



OAPABA
OREGON ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**NEWS RELEASE
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OAPABA Announces New Board of Directors

The Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association (OAPABA) has elected its 2015-2016 board of directors. Incoming board president Liani Reeves is joined by President-Elect Jovita Wang, Secretary Dan Simon, and Treasurer Anne Nguyen. The most recent regional and at-large representatives to join the board are Derily Bechthold, Sara Ghafouri, Rebecca Guiao and law student representatives Gabriel Lee, Samrach Sar, Josh Volvovic, Daniel Phung, and Ricky Tucker.

Liani Reeves (President) is of counsel at Bullard Law and previously served as General Counsel for the Office of the Governor for the previous four years. Her current practice focuses on employment law, and she has a special passion for helping employers navigate the litigation process. Originally from upstate New York, Liani is a graduate of Willamette University College of Law. In May 2015, Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) awarded Liani the Judge Mercedes Deiz Award. In 2011, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) selected Liani as one of NAPABA's "Best Lawyers Under 40."

Jovita Wang (President-Elect) is an associate attorney at Folawn Alterman & Richardson LLP. Her practice revolves around all aspects of complex civil litigation in state and federal court. Prior to joining Folawn in 2015, Jovita spent the first four years of practice with Miller Nash Graham & Dunn. In 2014, Jovita was recognized by Oregon Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star." Jovita obtained her J.D. from University of Washington School of Law.

Dan Simon (Secretary) is an assistant deputy city attorney at the Portland City Attorney's Office as part of the new Honors Attorney program. His practice area primarily focuses on tort litigation. Dan graduated with a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School with a certificate in business law and was a member of the Cornelius Honor Society. In 2010, Dan was awarded Best Brief & Best Oral Advocate in Moot Court competition.

Anne Nguyen (Treasurer) has been a member of OAPABA since 2010. She has served as the Lewis & Clark Law School student representative for OAPABA and as secretary for OAPABA last year. Anne graduated from Lewis & Clark Law School in 2013.

Derily Bechthold is a deputy attorney at the Portland City Attorney's Office. Her practice focuses on providing legal advice to and litigating claims on behalf of the Bureau of Fire and Police Disability and Retirement. She also advises bureaus on labor and employment matters and represents the City in arbitration. Prior to this position, Derily worked as an associate attorney at Standard Insurance Company. Derily obtained her J.D. at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Sara Ghafouri is an associate attorney at Hagland Kelley LLP. Her practice focuses on business and commercial litigation, antitrust, and environmental and natural resources law. She graduated *cum laude* from Lewis & Clark Law School with a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law.

Rebecca Guiao is an assistant attorney general at the Oregon Department of Justice. She graduated from Lewis & Clark Law School in 2012.

Gabriel Lee attends Willamette University College of Law and is expected to graduate in the Spring of 2016. He served as president of Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) Willamette chapter. Gabriel is also editor of the Oregon Courts division for the Willamette Law Online newsletter and is involved in Opportunities for Law in Oregon (OLIO) program with the Oregon State Bar.

Samrach Sar attends Willamette University College of Law and is expected to graduate in the Spring of 2016. He has been very active in the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (NAPALSA), serving as their regional director, where he organized and brought the Thomas Tang Moot Court regional competition to Portland this past year and was named the NAPALSA Student of the Year for 2014-2015. Samrach is President of the American Constitution Society for the Willamette Law chapter. He is currently a summer law clerk at Creighton & Rose and is interested in civil litigation and appellate practice.

Josh Volvovic attends Lewis & Clark Law School and is expected to graduate in the Spring of 2016. He serves as a law clerk for the Portland City Attorney's Office.

Daniel Phung is the first person in his family to attend law school. Daniel currently attends the University of Oregon Law School and is spending this summer interning at the Sacramento District Attorney's Office.

Ricky Tucker is a rising 2L at the University of Oregon Law School. He is spending this summer working at Youth, Rights, & Justice. Ricky is involved in the pro bono board, moot court, and serves as APALSA co-chair at his school.

OAPABA would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to outgoing board members, President Toan Nguyen, Representatives Jonathon Liou and Genevieve AuYeung Kiley, and Law Student Representatives Kouang Chan and Tucker Kraght for their immeasurable service.

About OAPABA

OAPABA is an organization of lawyers, law students, judges and law professors. OAPABA seeks to:

- foster communication, fellowship and the exchange of ideas among Asian Pacific American attorneys and between Asian Pacific American attorneys and other individuals, organizations and governmental entities;
- to implement, coordinate or support legal services impacting Asian Pacific American communities at the local and national levels;
- to encourage, support, research and implement programs related to professional development and advancement; and
- to represent and advocate the interests of Asian Pacific Americans in the legal profession, in legal education and in the community and to provide a vehicle and forum for formulating, adopting and expressing opinions and positions on matters or events of concern to Asian Pacific American attorneys in Oregon.

For more information on joining OAPABA, please contact Dan Simon at secretary@oapaba.org.

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