



AABA Newsletter

WWW.AABA - BAY.COM | DECEMBER 2006

AABA thanks the following sustaining members of 2006!

- Kathy Asada
- Michael Begert
- Edward Chen
- David Chiu
- Thomas C. Chow
- Rosemary Fei
- Samuel Feng
- Kevin Fong
- Emi Gusukuma
- Joan Haratani
- Joel Hayashida
- Lily Mayumi Kimura
- Ralph Latza
- Bill Lann Lee
- Celia Lee
- Ivana Lee
- Garrick Lew
- Susan Lew
- Wesley Lowe
- M. Kay Martin
- Dale Minami
- Ann Nguyen
- Christine Noma
- Scott Nonaka
- Rosemarie Oda
- Eugene Pak
- Paul Perdue
- Edwin Prather
- Raymond Sheen
- Jayashri Srikantiah
- Teresa Tan
- Garner Weng
- Darryl Woo
- Franklin Yap
- Stanley Young



David Chiu, AABA President

November was a good month for the AABA family. In San Francisco on Election Night, former AABA President/Public Defender Jeff Adachi and former Asian Law Caucus ED/Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting were re-elected (both endorsed by AABA member/Boalt 1L Jane Kim came in first in a hotly-contested San Francisco Board of Education race. At the National APA Bar Association conference in Philadelphia, numerous AABA members were honored for their achievements (see article, page 9).

VOTE — AABA BOARD ELECTIONS! In this newsletter, I'm very excited to announce an outstanding AABA officer slate for 2007-08. We also have a contested election for the three open seats on our AABA board. I think very highly of each of the candidates, and know that AABA will be in good hands for many years to come. Assuming you are an active attorney AABA member as of November 30th, you should receive a ballot in the mail by mid-December to cast your vote for these board candidates by January 14th.

GIVING THANKS TO UNSUNG AABA HEROES! Each month, our Newsletter Committee quietly pulls together articles and announcements from around our bar association to keep you informed. Since Thanksgiving is still in the air, I want to thank Alice Chin, Michelle Jew, Rhean Fajardo and Soyeun Choi for all of your great behind-the-scenes work, as well as our designer Kaleen Woo. And likewise, our one-person Website Committee Eugene Pak has been an amazing web master and email communicator, so hats off to Eugene!

WANT TO BE IN THE AABA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY? We're going to publish our first AABA directory in years, as a resource for our AABA members as well as for potential clients. If your AABA membership is current as of the last day of this year, we will include you. There is a membership form on p. 5 of this newsletter; you can also sign up online at our website.

See you at The Public in San Francisco for the AABA Annual Holiday Party on December 7th. I wish all of you and your loved ones a peaceful and relaxing holiday season, and a very Happy New Year!

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Join us

Tuesday, December 7, 2006

6:00 P.M.

The Public

1489 Folsom Street @ 11th Street
San Francisco

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and
hosted bar.

RSVP

Laura Yee at lyee@carr-mcclellan.com
or (650) 696-2578.

Suggested donation of \$25 for
non-members.

Membership dues accepted at the door.

Valet parking for a fee

Annual Holiday Get-Together

By Rhean Fajardo, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair

If you were able to make it out to the AABA-KABA-VABANC Mixer at The Public in August, you already know why it is the location for this year's Holiday Get-Together on **Thursday, December 7**. The Public boasts a wide selection of tasty drinks and seasonal selections of California cuisine inspired by local ingredients and global techniques. On the menu for the event are fennel garlic

crusted baked salmon filet, grilled New York steak with a balsamic red wine reduction, wild mushroom chicken marsala, and oysters on the half shell.

As is tradition, this year, AABA will honor two of our community's API leaders: newly appointed Sacramento County Superior Court **Judge Helena Gweon** and newly appointed City Attorney for Daly City **Rose Zimmerman**.

The holidays are a perfect time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. So be sure to mark your calendars, RSVP, and attend. The Public is located on the southeast corner of Folsom and 11th Street. Plenty of **street parking, valet parking** (for a fee) will be available at the 11th Street curb until 9:30 pm, and the **Costco pay lot** is at 10th and Harrison.

