



AABA Newsletter

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FEBRUARY 2008

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President's Column

Edwin Prather, AABA President

President's Column

- Business Networking
- Call to Community Service
- President's Profiles – Celia Lee

Business Networking

It seems like from the first day of law school, we are told how important "networking" is to young lawyers. After graduation, we realize that those supporters of networking did not champion the cause enough. As we progress down the paths of our legal careers, we see that networking is vital not only to young lawyers but to all lawyers, of all experience levels, in all practice areas. Networking is an expedient way to both gather and disseminate information; a way to develop and foster business contacts; a way to build business relationships; and a way to get and give business. Whether you're an in-house lawyer looking for legal help, a law firm partner looking to expand your business contacts, a public interest lawyer looking for pro bono assistance on a case, networking is essential to all of us.

AABA's value as a networking vehicle is unquestioned. Our lawyers share work, referrals, business opportunities, cases, resources, information and employment opportunities. Many AABA members think of other AABA members first in all situations; as it should be. Even if you're not looking for a job or business opportunities, it is important to

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *continued from page 1*

continue to develop your contacts - to network. AABA must continue to assist lawyers in this regard. While AABA has a partial directory of lawyers available on our website, we are a long way off from having a searchable database of lawyers and their qualifications; or so it seemed. With this in mind, I've turned to outside help.

LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) is a career contacts website with over 17 million users. Users of the website are white-collar professionals including lawyers and business executives. Hundreds of AABA members are also already users. A December 2007 Los Angeles Times article featured LinkedIn as the fastest growing networking site in the world and stated that professionals use it to "expand their professional scope by connecting with college chums, former colleagues and business prospects."

LinkedIn is free to join. Once a member you create a profile that summarizes you and your professional accomplishments. Your profile will help you find and be found by former colleagues, clients, and partners. Once listed on LinkedIn, you can opt into AABA's users group by e-mailing me at eprather@clarencedyer.com. Once part of AABA's user group, you will be able to search AABA members by practice area, education, experience, position, etc., for a truly fantastic networking and connecting tool. Please join us on-line.

Call to Community Service

Our Call to Community Service program is well on our way to our goal of collecting over 10,000 hours of service by AABA members. Co-chairs Tracie Brown and Michael Wang report that many members have turned in their forms and that some members have spent several hundred hours of their time dedicated to the Asian American community. I'd like to highlight the efforts of Reed Smith attorney Connie Lew (240 hours), Haas & Najarian attorney Debbie Yee (200 hours), solo practitioner Duy Thai (130 hours) and Townsend Townsend & Crew attorney Angus MacDonald (110 hours); young lawyers who are emblematic of AABA's commitment to community service.

While Tracie and Michael have received many forms, we still have a long way to go. Please turn in your forms as soon as possible. For those lawyers with 50 or more hours of service, we have special glass awards to acknowledge your dedication to our community. Please see these beautiful awards in the accompanying photos.



PRESIDENT'S PROFILES . . .

Our annual dinner is about one month away, which means that soon there will be a changing of the guard at AABA. I am very excited to welcome AABA's new slate of officers and directors for the 2008-09 year. I have no doubt that they will do a fantastic job leading our organization through a fun-filled and productive year.



While AABA's President-Elect CELIA LEE is very well known to me — we are great friends and have served together on the AABA Board since 2001 — I'm looking forward to every member getting to know her better. To this end, I sat down with Celia and asked her a few questions to introduce her to the membership. She is this month's President's Profile.

Celia is a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office. She is currently assigned to one of that office's prestigious "trial teams" where she focuses on the defense of the City and County of San Francisco and its employees in personal injury, civil rights, and business litigation matters. Celia is a longtime member of AABA having co-chaired AABA's Community Services Committee from 1999 to 2003 and having dutifully served on the Board of Directors since 2001.

Tell us how excited you are to be the new AABA President? On a scale of one to ten, my excitement possibly goes to eleven.

What has AABA done in the past three decades that you are most proud of? There are so many accomplishments, but I'm very proud of AABA members' continuing commitment (with community partners such as Asian Law Caucus, APILO, and UC Hastings Civil Justice Clinic) to provide pro bono legal services at various clinics.

What issue or area of interest do you hope to address first as the new AABA President? One top priority is the continuation of our strategic planning initiative; we are taking steps to ensure that AABA's members feel that the organization is serving their needs and interests.

What else is in store for AABA in 2008-09? Stay tuned for some surprises.

