



# Year In Review

## 2009-2010



### Community Activism:

> MuBANY continued to **work with local and national Muslim organizations** on issues relating to local and federal law enforcement, including success with securing a "Statement of Clarification" to the NYPD's Radicalization Report and organizing informational sessions regarding the Alavi Foundation asset forfeiture case.

> **In the Media**, MuBANY submitted various letters to editors on community issues and appeared on local radio and television to discuss President Obama's historic speech in Cairo.

> **MuBANY's Eid Toy Drive** collected 59 toys and books which the Arab American Association of New York distributed to local children.

> **MuBANY leaders had various speaking engagements**, including panel discussions at Yale Law School, the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and the 2010 New York State Bar Association Meeting.

> **MuBANY raised awareness and support** for the New York City Council vote on Muslim School Holidays.

> **MuBANY co-signed amicus briefs** regarding issues such as judicial compensation and discrimination against Muslims in America.

> **MuBANY promoted civic engagement** by co-sponsoring an information session with the Manhattan Borough President's Office on how to run for Community Board.

> **MuBANY supported community-government cooperation** through events such as Ramadan Iftars and Eid Breakfasts with local borough presidents and city council members.

### President's Message:

Dear Friends,

*Asalaam Alaikum and welcome to the MuBANY 2009-2010 Year in Review. MuBANY has had another excellent year, and this newsletter outlines some of our accomplishments. From networking events for lawyers to training sessions for law students, we have remained dedicated to addressing member needs. Beyond our membership, we have continued to educate the larger population, advocate for critical issues, and build partnerships with other bar associations and community organizations.*

*We hope you agree that it has been a successful and rewarding year. We are tremendously grateful to our dedicated team of members, Officers and Directors, without whom none of this would be possible. MuBANY is here for its members. It is YOUR organization. So get involved and let's make a difference!*

Peace,  
Asim Rehman  
President

## Action

## A YEAR OF SUCCESS AND GROWTH

### EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ON LAW & CHARITY

MuBANY was the co-sponsor and local partner for Muslim Advocates' highly acclaimed **Financial & Legal Seminar for Muslim Nonprofits and Community Organizations**. The seminar, which arrived in New York after successful runs in various U.S. cities, drew over 100 participants, traveling from all four boroughs, New Jersey, and even upstate New York. From the first morning panel until late in the afternoon, community members learned all about best practices for running their organizations and posed some excellent questions to our experts. There was an overflow of thanks at the end of the day, and we are confident that the participants will use what they learned to make their organizations stronger. The event was a highlight of our year and the planning involved many hours of hard work by a dedicated team.

A very special thanks to our New York Law School volunteers and MuBANY volunteers for their help with community outreach and for giving up their Saturday to come assist with the event.

### WORKING WITH THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

As part of its goal to build partnerships, this year MuBANY **worked very closely with other New York Bar Associations and legal organizations in organizing various events and addressing a range of issues**. These included MuBANY's participation in the 7th Annual NYSBA Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception; "Islamic Law 101 – An Introduction to Islamic Legal Theory and Modern Practice," co-sponsorship with NYCLA; "Religion and The Death Penalty," co-sponsorship with the New York City Bar Association; Strategic meetings with area bar associations regarding judicial appointments, issues relating to diversity and minority bar associations, and bar leadership; and, MuBANY's co-sponsorship for AALDEF's 2009 Election Protection project and AALDEF's 2010 Legal Training on the Census, and as part of the former, MuBANY lawyers monitored polls and assisted voters.

**MuBANY for Law Students:  
Resume Review & Interview  
Preparation Program**

Law students were able to meet with practicing attorneys who dedicated their weekend to giving advice on resume writing, interview techniques and the “job search” itself. This year’s Resume Writing and Interview Preparation events took place at New York Law School (NYLS) and at private offices. *MuBANY wants to thank all participants spending their weekend and making this a wonderful event!*

**MuBANY for Law Students:  
Annual Bar Exam  
Preparation**

For the past couple of years, MuBANY has hosted an Annual Bar Exam Preparation Teleconference for those students preparing to take the New York Bar Exam. This year, the participants called from all over the United States. Special thanks to Sarah Izfar, Asad Kudiya, Haroon Cheema, and Manar Waheed for sharing their helpful insights on the bar exam experience.

**MuBANY for Law Students:  
Nationally Circulated OCI  
Letter**

Given the unique overlap of Ramadan and fall interview season in 2009, MuBANY sent a letter to legal employers and bar associations nationwide to inform potential employers about Ramadan and to explain how certain applicants may be fasting during the interview seasons. As a result, the Minority Corporation Counsel’s Association publicized the information on its website and NALP circulated the letter to its nationwide network of legal employers.

**Spotlight on Attorneys:  
Networking & Social  
Gatherings**

Among other networking events in the last year, MuBANY hosted two successful summer networking events at the beautiful 230 Fifth Rooftop Garden. In the fall, MuBANY held its annual Iftar at Dervish and co-sponsored a networking dinner at Darbar Grill.

**Spotlight on Attorneys:  
Attorney Directory**

This year, MuBANY continued to expand the first ever Muslim Attorney Directory serving NY and the Tri-State areas. The directory connects lawyers with other lawyers, lawyers to the greater community and law students with lawyers. The Directory is growing at a rapid pace and we welcome all members to continue sending their listings. There is no cost and the directory is available to the public at [muslimbarny.org](http://muslimbarny.org). To list yourself, please download a form off the MuBANY website.

**Spotlight on Members:  
Mentorship Program**

With over 20 Mentors and Mentees participating in this year’s Mentorship program, MuBANY has good reason to be proud of its success. The Mentorship program gives law students a chance to gain insight, ask questions and get feedback from attorneys from various fields. Mentees are paired individually with one mentor each and may correspond via email, phone or in person for advice. For more information, visit our website.

**Supporting the Muslim Arts:  
Film Screenings & More**

This year MuBANY organized member outings to the celebrated play, *The Domestic Crusaders*, and the Muslim Voices cultural festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). MuBANY also promoted and co-sponsored several local events including the NYC premiere of *Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*, a new UPF Film; the NYC screening of *Intifada NYC*, which was followed by a panel discussion with former KGIA principal Debbie Almontaser and her legal team; and finally, IMAN’s *Community Café* concert at the world famous Apollo Theater.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF  
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MuBANY is created to serve the educational, professional, and social needs of muslim legal professionals and law students living in the New York metropolitan area.

MuBANY is a non-profit association of lawyers, law students, and legal professionals. MuBANY does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or marital status. You can find out more about MuBANY by visiting <http://www.MuslimBarNY.org>

**MuBANY Online**

The MuBANY listserv remains a top source for news, announcements, referrals, and job notices for Muslim lawyers and law students. We are working hard to update our website, and MuBANY has also launched a Facebook Group.

Find out more at  
[www.muslimbarny.org](http://www.muslimbarny.org)