AABA Election Update

By Isabel Choi, AABA Board Member

For the 2007-08 election, applications for the following positions were submitted: Vice-President (President-Elect), Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors at Large positions. The Officer positions are uncontested and will not be subject to vote. Under **Edwin Prather** as AABA's President-Elect, **Celia Lee** will serve as Vice-President, **Garner Weng** will be Treasurer, and **Billy Chan** will serve as Secretary. Although these positions are not contested, the candidates have submitted personal statements for your review, which can be found below.

For the three (3) Directors at Large positions open this election cycle, four (4) candidates have submitted applications: **Reichi Lee, David Sohn, Marissa Tirona, and Yu-Yee Wu**. Their personal statements are below and will be included on the ballot. Active attorney members of the Association will be mailed ballots by December 10, 2006. Only those whose membership was current as of November 30, 2006 will be provided with ballots.

Active attorney members may vote for up to three of the four candidates for the Directors at Large positions. To be counted, your ballot must be postmarked and received at the address listed on the ballot **no later than January 14, 2007**. Candidates

will be informed of the election results by January 21, 2007, and the election results will be posted in the February 2007 Newsletter and on the AABA Website.

As mentioned previously, an Election Committee has been created to administer AABA's 2007-08 elections. Please direct any questions regarding the elections to Isabel Choi at sichoi@usfca.edu.

Officer Statements (Uncontested Positions)

Vice-President (President-Elect) – CELIA LEE

I am currently a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office. I have been a longtime and active member of AABA. I first became involved with the Community Services Committee in the mid-1990's, serving as a volunteer at the bi-weekly clinics at the Asian Law Caucus. I co-chaired the Community Services Committee from 1999 to 2003, organizing the clinics and also administering the award of the annual Law Student Summer Grant. I have also served on AABA's Board of Directors for the past five years. After being a Director-At-Large for a few years, I served as Secretary of AABA from 2005-2006, and I currently serve

as AABA's Treasurer. I am also an active member of AABA's Judiciary Committee.

Both my longstanding involvement with AABA and the changing nature of my law practice over time (in small and large firms, and now with a public entity) have afforded me the opportunities to encounter many types of lawyers (as well as law students) in different types of practices – whether in private law firms, as in-house counsel, as solo practitioners, as public interest lawyers, and as government lawyers and judicial officers. I have come to appreciate how different lawyers have divergent yet common interests – and how AABA is able to meet all of those interests through its many activities and events. I look forward to serving as AABA's Vice President and helping to ensure that AABA continues to benefit all of its members and the Asian American community at large.

Treasurer – GARNER WENG

I am the current Secretary for AABA and have previously served as a Director at Large and as Co-Chair of the Community Services Committee. I hope to join the Prather Cabinet as your Treasurer—through which I hope to work on challenges that AABA faces to remain accessible and provide value to its growing and increasingly diverse membership.

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AABA Election Update: *continued*

In my day job, I am a partner with Hanson Bridgett and serve on its Management Committee; and I am also on the Executive Committee of the California Minority Counsel Program. I have also published and spoken widely on diversity in the legal profession. For a tedious list of this and other bio-data, and to see how airbrushing can only do so much for one's appearance, please see my profile at www.hansonbridgett.com.

Secretary – BILLY CHAN

Before joining the AABA Board two years ago, I served as a writer and editor in chief of the AABA Newsletter, and as a volunteer to the Social Committee. Recently, I served as President of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California, and this year I have been elected to the NAPABA Regional Governor position. My experience with other minority bar associations and the National Asian Bar Association helps shape my vision for AABA: as the umbrella bar association in the Bay Area for API bars and as a significant affiliate for the national bar.

Director at Large Statements
(Contested Positions)

REICHI LEE

Over the past three years, I have had the pleasure of serving as a co-chair of the Employment Committee. During this time, we have significantly increased

attendance at the annual Summer Law Clerk Reception and Career Day events, and raised money to cover all direct event costs. This was a particularly great year for us – we were pleased to gain the support of new API partners and two major firm sponsors, as well as kick start the new Attorney Mentorship Program.

