

Happy Holidays



KPA Newsletter - Holiday Issue

Winter 2019, Issue No. 2



Latest News

*All the news about KPA
Chapter mixers and more*

[Current Events](#)



KPA's 10 Year Anniversary

*2020 International Criminal Law Conference
Los Angeles, CA - June 12-14, 2020*

[2020 Annual Conference](#)

President's Message

On behalf of the Korean Prosecutors Association, I'd like to wish all our members, alumni members, friends and community supporters a happy holiday season. As I reflect back on 2019 and all that KPA was able to achieve, I am filled with gratitude to our members who serve our communities and keep them safe; to our alumni members who make us proud as they move forward in their careers; to our friends who support and encourage us; and to our

community members who believe in our mission and help us grow.

As we welcome 2020, I look forward to working with all of you to make KPA a bigger and better vessel to serve our members and our respective communities worldwide. Happy New Year and I hope to see you at our 10 year anniversary conference in June, 2020.

Best from San Francisco, Elizabeth Kim, KPA President

SPOTLIGHT KPA Member - Judge Esther P. Kim



A huge congratulations to our former KPA board member Esther Kim on her appointment to the Los Angeles County Superior Court by California Governor Gavin Newsom in October 2019.

Before her appointment, Judge Kim served as a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. Judge Kim was nominated for the Attorney General's award for Sustained Commitment to Diversity, and on December 5, 2019, she returned to the Department of Justice to receive her award from Attorney General Xavier Becerra.

Judge Kim and her husband, Judge Tony Cho (also a former KPA board member), are our proud judicial power couple. Just last year, Judge Cho was elected to the Los Angeles County Superior Court. They are the first ever Korean-American husband and wife judges. We thank judges Kim and Cho for their years of service to the KPA, including for their mentorship, community outreach, presentations at conferences, and research projects.

Congratulations to Judges Kim and Cho. You make us proud!

U.S. Attorney Byung J. "BJay" Pak

By Samantha Routh, KPA board member in Georgia

I had the honor of interviewing Mr. Pak, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. Mr. Pak is the first Korean-American Presidentially appointed United States Attorney. After over two hours of heart-to-heart with Mr. Pak, I left his office struck by his humility, and re-inspired in my commitment to public service. Although Mr. Pak has worked in some high-profile positions, he never lost sight of his vision or who he wanted to be. He is truly an inspiration to all, and I hope I am able to do justice to this great man within the short passages below.



First, a brief personal background. Mr. Pak was born in Seoul, South Korea and moved to the United States at age 10. He learned English by watching cartoons, particularly Scooby-Doo. As a child, he was very shy, so his mother signed him up for a debate class in the summer before his 9th grade to help him overcome his shyness. A major turning point for him was during a debate on the Vietnam War. Subsequently, he was asked to join the school debate team.

Mr. Pak's first exposure to the legal career came when he worked for the Department of Justice in the Appellate Civil Division while studying for the bar examination. While there, he joked that his IQ increased by osmosis from being around those attorneys. After passing the bar, Mr. Pak clerked for Judge Richard Mills of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois. Mr. Pak took some time to talk about Judge Mills, who he says was a "tremendous champion of his career." Judge Mills was a Korean War veteran and a fan of the Korean community. From Judge Mills, Mr. Pak learned to be loyal to the law and to always do the right thing. Judge Mills was a prolific letter writer, like Abraham Lincoln, one of Mr. Pak's other inspirations. Upon passing the Bar, Mr. Pak was sworn in at Abraham Lincoln's old law office.

After clerking for Judge Mills, Mr. Pak's career path took him to the Alston and Bird law firm where he was one of the first Asian attorneys for the Atlanta firm. When 9-11 happened, Mr. Pak wanted to serve and protect the Country that he had grown to love so much. He applied to the U.S. Attorney's Office and was hired at the age of 27. Mr. Pak described his Assistant U.S. Attorney position as the best job he had ever had, and while there, he became well-known for his prosecution of the theft of trade secrets of the Coca-Cola formula. With the pressures of a growing family, however, Mr. Pak left the US Attorney's office and rejoined a law firm.

Mr. Pak's desire for public service encouraged him to run for the Georgia House of Representatives in 2010. He reflected back on how far he had come, from being a shy boy forced to attend speech/debate classes, to knocking on doors asking for support, to becoming the first Korean-American member of the Georgia House of Representatives, where he served from 2011 – 2017. After leaving the House of Representatives, Mr. Pak joined a small boutique firm where he was eventually encouraged to submit his name in for his "dream job," that of becoming a United States Attorney. He received the White House nomination on July 27, 2017, the Senate confirmation on September 27, 2017, and was sworn in as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia on October 10 2017.

In his Office, Mr. Pak's focus is to enforce the law, especially drug trafficking crimes. He feels that drugs are the motivation behind so many other crimes, petty and violent. He also refocused his office to effectively prosecute violent crimes. Mr. Pak also brings a human side to prosecution and does not ignore the fact that he is dealing with people's lives. He has endorsed the Credible Messenger Program which pairs violent offenders with reformed

individuals with criminal records, and it works much like a mentor program. Mr. Pak wants to work on not only the prevention of crimes but also the re-entry of recently released criminals back into the community.

Mr. Pak is also committed to diversity and strives to eliminate implicit bias in the hiring process. When hiring, he also looks for people with grit, and does not focus solely on the academic prowess, but looks at their career achievements. Mr. Pak believes that diversity in prosecution is important and not just ethnic diversity, but socio-economic diversity along with varying backgrounds in law. His office represents a mixture of people with big firm backgrounds, former Assistant District Attorneys, and those who have never prosecuted before and each brings a different perspective to prosecution. Mr. Pak would like to see, however, more candidates of Asian, Hispanic, and African-American descent apply for prosecution positions.

