



ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 3656
New York, N.Y. 10163-3656

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Contact: Yang Chen, Executive Director
(718) 228-7206

NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION AWARDS BEST LAWYERS UNDER 40 HONOR TO FIVE AABANY MEMBERS

NEW YORK – November 20, 2012 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) congratulates its members Steve Choi, Rio Guerrero, Blossom Kan, Teena-Ann V. Sankoorikal, and Vinoo Varghese as 2012 recipients of the Best Lawyers Under 40 Award presented by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“NAPABA”).

Steve Choi is the executive director of the MinKwon Center for Community Action, which organizes, educates and serves the Korean and Asian communities in New York. MinKwon and AABANY work together on numerous initiatives and programs to benefit the Asian American community in New York. Steve received his B.A. from Stanford University in History with honors and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. His many honors and recognitions include the Korean American Association’s “Man of the Year” Award, the Wasserstein Fellowship, the Skadden Fellowship, and the Harvard Law School Asian Pacific American Alumni Award.

Rio Guerrero is a partner with the U.S. immigration law firm of Guerrero Yee LLP in New York City. For over a decade, the firm has successfully represented corporate and individual clients with their immigration matters in all fifty states and abroad. In 2012, the Filipino-American National Historical Society honored Rio with the Contributions to Excellence Award, recognizing his success as an attorney and his pro bono service to the Filipino-American community. In 2009, Rio formed and currently co-chairs the AABANY Immigration and Nationality Law Committee.

Blossom Kan is an assistant general counsel at MetLife. Blossom’s focus is on disputes relating to the sale or performance of life insurance products, annuities and investment. She also handles FINRA, SEC and state regulatory matters, advises on enhancements to compliance, mitigates litigation risk, and works on public filings and disclosures. She is a graduate of Yale University and NYU Law School. She is a member of the Board of Directors of PALS (Practicing Attorneys for Law Students), which provides mentorship to diverse law students. She has also co-authored two novels published by St. Martin’s Press, *China Dolls* and *Young, Restless and Broke*.

Teena-Ann V. Sankoorikal is a partner in Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP’s Litigation Department. Teena-Ann has a broad litigation practice, with particular expertise in copyright, patent and trade secret matters, as well as experience with antitrust law, securities, Alien Tort Statute and internal investigations. She joined Cravath in 1999 and became a partner in 2007. She received a B.S. in Chemistry, *cum laude*, from Yale University in 1996 and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999, where she was the research editor for the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*.

Vinoo Varghese is the principal at Varghese & Associates, P.C., a criminal and asset forfeiture defense firm founded in 2006. The firm represents individuals and companies at trials, on appeal, and under investigation, and it has secured dozens of dismissals, favorable plea bargains, and settlements for its clients. Vinoo has tried over 25 criminal cases to verdict and written and argued numerous appeals. From

2000-2006, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County. He received his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 2000 and B.A. from New York University in 1996. Vinoo currently sits on AABANY's Board as a Director.

AABANY President Jean Lee said: "I'm thrilled to see talented and deserving AABANY members being recognized by NAPABA and equally excited that this is the most number of AABANY members who were recognized in recent memory if not since the award has been given."

Executive Director Yang Chen added: "We have always been fortunate to count some highly accomplished and distinguished attorneys and individuals among AABANY's membership, and it is immensely gratifying that this year's crop of Best Lawyers Under 40 award recipients have worked closely with AABANY through partnership (MinKwon) and sponsorship (Cravath, MetLife, GuerreroYee, Varghese & Associates). Well done, and congratulations to all!"

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The Asian American Bar Association of New York was formed in 1989 as a not-for-profit corporation to represent the interests of New York Asian-American attorneys, judges, law professors, legal professionals, paralegals and law students. AABANY has more than 1800 current and past members. The mission of AABANY is to improve the study and practice of law, and the fair administration of justice for all by ensuring the meaningful participation of Asian Americans in the legal profession.

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