Presently, I serve on the Board for ACCESS, an Oakland-based nonprofit dedicated to combating barriers to reproductive health care that disproportionately impact uninsured, low-income, immigrant, rural and young women. I am also a Teaching Fellow at Golden Gate University School of Law and Adjunct Professor at Hastings College of Law. As an AABA Board member, I would like to accomplish three goals. First, in conjunction with the Employment Committee, I would like to organize a panel of Asian Americans in academia in order to connect them with attorneys who might be interested in pursuing a teaching path. Second, I would like to grow the Attorney Mentorship Program by increasing participation of partners and in-house attorneys as mentors, two areas in which we have the greatest need. Third, I would like to raise additional money for student scholarships, primarily to support law students who would like to pursue public interest work. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to serving our membership as a Board member.

DAVID SOHN

For the past three years, I've served as a co-chair of the Mentorship Committee. In this capacity, I've devoted myself to providing law

students with greater access to attorney mentors in the Bay Area. Mentorship is something I'm personally very passionate about. I firmly believe AABA has an obligation to do everything it can to help current Asian-American law students and attorneys become the next generation's law firm partners, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, politicians, etc.

I'm running to be a Director on the AABA Board. I'm running because I have strong ideas concerning the continued development of enrichment programs for law students and attorneys. Based on my experience on the Mentorship Committee, and my attendance at Board meetings this past year, I believe I can work effectively with next year's AABA Directors and Officers.

On a personal note, I'm currently an associate at Skadden Arps in San Francisco, practicing general complex litigation. I've been practicing in San Francisco since 2003.

I'd be honored to serve as an AABA Director, and would like your vote.

MARISSA TIRONA (Incumbent)

I am a member of AABA's 2006-2007 Board of Directors and would consider it an honor to serve another term on the AABA Board. I have been an AABA Director at Large since 2003, during which time I have served as Co-Chair of the Minority Bar Coalition, Board Liaison to AABA's Education and Legislative Committees, and a member of the

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**Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (AABA)
Membership Form**

To join AABA or renew your membership, please complete and return this form, with a check for your dues, to AABA, P.O. Box 190517, San Francisco, CA 94114-0517. If your dues are current, use this form to update your membership information. For more information about AABA, including its committees, visit our website at www.aaba-bay.com

Name: _____

Firm/Agency/Company/Law School: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email (required): _____

Languages (fluent, conversational or limited): _____

Year of Graduation from Law School (required): _____

Area(s) of Practice (required) – please be specific: _____

STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

AABA's Student Mentorship Program matches students with attorneys in particular practice areas. If you are a student and would like to participate in the Student Mentorship Program, please check here:

In which practice area(s) would you like a Mentor? _____

If you are an attorney and would like to become a Mentor for a student, please check here:

ATTORNEY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

AABA's Attorney Mentorship Program matches less experienced attorneys with more experienced attorneys in particular practice areas.

If you are an attorney and would like to be assigned a Mentor, please check here:

If you are an attorney and would like to become a Mentor for an attorney, please check here:

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Government/NonProfit Member (regardless of length of practice) \$35
 - In practice less than 5 years \$35
 - In practice 5-10 Years \$45
 - In practice more than 10 years \$60
 - Sustaining Member \$150
 - Member of Another Minority Bar Association — \$15 discount (Attorney Members Only)
 - Student Members-\$15 (One-time Membership Fee through law school)
- 1L 2L 3L Year of Graduation: _____

Enclosed is an additional \$_____ donation (made payable to AABA Law Foundation to be used for

- AABA Law Foundation AABA Law Clinic AABA Scholarship Program

If you do **not** wish to be included in the AABA Membership Directory, please check here:

Occasionally, AABA will also allow a mailing from candidates endorsed by AABA. If you do **not** want to be included in such a mailing, please check here:

THE STATE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:

An AABA Forum with District Attorney Kamala Harris and Public Defender Jeff Adachi

By Chun-Wei Wu, Hastings APALSA president

Last month, in a standing-room-only crowd at Hastings Law School's largest auditorium, several hundred law students and attorneys attended a forum with San Francisco's two APA legal stars, Public Defender Jeff Adachi and District Attorney Kamala Harris. Moderated by AABA President David Chiu, Mr. Adachi and Ms. Harris discussed issues confronting the San Francisco criminal justice system, including the current homicide rate, rehabilitation programs, the need for social services in underserved communities, and desired systemic reforms.

