



CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS

Year-In-Review Newsletter

June 2, 2011

Message from the President

Dear Members & Friends,

This Year-in-Review marks the close of another active year for MuBANY and our Fifth Anniversary! Given how much the organization has accomplished and how visible the organization has become locally and nationally, it's hard to believe that MuBANY has only been around for five years. This Newsletter brings you a sampling of last year's work and our work over the past five years.

Our accomplishments are noteworthy and exemplify what working together can achieve. For example, this past year, MuBANY received the 2010 Bar Leaders Innovation Award from the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders. The award recognized our 2010 work with Muslim Advocates, the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association, and the Association of Muslim American Lawyers to train lawyers, masjids and Muslim charities in the New York area on legal and financial best practices.

As we gear up for another exciting year, we hope you'll get more involved so that we can bring programming that is relevant to you – our valued members. We also hope you'll let us know how we're doing by completing our yearly survey or dropping us an email.

Sincerely,

Safia Hussain, Esq.

Networking for Lawyers & Students

According to our Members, the top priority for MuBANY should be networking. Here is how we have delivered:

- Five Annual Ramadan Iftars
- Five Annual General Meetings, with keynote speeches from Aziz Huq, formerly of the Brennan Center for Justice; Farhana Khera, Executive Director of Muslim Advocates, the Hon. Elizabeth Stong, Bankr. E.D.N.Y., the Hon. Hany Mawla, New Jersey's first Muslim Superior Court judge
- Dinners, mixers and fundraisers with the Muslim Finance Professionals Association, the National Muslim Law Students Association, and the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association

MuBANY Fosters Professional Development

Over the past five years, we have strived to increase the knowledge base of our practicing members and students through organizing and co-sponsoring free practitioner panels, free or discounted CLE, and other professional development events. Topics have included:

- Working in Government
- Being an In-House Attorney
- Tips for Job Seekers
- Joint OPEN/MFPA/MuBANY Career Day
- Careers in Public Interest
- Annual Bar Exam Takers Teleconferences
- The Ins and Outs of Law School
- Inspiring Paths with Groundbreaking Law Firms
- Finding a Job in the Recession
- Resume reviews, mock interviews, and networking
- Judicial Clerkships
- Building a Successful Solo/Small Firm Practice

Referrals, Job Announcements, and News

On a daily basis, MuBANY provides Muslim lawyers and students with the information they need to stay ahead.

- Our MuBANY listserv remains a vital centerpiece for legal referrals, job announcements, event info, and news. Our readership includes 290 members and is nationwide.
- Our website, Facebook page, and online attorney directory provide key information on programs, services, and where to find legal assistance.

MuBANY Promoting Diversity

MuBANY has played a lead role in informing legal employers about the needs of Muslim employees. Our 2009 letter regarding the overlap of Ramadan and the interview call-back season was featured by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association and distributed by NALP to employers nationwide. MuBANY also has a standing member on NYSBA's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, and supports diversity events such as the Annual NYSBA Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception and the National Conference for the Minority Lawyer.

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MuBANY Mentorship Program

Recognizing the importance of mentorship, MuBANY pairs up law students and junior attorneys with mid-level and senior attorneys. MuBANY kicked off this year's program in November 2010 and featured a follow up networker this spring. Let us know if you would like a mentor or mentee!

MuBANY Partners with Area Bar Groups

Through programming and partnerships, we have built important relationships with peer bar associations. We are members of the local Network of Bar Leaders and the statewide Conference of Bar Leaders. We co-organize professional development and educational programs with groups like NYCLA, NYSBA, and SABANY.

MuBANY Advocacy

In addition to serving members, MuBANY has been a vocal advocate on behalf of Muslim Americans on a local and national level. Our work has included:

- Co-drafting "CountertERRORism Policy: MACLC's Critique of the NYPD's Report on Homegrown Radicalism," with the Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition (MACLC)
- Organizing a press conference regarding NYPD screening of "The Third Jihad," with MACLC
- Media appearances, letters, and op-ed submissions regarding Muslim attorneys, the civil rights of Muslim Americans, etc. (New York Law Journal, CBS2TV, Crain's Business NY, KSA2TV, WNYC)
- Drafting a letter to U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary Committee Regarding Violations of Privacy Faced by Americans Returning from Overseas Travel, with community partners
- Drafting a letter to U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Regarding Hearing on Engaging with Muslim Communities Around the World, with community partners
- Co-signing a letter to U.S. House Leadership regarding the 2011 Peter King hearings, with community partners
- Co-signing a letter to President Obama on Protecting Zakat, with community partners
- Co-signing an amicus brief in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder* (United States Supreme Court)
- Co-signing an amicus brief in *Samadov v. U.S. Attorney General* (Third Circuit Court of Appeals)
- Issuing joint statements on international issues, including events in Pakistan, Palestine and Sudan.

MuBANY Events on Legal Issues

MuBANY regularly presents programming on timely legal topics of interest for our own membership and the wider legal and non-legal community. Events have included:

- Five Years Later: Protecting Civil Liberties and National Security after 9/11
- Legal Ethics Through a Religious Lens
- The Ethics of Surveillance: Monitoring Mosques
- Turkey's Headscarf Ban: The Political, Social, and Legal Impact on Turkish Women's Rights
- How to Run for Public Office
- "Americans on Hold" Film screening & discussion on the impact of the War on Terror on immigration
- Panel on Hot Topics Concerning Muslims & the Law Post-9/11
- Islamic Law 101 – An Introduction to Islamic Legal Theory and Modern Practice
- Financial & Legal Seminar for Muslim Non-Profits and Community Organizations
- Forming & Running Mosques – Legal Issues for Boards and Leadership

MuBANY Community Engagement

MuBANY regularly engages with local Muslim community organizations and provides opportunities for Members to give back. This work includes:

- Voter Registration & Election Protection work
- Participating in Borough President and Mayoral Eid and Iftar events
- MuBANY's Annual Eid Toy Drive
- Info Session on Running for Community Board
- "Weekend of Twinings" Interfaith events
- Liaising with local and federal law enforcement through MACLC and other coalitions
- Supporting and partnering with CAIR-NY, Women in Islam, Inc., the Muslim Consultative Network, the Coalition for Muslim School Holidays, AAANY, MACLC and AALDEF
- Providing *pro bono* opportunities via our listserv and the SABANY Pro Bono Clearinghouse.

The Muslim Bar Association of New York serves the educational, professional, and social needs of Muslim legal professionals and law students living and working in the New York metropolitan area. To learn more, visit www.muslimbarny.org.