biggest events – the Annual Golf Outing and the Annual Gala. As an associate attorney at Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney PC, I also facilitated significant sponsorship contributions from my firm towards these events and am continuing to do so. I was also asked to speak on behalf of the organization at multiple law student events this past year, and was selected to serve as a mentor in our revamped mentorship program and as the organization's representative on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement

If reelected, I will continue to bring my diverse perspective, personality, candidness, and energy that has allowed me connect with so many people inside and outside of our community. I hope to take the next step in developing as leader within the organization this coming year and to continue building the bright future that lies ahead for our organization.

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF VINCENT ROLDAN FOR DIRECTOR**

I am a Partner in the Banking & Financial Services and Bankruptcy groups for Mandelbaum Barrett PC. I am interested in serving as a Director for APALA-NJ because I am passionate about serving APA causes, especially with respect to mentoring and advancement of younger APA attorneys. When I was a young associate, I knew of no APA partners and no APA bankruptcy attorneys. As an APALA-NJ board member, I believe I will have an elevated platform to further provide exposure and mentoring to APA lawyers in the bankruptcy community.

For the past year (2023-2024), I have had the honor of serving on the Board as a Director. I believe I have contributed to the Board through my service on various committees, including with respect to APALA-NJ's 17th annual golf classic earlier this month and the Somerset Patriots outing last Fall. I have participated in some key decisions made by APALA-NJ, and collaborated with two other board members to draft a public statement on an issue pertinent to the Asian American community. I also served as the MC for the APALA-NJ installation dinner on September 28, 2023. Finally, I have encouraged younger attorneys (including those at my firm) to attend events, and have raised money for APALA-NJ.

I have significant board experience with other APA bar organizations. I served as a board member for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and I chaired the Finance committee. I have additional board experience through my involvement in two NAPABA affiliates. I am a founding member of the National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) and the Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York (FALA New York) and have served on the boards of both organizations. In 2018, I served as President of FALA New York. I have raised money, planned conferences, taken leadership positions, mentored younger attorneys, and recruited for both organizations. Finally, though not a board position, I have leadership experience with the Asian American Bar Association of New York, for whom I founded the Bankruptcy Committee.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue my service on the APALA-NJ Board.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF SHERWIN TSAI FOR DIRECTOR

Greetings APALA-NJ Family!

I am a Senior Associate with the firm of Davis, Saperstein & Salomon, P.C. in Teaneck, New Jersey, where I manage a team of four attorneys, as well as the firm's pre-litigation team. I have spent the past fifteen years of my career practicing in all types of personal injury matters. Prior to representing Plaintiffs with Davis, Saperstein & Salomon, I was on the other side of the table with GEICO In-House Counsel. I am a Certified Civil Trial Attorney and am passionate about fighting for justice on behalf of victims who have been injured due to the negligence of others. As a victim of a traumatic accident myself, I understand what my clients go through and connect with them on a personal level.

Throughout my years serving Plaintiffs, I have been a proud, active member of the New Jersey Association for Justice ("NJAJ"), having most recently been elected to its Leadership Team as its State Delegate to the American Association for Justice ("AAJ"). I also serve as the Co-Chair of the Minority Caucus, where the co-chairs recently organized a Q&A panel with NJ Supreme Court Justice Michael Noriega and for the past two years, served as NJAJ's Minority Caucus Representative to AAJ. However, of all my volunteering activities with NJAJ, I am most proud to have served for the past three years as a co-chair to its Diversity & Inclusion Committee where I and my co-chairs develop DE&I programs for the Meadowlands and Boardwalk Seminars and discuss important DE&I topics, which affect not only the organization, but the legal field as a whole. Last year I was appointed as the DE&I Committee's Ambassador to APALA-NJ, which renewed my interest in becoming more involved with APALA-NJ.

I first joined APALA-NJ in 2008 when I began my post-law school career as an Associate of former APALA-NJ President, Alexander M. Lee, Esq. He encouraged me to join and be an active member, which started with my attending various events, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Classic, and volunteering to serve as a mentor. I recently became a lifetime member, as I believe APALA-NJ's goals to promote and support a positive image of Asian Americans, educate the community about critical issues to Asian Americans, and support the advancement of Asian Americans within the legal profession, are all perpetual and evolving objectives that will span many lifetimes. I have and will continue to dedicate my life to the same.

As a member of APALA-NJ's Directors, I will strive to achieve the goals of increasing membership, building strong relationships outside the organization, solicit involvement from new members and provide educational programming which will focus on the benefits of diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal field from a business perspective. In this role, I will also focus on creating professional development programs for our law student and young associate members and improve on the organization's network to create more opportunities for these members. If elected, I will put forth my greatest effort in bringing something new to the table for the betterment of APALA-NJ. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement and considering me for such a crucial role with this outstanding organization.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF NEETHI VASUDEVAN FOR DIRECTOR

Dear APALA-NJ Members:

Please accept this statement in support of my candidacy to serve as Director for APALA-NJ for the 2024 – 2025 term. I am an associate at Ulrichsen Rosen & Freed LLC in Pennington, New Jersey. My practice is focused exclusively on family law. I am also an active member of the Women's Divorce Alliance and serve as trustee for the Mercer County Bar Association where I am also a co-chair on the Family Law Committee. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from The College of New Jersey and my Juris Doctor degree from the American University Washington College of Law.

During the 2023 – 2024 term, I served as one of the APALA-NJ Directors. As Director, I helped organize various events such as the Diwali Dinner with SABA-NJ, the Holiday Party, the Lunar New Year Banquet and Meet the Judges Event. I also prepared flyers in connection with some of the events organized and/or sponsored by APALA-NJ and am presently serving on the Gala Committee for the 2024-2025 term.

I am seeking to continue serving as a Director on APALA-NJ's Board as I believe in APALA-NJ's mission to promote and support the Asian Pacific American community. As someone who grew up both in India and New Jersey, I recognize the importance of providing opportunities to the APA attorneys to advance within the legal profession. I have always been committed to serving the APA community. Specifically, during law school, I interned with the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC), a nonprofit organization that provides legal services to low-income Asian Americans and immigrants. I also volunteered at several citizen application workshops hosted by APALRC and Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC), to assist people with their applications for naturalization. Finally, I promoted the interests of South Asian law students as the Vice President, Internal of the South Asian Law Student Association during my second year in law school.

It would be an honor to continue serving as one of APALA-NJ's directors, so that I can help advance the organization's mission to advocate for greater representation of APA attorneys within the New Jersey legal community. I look forward to working with other board members to promote professional advancement, and to bring awareness to issues of critical concern to the APA community. Thank you for your consideration.

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF BRIAN YARZAB FOR DIRECTOR**

I'm a longtime, lifetime member of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA-NJ), and its current secretary, and I'm pleased to seek your consideration to serve as one of its directors for the next term.

As a lifelong resident of New Jersey, my involvement in APALA-NJ has been a priority throughout my professional career, and my commitment to our organization and its mission of professional development within the Asian Pacific American (APA) legal community has remained steadfast over the past decade or so. It has been a sincere privilege to serve as secretary of APALA-NJ over the course of the past year, and as director I wish to continue to contribute to the organization in any way I can.

In the interests of full disclosure, I'm also a current governor of the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY). In this respect, I aim to continue to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between our two organizations, especially in the northeastern region of New Jersey, and to continue to serve as a liaison between them. I hope to continue to leverage my many years of affinity bar association board experience for the benefit of APALA-NJ and its members.

As director of APALA-NJ, I wish to continue to facilitate the effective work of the organization. I'm eager to continue my service on the board, and so I respectfully request your support to allow me to do so.