I want to especially thank Hastings 3L Allison Hua, who was instrumental at putting this great event together. The event was co-sponsored by Hastings' APALSA, the Associated Students of UC Hastings, Hastings Law Journal, Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal, La Raza Law Students Association, National Lawyer's Guild-Hastings, South Asian Law Students Association, American Bar Association/Law Students Division, Black Law Students Association, and General Assistance Advocacy Project.

A Hastings APALSA member, Will Sam, had the following observations about the panel:



"I first caught wind that the Asian American Bar Association wanted to bring San Francisco's Public Defender Jeff Adachi and District Attorney Kamala Harris in the waning months of summer. While I was eager to have them come and speak at Hastings, and even more excited that the event would be co-sponsored by Hastings APALSA, I was also somewhat unsure how the event would turn out here on campus. What would the speakers speak about in only the one hour planned? Would this event be successful and relevant to the entire student body? And how do we highlight the fact that two of the

highest officials in the San Francisco criminal system were both minorities while not making this the only relevant topic at hand?"

While I had all of these questions in mind, the event on Tuesday, October 17th, 2006 more than answered everything I wondered about Mr. Adachi and Ms. Harris. The discussion absolutely captivated the audience as they informed us

about the state of the criminal law system today. Though the two attorneys run offices that face each other in the San Francisco courts every day, the two were a very natural pair on stage as their mutual respect shone through.

And what about the last worry about wanting to highlight the fact that these attorneys were both minorities, both having some Asian ancestry? This turned out to be no problem whatsoever. While Mr. Adachi and Ms. Harris did not have to say anything to let us know their heritage, I believe the message was plain for all. The fact that two minority lawyers were on stage, both holding the highest offices in their field, was an outstanding example for us future APA/API lawyers that indeed we can and will have a bright future ahead of us.



From L to R: Michael Lee, Esq. (former AABA president), Hon. Steve Owyang, Henry Der, Hon. Elizabeth Lee, Hon. Delbert Gee, Hon. Lillian Sing, Victor Hwang, Esq. (former AABA president) moderator



From L to R: Hon. Lillian Sing, Michael Roosevelt (Judicial Council of California), Justice Harry Low, Rita Mah, event organizer

A Surprisingly Intimate and Comforting Symposium

By William Poy Lee, Esq. and Author

I am a lawyer who somehow wandered into a symposium sponsored by the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area and the Judicial Council of California, held improbably on a Friday night in the Milton Marks auditorium at the State Building in San Francisco, where there was a special screening of a film named "*Chinese Americans and the California Courts: The Myth and Paradox of Being a 'Model' Minority.*" It must have helped that it was a slow opening Friday of new releases at the AMC Cineplex, for surprising to some, a very attentive audience of over seventy came for the film and to share a zesty buffet dinner and the equally rich presentation.

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A Surprisingly Intimate and Comforting
Symposium *continued*

This lawyer has been writing for the last three years and my book, *The Eighth Promise*, to be released in February 2007, turns in its middle chapters on an era of questionable race-based convictions of Chinese-American youth during the 1970's including a member of my family. This was the *raison d'être* for my switching into law and my ultimately becoming a lawyer.

The film was actually part of the Judicial Council "Continuing the Dialogue" series telecasted to court staff throughout California and very ably hosted by Michael Roosevelt, Program Manager, Education Division. Mr. Roosevelt opened the presentation and in rapid order, the panel on that film quickly put to rest the notion of the "model minority." As the well-known Prof. L. Ling-chi Wang said in the film, it's a blessing and a curse. One year society loves us, and the next year, we're the enemy. Notably, Judge Julie Tang gave some practical advice to viewers to take an active role as a judicial officer to eliminate bias in the court setting.

