



**ASIAN PACIFIC  
INTEREST SECTION**  
State Bar of Texas

**WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Asian Pacific Interest Section (APIS) of the State Bar of Texas contributes to the APA community in many ways. It helps convey important information from the State Bar to our members, it gives APA attorneys and those interested in Asian issues a chance to serve as leaders, and most importantly, it creates a sense of community for APA lawyers across the state.



Thank you for being a member of APIS. I began my term as Chair at the SBOT Annual Meeting in Houston this summer and was delighted to connect with members both new and old. Doing so reminded me of the value of this organization and all of the local affiliate bar associations. Mentorship, networking, and support from the APA legal community has had a profound impact on not only my professional growth but personal as well. I have developed lasting friendships and connections through APIS, and I hope that you too will get the opportunity to connect with fellow APIS members at a local event. For our first newsletter, we are highlighting events happening at the local APA bar associations.

Please contact me to share any information, ideas, or questions you may have about APIS or other matters impacting our legal community at [creece@vk-c.com](mailto:creece@vk-c.com). I look forward to getting to know you better during my term.

Sincerely,  
**Chi Reece**  
APIS Chair

**2018 - 2019 OFFICERS**

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Chair       | Chi Reece  |
| Chair Elect | Paul Yin   |
| Vice Chair  | Jim Thomas |
| Treasurer   | Hao Ni     |
| Secretary   | Amar Raval |

[www.TexasAPIS.org](http://www.TexasAPIS.org)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/  
TexasAPIS](http://www.facebook.com/groups/TexasAPIS)

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## APIS Officers



(Left to Right: Chi Reece, Paul Yin, Jim Thomas, Nao Hi, Amar Raval)

### Chair—Chi Reece

Chi Reece is an attorney at Vacek, Kiecke & Colmenero, LLP where she counsels business and real estate clients in a variety of transactional matters related to leases, acquisition and disposition, entity structuring and branding, trademark matters, vendor contracts, financing, private securities offerings and contract negotiation and review. Chi is active in the Austin Asian American Bar Association, serving as president in 2014.

### Chair Elect— Paul Yin

Paul is a Senior Counsel for Fiscal and Agency Affairs for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Prior to joining the Texas Comptroller, he was a tax associate for Thompson & Knight LLP in Houston, TX. While he practiced in Houston, Paul was a board member for OCA-Greater Houston, an Asian American advocacy organization and a member of the Grad Council for OneGoal Houston, a nonprofit organization that assists underprivileged students persist through college graduation. Paul received a dual JD/LLM from Duke University School of Law in Durham, NC and completed his undergraduate studies at Hendrix College in Conway, AR.

### Vice Chair— Jim Thomas

Jim Thomas is a patent attorney at Fletcher Yoder P.C. in Houston with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas and a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Houston. Jim's practice includes patent prosecution with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in a wide variety of technical areas, opinion work for patent infringement and invalidity analysis, and coordinating patent harvesting workshops. He has been active in a number of organizations taking on various roles, such as panel coordinator for the annual conference held by the South Asian Bar Association of North America, city committee member for the Texas Minority Council Program, and committee member for the Corporate IP Management Subcommittee in the Intellectual Property Owners organization.

### Treasurer— Hao Ni

Hao is an attorney at Ni, Wang & Massand, PLLC. His practice focuses around various intellectual property matters, civil litigation, and litigation financing. Hao is also the owner of various patent licensing companies. Hao received both his bachelor of science in Electrical Engineering and his Juris Doctor from the University of Texas at Austin in 2001 and 2003, respectively. In addition to his practice, Hao develops and manages residential projects in lower income neighborhoods.

### Secretary – Amar Raval

At Berg Plummer Johnson & Raval, LLP, Amar focuses on insurance bad faith claims, ERISA claims, business litigation, and personal injury litigation. Amar is active with the South Asian Bar Association of Houston. He is also a member of the Texas Bar College, Houston Trial Lawyers Association, Houston Bar Association, and is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

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## Council Members

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Alice Liu Cook—Disability Rights New Mexico (New Mexico)

Daniel David Hu—U.S Attorney's Office (Houston)

Punam Kaji—Ben E. Keith Company (Dallas)

Catherine Le— Law Firm of Catherine Le PLLC (Houston)

Albert J. Li— Ottobock North America, Inc. (Austin)

Albert Lin— Husch Blackwell LLP (Austin)

Cindy Y. Lin—King & Spalding LLP (Houston)

Toni D. Nguyen— Holland & Knight LLP (Austin)

Ann Chao Sheu—Assistant District Attorney, Collin County (Dallas)

Albert Tan—Haynes & Boone, LLP (Dallas)

Andrea Tran—Schlumberger (Houston)

Lisa Tsai—Reid Colins & Tsai LLP (Austin)