How's planning for the annual dinner coming along? Great! This year we'll be at a new venue for AABA, the Hyatt Regency in the Embarcadero Center. Our emcee is Yul Kwon and our keynote speaker is Dennis Herrera; I'm very excited about it.

How can members get more involved? AABA's committees are its lifeblood and they do very important work throughout the year. If a member wants to get involved, I suggest perusing the committee descriptions on the website then contacting those committee co-chairs. They can always email me directly and I'll put them in touch with the right people.

Who are your heroes in real life? My parents, for living every day with integrity and being grounded in their principles.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? As a lawyer, obtaining a unanimous verdict in my client's favor in 35 minutes; as a human being, actively developing and maintaining meaningful relationships with my family and friends.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? You cannot over prepare for a hearing or for trial.

What was your favorite class in law school? A clinical course called "Women and the Law" that gave me the opportunity to represent my first clients in court, in family law and domestic violence cases.

In law school, did you sit in the front of the room or the back? The back.

What do you wish you knew in law school that you know now? That accounting is important to all areas of legal practice.

If you were not an attorney, what would you be? Probably something in the field of publishing or literary criticism, such as an editor or reviewer.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
THE ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
OF THE GREATER BAY AREA'S

**31st ANNUAL
CELEBRATION & INSTALLATION
DINNER**



FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008
6:00 PM COCKTAILS
7:00 PM DINNER

HYATT REGENCY
5 EMBARCADERO CENTER
SAN FRANCISCO

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT LISA HERICO AT LHERICO@GMAIL.COM

hosted by
YUL KWON
WINNER OF SURVIVOR: COOK ISLANDS

keynote speaker
DENNIS J. HERRERA
CITY ATTORNEY OF SAN FRANCISCO
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Juni Kim	Marissa M. Tirona
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AABA's Annual Celebration and Installation Dinner – March 7, 2008

AABA will be rounding out the first year of its fourth decade in existence on Friday, March 7, 2008, when it hosts its 31st Annual Celebration and Installation Dinner.

This year's dinner will be held in a new venue: the Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom, 5 Embarcadero Center. AABA's phenomenal growth in the last 30 years means that it has sadly outgrown all viable venues in Chinatown. However, we are excited to host the dinner in a distinctive, central location this year.

Following in the footsteps of the incomparable Sydnie Kohara, this year's dinner will be emcee'd by Yul Kwon. You may have heard of him and seen his picture as the winner of the television reality show "Survivor: Cook Islands." However, did you know that he is a member of the Asian American legal community in the Bay Area? Prior to his stereotype-smashing win on "Survivor", Kwon obtained a law degree from Yale and enjoyed a diverse career straddling both the private and public sectors in law, politics, business and technology (including clerking

for the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit and serving as a legislative aide to Senator Joseph Lieberman). Kwon has long advocated for issues important to Asian Americans, and we are honored to welcome him as our dinner host on March 7.

Furthermore, AABA is pleased to have Dennis Herrera, City Attorney for San Francisco, as its dinner keynote speaker. As the chief legal representative of the City and County of San Francisco and the first Latino ever to hold the office in San Francisco, Herrera was elected City Attorney in 2001. Under his leadership, the office has earned a national reputation for embarking on several affirmative litigation efforts in the interests of protecting the rights of citizens of San Francisco.

Please join us as we celebrate another year! For more information, please contact Lisa Herico at lherico@gmail.com or 415.956.2828.



31st ANNUAL CELEBRATION & INSTALLATION DINNER

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008
5 EMBARCADERO CENTER • SAN FRANCISCO

PLATINUM ADVOCATE - \$5000

- VIP Seating - Table of ten at AABA 31st Annual Dinner
- Platinum Advocate sponsor listing and full-page advertisement in event program
- Advocate recognition in all 2008 AABA monthly newsletters
- One year law firm/corporation benefactor membership

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- Preferred Seating - Table of ten at AABA 31st Annual Dinner
- Gold Sponsor listing and full-page advertisement in event program
- One year law firm/corporation membership

SILVER SUPPORTER - \$2000

- Preferred Seating - Table of ten at AABA 31st Annual Dinner
- Silver Supporter listing and half-page advertisement in event program

INDIVIDUAL SEATS - \$150

- * More information regarding law firm/corporation sponsorship available
- ** Half-table options also available

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO LISA HERICO
AT LHERICO@GMAIL.COM OR 415-956-2828

1. NAME (as you would like it listed)
2. ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP
3. TELEPHONE
4. E-MAIL
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Celebrate the New Board Leadership!