Retired Justice Harry Low, the *eminence grise* of Asian-American lawyers, made a surprise guest appearance to read from his famous and groundbreaking 1988 concurring opinion in *Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. vs. Superior Court of Contra Costa County*. He had cleverly and succinctly disposed of the use of the racially slippery term "Chinese Wall" in jurisprudence as a verbal shorthand for unethical silence by declaring in his opinion, and now thundering live to the symposium, "Chinese Wall" is one such piece of legal flotsam which should be emphatically abandoned." This concurring opinion exemplified how one can speak out and correct a wrong, no matter what your role is, even one as restrained as an appellate court justice.

But what attracted this lawyer, who hadn't been anywhere near a legal gathering of any type for years, was the depth of the bench of the named panelists. I'm not referring to the five active judges

present, but in the sports team sense of a deep bench, i.e., that there was a first team of seasoned veterans backed by a second line of energetic, skilled warriors, and finally a third line of up-and-coming activist-lawyers.

There were my old comrades, arrayed across the broad stage of the Milton Marks Conference Room: Michael Lee, Esq.; Judge Steve Owyang, Administrative Law Judge; Henry Der, and Judge Lillian Kwok Sing — all too many accomplishments to list — but Google them please. I had organized with, marched with, licked wounds with, and toasted triumphs with many of these community activists during the late 1960's and 1970's. As one panelist noted, it was a triumphant precedent that this was taking place in the new State Building and even sponsored by the Judicial Council, and not as typically, in the community organized by an agency. The panelists were all looking accomplished, relaxed, happy, and in Henry Der's case, with his clean-shave head and GQ threads, and as elegant as Patrick Stewart's cinematic character Dr. Xavier of the X-Men movie franchise.

Impressively, the next sub-generation sat along side them at that long panelist table, in the person of Judge Delbert Gee and Judge Elizabeth Lee. They too intimately shared endearing and insightful stories of entering the profession, handling subtle and not so subtle racism, and their ascendancy onto the bench.

Finally, we heard from the next generation - from Victor Hwang, Managing Director of APILO, who smoothly moderated the evening's panel, and from David Chiu, President of AABA, who opened the symposium.

Two anecdotes underscoring the need for more able court translators of the many Asian languages and dialects struck a nerve in me. Two judges described instances of how Toisanese-Americans, those pioneers who established the historic Chinatowns, were often underserved by Mandarin and even Cantonese court translators, a linguistic theme of marginalization explored at some length in my forthcoming book.

Towards the end, Michael Lee, the first Asian President of BASF, cogently concluded, there's a lot that still needs to be transformed, but when you look back over thirty

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The AABA Law Foundation Scholarship

By Vilaska P. Nguyen, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

AABA recognizes the importance of fostering the growth of law students to improve the future development of the Asian Pacific American bar. At the Annual AABA Installation Dinner, AABA will recognize and award scholarships to deserving law students who are committed to advocating and improving their communities.

The AABA Law Foundation is a nonprofit entity dedicated to serving the community and law students through its annual Law Foundation Scholarship awards. This upcoming year, the Foundation is offering the Raymond L. Ocampo Jr. President's Scholarship, the Joe Morozumi Scholarship; and the AABA Law Foundation Scholarships.

The scholarship committee caught up with a couple of 2003 award recipients. When asked how her Law Foundation scholarship helped along the way, Yungsohn Park said: "The recognition and support of the AABA scholarship reinforced my commitment to serving the public interest by enabling me to create my own vision for social change." Park is currently a Skadden Fellow at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles.

Hongvilay Thongsamouth — currently working at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach — received the Joe Morozumi Award and said: "The AABA scholarship allowed me to intern at APILO, which paved the way for me to enter public interest work after graduation."

Please check the www.aaba-bay.com website for the 2007 AABA Law Foundation Scholarship information and application materials. The deadline to submit applications is February 2, 2007 by email to Annette K. Mathai-Jackson at: amathai-jackson@hansonbridgette.com. Interviews will be held on February 24, 2007 and scholarships will be awarded at the AABA Installation dinner in March 2007.

