

## MNAPABA Highlights

### Monthly Member Spotlight | August 2022

Each month, we endeavor to highlight our members. This is part of an ongoing effort to help MNAPABA members get to know one another. Read below about...

#### Alex Kim and Anna Kim

Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig (Alex)

Attorney, League of Minnesota Cities (Anna)



#### Tell us a bit about yourself.

Anna: I am an American-Born-Chinese (ABC) from San Francisco, California. I came out to Minnesota for law school and stayed because I met Alex. I work at the League of Minnesota Cities and have been involved with MNAPABA since 2008, and I am a past executive board member of MNAPABA.

Alex: I am a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, and I lead the patent team based in Minneapolis. I was born in Seoul, South Korea, and grew up in Minnesota. I was the shy geeky kid growing up, who enjoyed solving math puzzles and reading books. I came out of that shell in graduate school where I gave lectures and taught chemistry and physiology. I am a past President of MNAPABA.

#### What do you enjoy most about your work?

Anna: As a litigator, I enjoy the discovery process and investigating the facts. Each case usually has a fascinating set of circumstances, and I also delight in learning all kinds of new things, especially learning about the human anatomy and physiology (where there is an injury involved).

Alex: I enjoy helping business leaders and help companies and people increase their assets and value. I enjoy helping the clients protect their inventions and other intangible assets. I also enjoy “geeking-out” over new technologies. I also enjoy leading my team and giving mentorship and guidance to them.

### **What do you enjoy doing outside of work?**

Anna: I love being with my family, my dog, and spending time with my friends. I love running, food, and new experiences.

Alex: Sleep. Also, spending time with my family. If I have time, then archery.

### **How did you get involved with MNAPABA, what did MNAPABA look like before, and why did you stay involved?**

Anna: In 2008, I volunteered to help with the First NAPABA Central Region Convention held in Minneapolis. MNAPABA was NAPABA-MN at that time. I have been an advocate of APA communities for many years and have always been passionate about serving our community.

Alex: When I was a 1L in law school, I had the opportunity to attend the NAPABA Conference in Dallas. It changed my life. I met so many APA leaders, it truly inspired me to do better and also to help those who follow. So I started going to the MNAPABA board meetings (it was called NAPABA-MN then). I worked with Judge Susan Burke, Ngoc Nelson, Ellen Cha, Ash Mishra, Dan Lew, and many others who were the leaders back then. I recall attending the board meetings at Dorsey (Amy Xu gets the credit for allowing us to use the board room), and there was always free pizza at the meetings. We used to have the annual dinners at a local Chinese restaurant. It was small but intimate, where everyone knew everyone. I am very glad to have been a part of some significant moments for MNAPABA, such as having been the Co-Chair of the First NAPABA Central Region Convention held in Minneapolis (with Co-Chair Steve Reeves - now GC of Johnson Brothers). MNAPABA connections have given me the opportunity for my first job out of law school. I met Anna because of MNAPABA. Truly, MNAPABA gets the credit for my career and my family.

### **Now we have to know -- how did you meet?**

Anna: ...

Alex: We met at the First NAPABA Central Region Convention held in Minneapolis. I was President of MNAPABA, and as I was about to give my welcome speech at the Welcome Reception, I saw Anna across the room...waved at her. She waved back. Boom. Direct hit to the heart. That was it. Game over.

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