

AAJ and the Minority Caucus—Paths to a Fulfilling Legal Career

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When I started as a first-year associate at Khorrami Pollard & Abir LLP, one of the first e-mails I received was a notification that my firm had registered me for a membership with the American Association for Justice (AAJ). Like most new attorneys, my primary focus was on finishing my

assignments and finding my place within an established and cohesive department. Networking and becoming active in legal associations were the least of my concerns. Needless to say, I didn't think much about my membership and continued on with my work routine.

It did not take long for me to realize the valuable role AAJ could play in my career and in the lives of my clients. By mobilizing trial attorneys throughout the country, AAJ has given the plaintiffs bar a united voice—a voice that fights for the rights of consumers and the public. It has fearlessly stood up to big business and its attempts at undermining our civil justice system through anti-consumer initiatives. AAJ has enabled its members to connect with colleagues from around the nation for support and exchange of legal strategies.

Perhaps the most important and intangible benefit membership in AAJ brings is the sense of camaraderie, community, and direction amongst its members. In our type of battle, it helps to know there are like-minded

attorneys fighting for the same righteous cause—justice.

As with every large group, some AAJ members find that they have unique struggles in their daily practice. These members have formed Caucuses to help them address these challenges head-on. Within these divisions of AAJ, members participate in events, discussions, and trainings directed at the special needs and interests of each group. As a young attorney and a minority, I have recently joined the New Lawyers Division and the Minority Caucus.

My decision to join the Minority Caucus was primarily fueled by the group's mission to develop education and networking programs of special interest to AAJ's minority members. I also appreciate the recognition the Minority Caucus gives to its members through awards like the Soaring Eagle Award and member spotlights on their Website and in newsletters. Hearing about the great work and dedication of these attorneys inspires me to become a better advocate and leader. Perhaps the most important aspect of the Minority Caucus is its commitment to advancement of minorities in the legal profession.

As I continue to develop my skills and confidence as a young attorney, I will look to my fellow members in the Minority Caucus and the New Lawyers Division for support. The motivation I have received from AAJ, the New Lawyers Division, and the Minority Caucus has truly been tremendous. I encourage all young, minority attorneys to join a Caucus—it will only work to amplify their experience! ■

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