NAPABA *Update*

By Billy Chan, Regional Governor

NAPABA held its annual national convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from November 9th through the 12th. AABA members, including officers David Chiu, Edwin Prather, and Garner Weng, showed strong support through their attendance.

NAPABA's Northern Region of California awarded past AABA president Joan Haratani the 2006 Trailblazer Award. Joan is, of course, no stranger to such accolades, having received recognition as one of the "Top 75 Women Litigators" by the Daily Journal, as a "Super Lawyer of Northern California" from 2004 to 2006, and as "Female Litigator on the Rise - A Woman's Place Is in the Courtroom" by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association. She is the president of the Bar Association of San Francisco, the first female minority president in BASF's 134-year history.

In NAPABA's "Best Lawyers Under 40" awards, NAPABA chose to recognize three prominent AABA members: Victor Hwang, Jacklyn Park, and Leslie Hatamiya.

Victor is the Managing Attorney of API Legal Outreach. He has litigated numerous public impact cases over his career involving API parties. He is a past president of AABA, and currently serves as a San Francisco Elections Commissioner and teaches at Boalt Hall and Golden Gate University School of Law.

Jacklyn Park is Senior Corporate Counsel at Oracle, where she is the lead attorney for mergers & acquisitions and strategic investments. She previously worked for Latham and Watkins LLP. She is active in the AABA community and currently serves as co-chair of the AABA In-House Counsel committee.

Leslie Hatamiya is the Executive Director of the Foundation of the State Bar of California. She previously served as Chief of Staff at SOMA Networks, Deputy Campaign Manager for Bill Bradley's 2000 Presidential Campaign, and Program Director at Coro.

Interested In An Appointment To The State Bar's Council On Access & Fairness?

By David Chiu, AABA President

The newly created Council on Access & Fairness will be appointed by the State Bar of California's Board of Governors to advise the Board on strategies to enhance diversity opportunities and advancement in the legal profession within legal standards. "Opportunities" encompasses leadership development and appointments to State Bar entities, as well as initiatives to educate students about the law and career opportunities in the law, referred to as education "pipeline" initiatives. "Advancement" encompasses recruitment, employment, retention and advancement in the legal profession. The Council will also screen candidates for the Annual Diversity Awards. The Council will be composed of 25 attorney and public members appointed by the Board of Governors. Its membership consists of individuals representing a wide range of stakeholders and constituencies engaged in programs and initiatives focusing on increasing diversity in the legal profession. Members from the Council will be drawn from diverse constituencies. The Council will report to the Board of Governors Committee on Stakeholder Relations. For more information, including the application to apply for an appointment, visit the State Bar website at http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_sections_generic.jsp?cid=12639&id=15061.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

December 2006

AABA Annual Holiday Party (12/7)

January 2007

AABA Winter Mentorship Program Event (TBA)

Community Service Committee Training (TBA)

March 2007

AABA 30th Annual Dinner (TBA)

AABA Election Update: *continued from page 4*

Board Elections Committee. Before joining the Board, I served at different times as Co-Chair of the New Lawyers and Public Appointments Committees. I have also been an AABA Career Day interviewer and mentor.

As one of the largest and better-resourced minority bars in California, AABA must play a significant role in promoting diversity within the legal profession and championing social justice causes. Though AABA must continue to work diligently to increase the API presence in the legal profession, our focus should not solely be on the needs of the API community. Rather, we must look outside as well; building alliances with other organizations is critical not only to achieving common goals, but for garnering broad-based support for AABA's unique objectives. I will bring that perspective and knowledge to the AABA Board, and I hope you will give me the opportunity to strengthen AABA's long-standing commitment to enhancing the presence of APIs in the legal profession and in the judiciary, to enriching AABA's relationships with our coalition partners and to fighting for the civil rights of disenfranchised and under-represented communities.