When prosecuting, Mr. Pak encourages prosecutors to be as fair to defendants as possible. The law should be applied equally to those who are similarly situated with others. He cautions prosecutors in using their prosecutorial discretion to make exceptions for certain defendants which in turn causes disparity in treatment amongst cases.

When asked what words of encouragement he would like to impart on Korean-American prosecutors, he stated that he wants us to overcome the cultural programming of not promoting our own work and ability. If we want that high-profile case, then we should ask for it. If we want to advance, then we need to let people know. He wants us to reflect upon ourselves and see if we have bias toward ourselves and to overcome it. He also wants us to think about becoming "the boss," why not me? He wants us to get over our tendency to self-limit our potentials.

He is excited to see the far reach of KPA, specifically KPA's ability to rally so many prosecutors from around the world to come together under a single banner. He feels empowered to see people who have a common ethnicity come together to give back to their respective communities. He encourages members of the KPA to raise the profiles of its members and celebrate the accomplishment that each member makes in the prosecutorial community. He looks forward to attending the KPA conference in LA in 2020.

KPA Justice Foundation - Alumni Association Reception

On November, 23, the KPA Justice Foundation hosted a reception to celebrate the creation of its Alumni Association. It was a well-attended event with KPA members, alumni members, and community supporters, including: Judges (Mark Kim, Tony Cho, and Esther Kim), the President & CEO of the Korean Daily-JoongAng Ilbo, the President of the Korean Community Lawyers Association, a representative from the Korean-American Bar



Association of SoCal, a representative from the Overseas Koreans Foundation, the CEO of the Elite Education Group International JongHwan Patrick Park, the President of the Torrance Steel Windows Company Sandra Bahk, and the CEO and publisher for New Spectrum Kyu Yang. The alumni and community members in KPA's Justice Foundation Alumni Association will assist with the development of KPA members and support KPA's growth.

KPA's Chapter Updates



Christina Danbi Choi

Sydney, Australia

KPA member from the Land Down Under, Christina Danbi Choi, a federal prosecutor with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, has been promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Commercial, Financial & Corruption/Revenue and Benefits Fraud unit.

Congratulations to Christina!



Joseb Gim

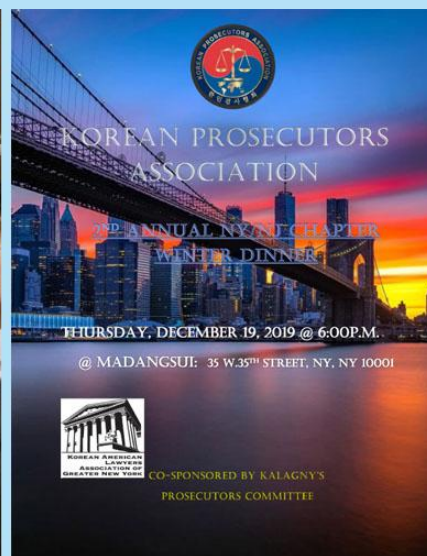
New York

KPA member and former board member Joseb Gim of the Nassau County District Attorney's Office has been promoted to the position of Deputy Bureau Chief of Felony Trials. And, we are fortunate to have Brian Lee at the same office as the Chief of Felony Trials.

Congratulations to Joseb!

New York Chapter - Winter Dinner

On December 19, the New York chapter co-hosted a holiday dinner with the Korean-American Lawyers Association of the Greater New York.



**Los Angeles Chapter
Holiday Mixer in Koreatown**

On December 5, the Los Angeles Chapter had its annual holiday mixer. This year, in addition to KPA members, the event was attended by friends of KPA from other local associations, including the Korean Community Lawyers Association and



Holiday Mixer

Korean Prosecutors Association
Date: December 5, 2019 (Thursday)
Time: 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Caffé Concerto
610 S Serrano Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90005

Please join us to close out the year.
Free for all KPA members and invited guests. Food will be provided.
Cash bar for alcohol and beverages. \$3 valet parking.
Please email RSVP@koreanpa.com



the Korean-American Bar Association of Southern California. This was a great opportunity to catch up with former board members including John Chang and meet new potential KPA members. Thank you Jina Kim and Irene Lee for organizing the event.

Northern California Chapter

KPA Northern California has been busy. On November 20, NorCal members, the Director of Undergraduate Admissions of UC Regents, and Judge Eumi Lee had dinner with the Korean Consul General in San Francisco, Park JoonYong.



KPA board member and Treasurer Glenn Kim has been giving tours of his office, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, to Korean prosecutors who are visiting scholars or studying towards their LLM degree.

KPA also assisted in providing an internship to a Korean prosecutor at the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

On December 7, 2019, KPA co-hosted a conference on Empowering the Korean-American Community with the Korean Consulate General's Office in San Francisco and the Korean-American Bar Association of Northern California. KPA President Elizabeth Kim participated in a panel and presented on the new laws and regulations affecting community organizations.



KPA's Upcoming Activities



*Celebrating 10 Years of Advancing
Justice Throughout the World
You are cordially invited to attend
Our*

7th International Criminal Law Conference Consumer Protection



900 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 688-7777

June 12, 2019 Reception
June 13, 2019 CLE Seminars,
Scholarship & Awards Dinner
June 14, 2019 Networking Social

www.koreanpa.org

KPA's 10 Year Anniversary

2020 International Criminal Law Conference
InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown
Los Angeles, CA - June 12-14, 2020

