



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

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear APIS Members:

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 APA 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 Austin this summer.



APIS co-sponsored a Texas Happy Hour with local affiliates from across Texas during this past NAPABA Convention and I was able to meet many new faces and reconnect with old friends. Doing so reminded me of the value of this organization and all of the local affiliate bar associations. Membership, networking, and support from the APA legal community has had a profound impact on not only my professional but also my personal growth 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 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 paulyin88@gmail.com. I look forward to getting to know you better during my term.

Sincerely,
Paul Yin
APIS Chair

2019 - 2020 OFFICERS

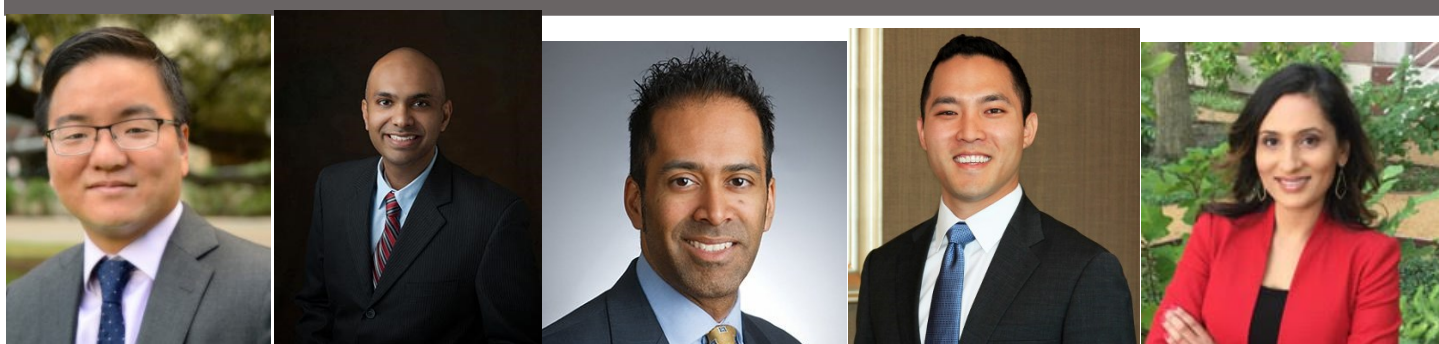
Chair	Paul Yin
Chair Elect	Jim Thomas
Vice Chair	Amar Raval
Treasurer	Phil Kim
Secretary	Shruji Krishnan

www.TexasAPIS.org
[www.facebook.com/groups/
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APIS Officers



(Left to Right: Paul Yin, Jim Thomas, Amar Raval, Phil Kim, Shruti Krishnan)

Chair— Paul Yin

Paul is Senior Counsel 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. Paul is an active member of the Austin Asian American Bar Association and board member for Asian Family Support Services of Austin.

Chair Elect— Jim Thomas

Jim is a shareholder at Fletcher Yoder P.C. in Houston with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas and a Master's in Electrical Engineering from the University of Houston. Jim's practice includes patent prosecution 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 Sub-Committee in the Intellectual Property Owners organization.

Vice Chair— 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.

Treasurer— Phil Kim

Phil is a partner in Haynes and Boone, LLP's healthcare and life sciences practice group, and his practice focuses on transactional and regulatory healthcare matters. Phil represents healthcare systems, hospitals, ASCs, physician groups, home health providers, and other healthcare companies in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and operational matters. He also assists multinational technology companies entering the digital health space with various service and collaboration agreements for their wearable technology, as well as several other public medical device, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical companies.

Secretary— Shruti Krishnan

Shruti is General Counsel at Tabletop Media, LLC d/b/a Ziosk, and her practice includes corporate, intellectual property, data security and privacy, and marketing/advertising law. Shruti graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a B.S. in Bioinformatics & Molecular Biology, UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences with a M.S. in Biophysics, and SMU Dedman School of Law. Shruti was previously President of DAABA in 2018, on the Executive Committee of SABA Dallas from 2014-2016, in the 2014 DAYL Leadership Class, in the 2016 LeadershipSBOT class, and Chair of the SBOT IP Diversity Committee from 2014-2017.

To submit announcements, please email shruti@ziosk.com.

Council Members

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)

Chi Reece— Vacek, Kiecke & Colmenero, LLP (Austin)

Ann Chao Sheu— Mpowered Journey (Dallas)

Albert Tan— Haynes & Boone, LLP (Dallas)

Andrea Tran— Schlumberger (Houston)

Lisa Tsai— Reid Collins & Tsai LLP (Austin)

Member Spotlight

Cindy Lin

Title and Firm/Company: Partner at King & Spalding

Practice Areas: Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity, Energy, Power

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Undergrad Education: The University of Texas at Austin

Law School Education: The University of Texas at Austin School of Law

Describe a Career Highlight: In 2019, I was honored to receive the Best Under 40 Award by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) at its annual convention. To be recognized by NAPABA, the leading Asian Pacific American legal organization in the United States, is an incredible milestone in my life. It represents the blood, sweat, and tears of starting from the bottom to achieving an American dream, all of which would not have been possible without the guidance and support I received from so many generous people, including many friends in APIS. Thank you for believing in me!

Involvement with Community Activities and Professional Organizations: I support the Girls Empowerment Network, an organization that works hard to empower young girls in Texas by teaching them self-efficacy. I am also a current Council Member and Past Chair of APIS, a current Director and Past Officer of the Asian American Bar Association of Houston, and a Founding Member of the Austin Asian American Bar Association.

