

ANEY K. CHANDY -- CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

OUR VISION TOGETHER

Mission

There are over 53 countries that represent Asia and the Pacific Rim. Our task as an organization, representing and unifying all of these diverse countries, languages and religions, is not easy, but it is certainly necessary. *The State of New Jersey has yet to feel the full force of our collective strength but I believe it can and it will.* As President-elect and then President of APALA, my goal would be to engage in a collaborative effort to establish an agenda that would make this vision a reality by focusing on five (5) priorities detailed below.

Who & Why ANEY K. CHANDY?

First and foremost, I am a Jersey girl with deep Jersey roots. Since last year, I have been serving APALA as one of your members and advisors to the Judicial and Political Appointment Committee. The opportunity to advise and promote APALA candidates for the judiciary and government appointments has inspired me to further commit and contribute to APALA. In my current position as in-house counsel at Toys “R” Us, a large fortune 250 corporation headquartered in NJ, I play a critical role as both an employment lawyer and in the development of a government affairs practice at the Company. As a part of my government affairs duties, I have been working to facilitate and participate in meetings between our corporate leadership and government leadership at the state and federal levels. Prior to this position, I served as the Corporation Counsel for the City of Newark, where I oversaw a diverse practice of 6,000+ matters and managed 45 in-house attorneys, 10 per-diem municipal prosecutors and 17 outside law firms. Before serving the City of Newark, I was an Assistant Attorney General in the Executive Office of the Attorney General and AAG in charge of Civil Rights Litigation in the NJ Attorney General’s Office. My commitment to public service originated during my private practice days at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, where I learned irreplaceable foundational legal and organizational skills while also devoting time to serving as *pro bono* counsel to indigent petitioners seeking asylum through our immigration courts and women seeking protection from deportation in proceedings under the Violence Against Women Act. Staying true to my Jersey roots, I attended Rutgers College and Seton Hall Law School and also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Freda L. Wolfson (then U.S.M.J., now U.S.D.J.) in Trenton, NJ.

The Proposed Agenda Of A Vision Driven Mission

Priority No. 1 - BUILD OUR MEMBERSHIP

Currently, I understand that our organization has 100+ paid members. My vision is that in 2 years we work towards building 5x as many members. To achieve our goal, we should begin an active, aggressive recruiting campaign focused on proactively visiting and calling law firms, corporations, non-profits and government agencies throughout the State to identify and recruit APAs to be members. Our task, in the first instance, would be to ask the potential members to make the following **minimal** commitment every year: (1) join and pay the \$40 membership dues; (2) attend the APALA Annual Banquet; and (3) introduce a friend to APALA. *As we increase our membership, we will undoubtedly increase our influence in the legal community and the State.*

Priority No. 2 - ADMINISTRATION

Based on discussions with the current leadership and members of APALA, our organization has identified numerous opportunities to advance the administrative functions of APALA. I support our leadership's efforts in this regard and in creating a legacy of transparency. I also welcome the possibility of centralizing our administrative efforts and creating administrative continuity by requesting that the NJSBA consider providing us office space in the Law Center and by establishing a P. O. Box for the organization.

Priority No. 3 - BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS & MARKETING OUR ORGANIZATION

There is strength in numbers. We must build strong foundational partnerships with our sister bar associations, including for example, the Garden State Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association and the South Asian Bar Association. As President-elect of APALA, I would reach out to Greta Gooden Brown, the current President of the GSBA, Miguel Pozo, the President-Elect of the HBA and SABA President, Parag Patel. I would continue to learn from their success and create partnerships with them for our mutual benefit. My vision, which I hope will be our vision, is that in 2010, our annual banquet would be in the same location on the same evening of the GSBA Dinner and the HBA Dinner. My vision, which I hope will be our vision, is that we hold a joint cocktail hour with our sister organizations. My vision, which I hope will be our vision, is that the Governor, U.S. Senators, the Attorney General and other dignitaries circulate to all 3 events instead of just attending the GSBA Dinner and the HBA Dinner. My vision, which I hope will be our vision, is that our annual banquet be a highly anticipated event, brimming with recognition of the finest APA achievements in our State. My vision, which I hope will be our vision, is that this event will be a shining example of the beauty and strength of our diversity -- in ideas, dress, music, and food. Advocates by their very nature are leaders. *We must embrace this leadership within; each and every one of us needs to be a champion of this organization.* As President-Elect, I will not only continue to build the relationships necessary for our organization's success but will make every effort to help members build their own meaningful relationships for our collective benefit.

Priority No. 4 - NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

We all know the statistics. APAs comprise at least 8% of the State's population. We have a high percentage of literacy and higher education. We have a higher than average median household income. We are the fastest growing minority population in NJ law schools and consequently in the NJ legal community. Our taxes fund our State and Federal government. We should receive appropriate representation for our taxation. *If APAs comprise 8% of the State's population, then we should work to ensure that, at a minimum, APAs represent 8% of the executive, legislative and judicial leadership in our State.*

Priority No. 5 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING

Our members are lawyers and lawyers are busy. Between work obligations, the Federal Bar, the State Bar, the specialty bars, social commitments and family obligations, there is just too little time to do everything we would like to do. *We will concentrate our effort on conducting a select number of quality, career enhancing programs or networking events.* We should identify an agenda of issues important to the APA community at the local, state, federal, and international levels, including, for example anti-discrimination/hate crime laws, immigration issues, bilingual education issues, cultural exchange programs and APA college student recruitment for legal careers.

My Request Of You As A Member

The collection of my legal experiences have provided me with the very fortunate opportunity to experience the legal profession from diverse perspectives, developed my leadership and organizational skills and have enabled me to build a network of relationships that will undoubtedly benefit our organization. In the final analysis, don't vote for me because of the breadth of my experience because each and every candidate seeking this position has strong credentials and has exemplified a commitment to the APA community. **If you agree with my proposed agenda, then vote for me for the position of President-Elect of APALA and together we will begin the collaborative effort to achieve our collective mission.**

Thank you,
Aney K. Chandy, Esq.