Carmen Roe—Board Advisor

Derek Cook—Alternate Board Advisor

## Current and Incoming Leaders of Local Bar Associations

### Austin Asian American Bar Association

President  
Drew Harris  
Assistant Attorney General  
Texas Attorney General Office  
drewharris@gmail.com

President-Elect  
Shirley Vu  
Owner  
Law Offices of Shirley Vu, PLLC  
scu@shirleyvulaw.com

### Dallas Asian American Bar Association

President  
Shruti Krishnan  
Associate Legal Counsel  
Tabletop Media, LLC d/b/a Ziosk  
shruti@ziosk.com

President-Elect  
Jason Shyung  
Senior Counsel  
Accudyne Industries  
Jason.shyung@accudyneindustries.com

### South Asian Bar Association of Austin

Chair  
Sujata Ajmera  
Partner  
Clark Hill, LLP  
Sujata.ajmera@clarkhillstrasburger.com

Chair Elect  
Jolsna Thomas  
Business Development Representative  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
jolsna@gmail.com

### South Asian Bar Association Dallas

President  
Shivan Mehta  
Corporate Counsel  
Oracle Corporation  
shivan.mehta@oracle.com

Vice President  
Jay Tatachar  
Counsel  
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
jtatachar@akingump.com

### Houston Asian American Bar Association

President  
Sang Shin  
Attorney  
Foster LLP  
sshin@FosterGlobal.com

President-Elect  
Jennifer Fung  
Attorney  
Associate Health Care Management, Inc.  
jfung@familycarecard.com

### South Asian Bar Association of Houston

President  
Poorav Rohatgi  
Judicial Law Clerk  
U.S. District Court for Southern District of Texas  
Poorav.rohatgi@gmail.com

President-Elect  
George Samuel  
In House Counsel  
Houston Methodist Hospital  
george.samuel.esq@gmail.com

To submit member news or accomplishments, please email [araval@bergplummer.com](mailto:araval@bergplummer.com).

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**Bar Association Events**


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**NATIONWIDE**

**NAPABA Convention 2018**  
 November 7-11, 2018  
 Sheraton Grand Chicago  
 301 East North Water St.  
 Chicago, IL

**STATEWIDE**

**Texas Minority Counsel Program Conference**  
 October 17-19, 2018  
 945 Gessner Rd, Houston, TX

For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/events/texas-minority-counsel-program-2018/1608802442572972/>

**LOCAL**

**Austin AABA VLS Free Ethics CLE**  
 October 25, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.  
 Silicon Labs  
 400 W. Cesar Chavez St., 6th floor

**LOCAL (cont.)**

**Austin AABA Volunteering**  
 November 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.  
 Webb Middle School  
 600 E. St. Johns Ave.

**SABA Dallas Gala**  
 October 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.  
 6500 Cedar Springs Road  
 To purchase tickets: <https://sabahavanagala.auction-bid.org/microsite/>

**AABA Houston Gala and Silent Auction**  
 October 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Marriott Marquis Houston  
 1777 Walker St.  
 To purchase tickets: <https://aabahouston.com/event-2996800>

**SABA Houston Midterm Candidate Meet & Greet**  
 October 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Americas River Oaks  
 2040 W. Gray St.

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*To submit local bar association events, please email [araval@bergplummer.com](mailto:araval@bergplummer.com)*

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**APIS 23rd Annual Conference**

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**APIS 24th Annual Conference**  
Location TBA (Austin, TX)  
April 2019

Do not miss this opportunity to network with an incredible group of attorneys, including outside counsel, in-house counsel, government lawyers, and public interest lawyers. The APIS community is robust and growing – come be a part of it. The conference includes a Thursday evening kick-off event, breakfast, CLEs, an awards luncheon, an evening reception, and countless opportunities for networking and growth. Registration details are coming soon at [texasapis.org](http://texasapis.org).

**What:** APIS 24th Annual Conference

**Where:** TBA, Austin, TX

**When:** Exact dates TBA, April 2019

**Call for Speakers**

Do you want to speak about your area of legal expertise or important legal matters regarding the APA community? APIS wants to hear from you! Contact Amar Raval at [araval@bergplummer.com](mailto:araval@bergplummer.com) and submit your suggested topic.

**Call for Sponsors**

APIS appreciates our sponsors. In exchange for sponsorship, APIS will highlight your firm or company in a number of ways during the conference and on our materials, and provide attendance passes. Individuals will also have the opportunity to sponsor as a “Friend of APIS.” Your name will be highlighted in our newsletters, our website, and our Facebook page. For questions, contact Hao Ni, APIS Treasurer, at [hni@nilawfirm.com](mailto:hni@nilawfirm.com).

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*To submit announcements, please email [araval@bergplummer.com](mailto:araval@bergplummer.com).*

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