YU-YEE WU (Incumbent)

I have been involved in AABA for the past seven years, particularly as a member and a former co-chair of the Civil Rights Committee. For the past three years, I have

served as a member of AABA's Board and have been a Board Liaison to the Civil Rights Committee, which has sponsored discussions on immigration, civil rights after 9/11, and supported hate crime and court interpreter legislation. I am involved in attorney mentoring and support AABA's legal clinics. As a former private sector attorney and a current public sector attorney, I can understand the concerns of attorneys in both sectors. I would like to continue to serve AABA by supporting policies and programs that promote professional opportunities for AABA attorneys at all levels, raise awareness of civil rights issues and benefit the larger Asian Pacific American community. I would like to help make AABA more responsive to the needs of its members and the community by exploring the development of a community mediation program, as well as an AABA women's group.

A Surprisingly Intimate and Comforting Symposium continued from page 8

years, Asian-Americans have made a lot of progress within the judicial system. Michael was more than right: what I saw and who I heard that Friday evening made me feel solid good and incredibly safe. There they were: our elder Statesman and mentor to many, Honorable Harry Low, who had stood alone for so many years; the veterans of the 1960's and 1970's, and now those of the 1980's and 1990's, and finally the next generation. The succession plan was in plain sight. In 2006, the legal system had

moved forward for Asian Americans, when it was downright dangerous for us, for my family, and especially for Chinese-American youth in the 1970's.

In conclusion, the panelists left this open-ended challenge and invitation on the table – that there is still plenty of work for all: to keep an open dialogue with agencies like the Judicial Council, to promote public, trust, confidence, and to ensure fairness and equal access to the court system.

It was a good night – great food, networking, movie, dialogue, and a first-class venue. I even picked up two MCLE credits at no cost. Sign me up for the next event already!

Congratulations to AABA, APILO, and CJER, Education Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts for this symposium. *Muchas gracias* to Michael Roosevelt, Project Manager and Rita Mah, Senior Attorney with Judicial Council of California for spearheading this event.

Mr. Lee's first book, *The Eighth Promise* is in-stores everywhere February 6th, 2007. The book is told in two voices, his and that of his Toisanese-speaking mother and covers events from war-torn Southern China through the tumultuous changes that rocked the SF Chinatown community through the 1970's. For more info, please visit www.TheEighthPromise.com.

2006 AABA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

AABA COMMITTEES AND 2006 CO-CHAIRS

OFFICERS

David S. Chiu, *President*
Edwin K. Prather, *Vice-President (President-Elect)*
Celia Lee, *Treasurer*
Garner Weng, *Secretary*

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Emi Gusukuma
Willie N. Nguyen
Christine K. Noma
Eugene M. Pak
Marissa Tirona
Yu-Yee Wu
Malcolm Yeung

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Candice Jan
Juna Kim
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Hongvilay
Thongsamouth

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Dot Liu

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Rita Hao
Brian Kim
Elizabeth Loh

EMPLOYMENT

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Ivana Lee
Reichi Lee

IN HOUSE COUNSEL

Lawrence M. Chew
Jacklyn J. Park

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Jenny Huang
Ted Ting
Salle E. Yoo

LEGISLATIVE

Mabel Ng
Debra Watanuki

MEDIA

Shirley Chin
Michelle Yoshida

MEMBERSHIP

Annie Chuang
Jason Lee
Janet Li
Esther Que
Marcus Wu

MENTORSHIP

Maki Arakawa
Marshall Khine
David Sohn

NEWSLETTER

Kathy Asada
Alice Chin
Soyeun Choi
Rhean Fajardo
Michelle D. Jew
Eugene Pak

PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT/ SOLO & SMALL FIRM

Alexis S.M. Chiu
Wesley Lowe
Tony Paikeday
Richard Tamor

SCHOLARSHIP

Patricia S. Kim
Annette Mathai-
Jackson
Vilaska P. Nguyen
Avantika Shastri

SOCIAL

Daisy Hung
Sinclair Hwang
Eumi K. Lee
Alan Ting
Michelle Yang

Business addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and biographies of all Officers and Directors are available online at the AABA Website: www.aaba-bay.com

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