Favorite Movie: Wicker Park

Favorite Sports Team: Formula 1 Mercedes AMG Petronas - Go Lewis Hamilton!

Interests/Hobbies: Currently, I am intrigued with functional medicine (including using food as medicine). I also enjoy cooking in my Instant Pots (I don't think three is enough?!), the FIRE (Financial Independence Retire Early) philosophy, and real estate investing. Oh, and scooting around with my husband on our electric scooters.

Favorite Restaurant: Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab in Las Vegas -- not like you need an excuse to go to Vegas, but if you need one, Joe's is the place for the most delicious stone crabs and oysters!

To submit announcements, please email shruti@ziosk.com.

Current and Incoming Leaders of Local Bar Associations**Austin Asian American Bar Association**

President
Ranjeev Singh
Singh Law PLLC
ranjeev@singhlawtx.com

President-Elect
Tristan Dau
Dau Law Firm
tristan@daulawfirm.com

Dallas Asian American Bar Association

President
Drew Spaniol
Howard & Spaniol, PLLC
ags@hs-firm.com

President-Elect
Stacey Cho Hernandez
Carter Arnett PLLC
shernandez@carterarnett.com

South Asian Bar Association of Austin

Chair
Leena Chaphekar
Employees Retirement System of Texas
leena.chaphekar@gmail.com

Chair-Elect
Dr. Puneet Kohli
Baker Botts
puneet.kohli@bakerbotts.com

South Asian Bar Association Dallas

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

Vice President
Jay Tatachar
Ericsson, Inc.
jay.tatachar@ericsson.com

Asian American Bar Association of Houston

President
Judy Kim
EDF Trading North America, LLC
judith.kim@edfenergyservices.com

President-Elect
Sarah Tejada
Rosas & Suerken, PLLC
stejada@rosaslawgroup.com

South Asian Bar Association of Houston

President
George Samuel
Houston Methodist Hospital
george.samuel.esq@gmail.com

President-Elect
Neal A. Sarkar
AZA Law
nsarkar@azalaw.com

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Affiliate News & Member Accomplishments

AABA Houston held its Annual Gala & Silent Auction on September 27, 2019, featuring Ivan K. Fong, Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs and General Counsel of 3M Company, and continued its tradition of donating a portion of its proceeds to the Asian American Bar Foundation. Lucia Zhan received the Honorable Herbert W. Gee Memorial Scholarship, Julia Ngo and Marv Marasigan received the AABF & Houston Volunteer Lawyers Pro Bono Scholarships, Anhnhi N. Ho received the AABF Scholarship, and South Texas College of Law Houston's APALSA received the APALSA Grant. AABA Houston held a professional development panel and discussion on October 9, 2019 on "The Red Scare and Updates on US-China Cross Border Transactions." AABA Houston held their 15th Annual Corporate Counsel Dinner on November 14, 2019, featuring Rudy Figueroa, Vice President of Admin, Human Resources & Risk Management, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Mitsui Rail Capital LLC.

SABA Dallas held its 4th Annual Gala on September 28, 2019, with entertainment by American Born Desi Comics. Due to the generous support of sponsors and members, they were able to donate \$20,000 to their charity of choice, the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance, which provides Dallas ISD students an opportunity to participate in rigorous academic policy debate.

DAABA hosted a Career Day for law students on September 28, 2019 featuring speakers on various panels for Private Practice, In-House Practice, Public Practice, and the Judiciary (Hon. James C. Ho, Hon. Karen Gren Scholer, and Hon. Brenda Rhodes). DAABA held its 12th Annual Awards Night on October 3, 2019, featuring Alan Tse, Senior Vice President, Global Chief Legal Officer, and Corporate Secretary of Jones Lang LaSalle in a fireside chat moderated by The Honorable James C. Ho of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Hanna Kim received the Outstanding DAABA Member Award, Elizabeth Chung received the Taryn Vu Memorial Scholarship, and Thompson Du received the DAABA Law Student Scholarship.

APIS, AAABA, DAABA, and AABA Houston hosted a joint Texas affiliate welcome reception at the NAPABA National Convention in Austin on November 7, 2019. Reed Smith LLP and Haynes and Boone, LLP sponsored the event at Second Bar + Kitchen.

To submit announcements, please email shruti@ziosk.com.

APIS 25th Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATE!

APIS 25th Annual Conference: Celebrating a Quarter Century of APA Legal Success

Hilton Downtown (Austin, TX)
April 2-3, 2020

Make sure you attend this conference 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—join us! The conference includes a Thursday evening kick-off event, breakfast, CLEs, a luncheon, an evening awards reception, and countless opportunities for networking and growth. Registration details are coming soon at <https://www.texasapis.org>.

What: APIS 25th Annual Conference

Where: Hilton Downtown, 500 East 4th Street, Austin, TX 78701

When: Thursday, April 2 & Friday, April 3, 2020

Hotel Information

Guests can call Hilton Central Reservations directly at 1-800-236-1592 and reference the group name, APIS Meeting, or the group code, API, in order to receive our group rate. Online reservations may also be made at <https://book.paskey.com/go/AsianPacificInterestSection>.

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 and submit your suggested topic or visit our website at <https://www.texasapis.org/conference/call-for-speakers/>.

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 Phil Kim, APIS Treasurer, at phil.kim@haynesboone.com.

To submit announcements, please email shruti@ziosk.com.
