

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION



Karen I. Wu

**2012 Outstanding Young
Lawyer Award**

January 26, 2012

Sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section
James R. Barnes
Chairperson

Karen I. Wu, Esq.

Karen I. Wu, an attorney at the New York City law firm of Perlman & Perlman, was named the recipient of the 2012 State Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. The award honors young attorneys who have a distinguished record of service within the legal profession and the community.

"It is very meaningful for me to be able to directly serve individuals in need, in addition to an already rewarding career serving nonprofit organizations," Wu said.

In her professional capacity, Wu specializes in finance, contracts, marketing, trademark/copyrights and regulatory matters on behalf of the firm's nonprofit and for-profit clients. In the community, she puts her skills and knowledge to use helping members of her community with legal advice.

Among her many community activities is Open Hands Legal Services, of which she is a founding member, officer and active volunteer. Open Hands provides legal services and counseling to the poor and indigent in New York City.

As a volunteer at Open Hands, Wu often sits at the table on the second floor of the soup kitchen and food pantry of the Father's Heart Ministries, dispensing legal advice to the indigent on such matters as evictions, post-prison assistance, employment and personal injury.

She is also active in the Taiwan Mission Foundation, the New York Christian Legal Society, the American Cancer Society's Asian Initiatives Division and the Asian American Bar Association of New York. Though she is a native of Queens, her parents came from Taiwan.

During her high school and college years, Wu was a nationally recognized table tennis champion. She was one of 12 women around the country who participated in the 1996 and 2000 U.S. Olympic Table Tennis team

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trials. She was the Under-16 girls table tennis champion twice. And in 1999, she was the national collegiate women's singles table tennis champion of the Association of College Unions International (ACUI).

The 33-year-old mother of two young children, she credits the discipline, rigorous training and focus required to succeed in competitive table tennis for helping her reach her goals in other areas of her life, including the law.

"Being a competitive table tennis player growing up has certainly honed my discipline in all aspects of my life, which has enabled me to simultaneously manage my career, family, and volunteer commitments effectively," she said. "It also may have developed my instinct to advocate zealously for the best interests of my clients."

Seth Perlman, a senior partner at Perlman & Perlman, called Wu "the future of our firm."

"I do not make these praises lightly," Perlman said. "She is truly an extraordinary woman. Besides working hard hours here at the firm, she also spends considerable time on outside activities and worthy causes, in addition to remaining very involved with her two young children."

James Barnes (Burke & Casserly), chairman of the section that sanctions the Outstanding Young Lawyer award, said Wu embodies the ideals of service to the profession and the public.

"Her accomplishments as a practitioner, service to the profession, and volunteer work in the community make her a deserving recipient of this award," he said. "The dedication she has shown as an attorney and concerned citizen provides a shining example to young professionals."

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*The Young Lawyers Section expresses its appreciation
to all those who submitted nominations.*



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207
518.463.3200
yls@nysba.org