By Isabel Choi, AABA Board Member

For the 2008-09 election, four (4) Directors at Large positions were available. Please join me in welcoming to the Board **Eugene Pak** (incumbent), **David Sohn** and **Ted Ting**, who will serve three-year terms, and **Juna Kim**, who will serve out a remaining one-year term.

In addition to his many other accomplishments for AABA, **Eugene Pak** has been instrumental in developing and maintaining the organization’s website. He wishes in his future Board service to further develop relations with other bar associations and advocate for more diversity in the judiciary. Recently elected to the Board of Directors for the California Young Lawyers Association (CYLA), **Juna Kim** seeks to integrate CYLA’s commitment to support California’s foster care system into AABA’s objectives for the coming year. **David Sohn** has made significant contributions to AABA’s Mentorship and Employment Committees. He will continue to organize great programming for attorneys and law students, and will collaborate with Eugene Pak in enhancing AABA’s online presence to increase outreach efforts. A partner at Reed Smith who has participated in AABA activities since he was a first-year associate, **Ted Ting** would like to use his Board positions on the Alameda County Bar Association and State Bar Foundation to build upon the progress made by AABA to increase its influence on judicial and other appointments.

Congratulations to all, and we look forward to working with you in reaching your goals. Do not miss **AABA’s 31st Annual Installation Dinner on March 7, 2008**, where the officers and board of directors for 2008-09 will be introduced, including:

OFFICERS

- President – Celia Lee
- Vice President/President Elect – Garner Weng
- Treasurer – Billy Chan
- Secretary – Malcolm Yeung

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Isabel Choi | David Sohn |
| Emi Gusukuma | Ted Ting |
| Juna Kim | Marissa Tirona |
| Reichi Lee | Yu-Yee Wu |
| Eugene Pak | |



CALL TO COMMUNITY SERVICE 2007-08

AABA Member Name:

Mailing address:

E-Mail Address:

Employer:

Please indicate how many hours of AABA, pro bono, community service or other volunteer work you completed on behalf of the Asian American community in 2007 and 2008: _____ hours.

Please describe generally your AABA, pro bono, community service or other volunteer work completed on behalf of the Asian American community in 2007 and 2008.

Please submit forms and direct any questions to Call to Community Service Chairpersons Tracie Brown - tracie.brown@usdoj.gov, Rhean Fajardo - rhean@fajardolawoffice.com or Michael Wang - michael.wang@usdoj.gov

Asian American Attorneys Sworn in as ACBA Directors

By Alice Chin, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair

The Alameda County Bar Association held its Annual Installation Dinner on January 17, 2008 at the elegant Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley. Over two hundred people were in attendance for this festive affair complete with live music and a buffet-style dinner. Along with the 2008 Officers, AABA members Dennis Chin and Wayne S. Nishioka and newly elected AABA Director Ted Ting were sworn in as directors of the 2,000-member bar association that evening. Dennis Chin is an associate at Burnham Brown. Wayne Nishioka specializes in employment law. Ted Ting is a partner at Reed Smith, this year's law firm recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.



ACBA Directors Wayne S. Nishioka and Luz Buitrago and Oakland City Attorney John Russo.



Alameda County Superior Court Judge Delbert Gee and ACBA Director Dennis Chin



Lucy Koh Appointed to Santa Clara County Superior Court Bench

By Celia Lee, President-Elect

On Sunday, January 27, 2008, I had the honor of witnessing Lucy Koh being sworn in as the newest judge in Santa Clara County. Lucy, a former federal prosecutor and most recently a partner at McDermott Will & Emery practicing intellectual property litigation, was appointed to the bench by Governor Schwarzenegger on Friday, January 25, 2008. Lucy, who was one of the "President's Profiles" in this very same AABA newsletter's pages in November 2007, has been a longtime active member of AABA and the Asian American legal community. Most recently, she served as a board member of the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley (APBA-SV). AABA was proud to endorse Lucy for judicial appointment.

Upon taking the oath, Lucy achieved another milestone in her illustrious career: she is the first Korean-American judge in the San Francisco Bay Area. (Another Korean-American judge in Northern California is Sacramento Superior Court Judge Helena Gweon.) Other APA judges in Santa Clara are Judges Erica Yew (who administered the oath to Lucy), Jacqueline Duong, Carrie Zepeda, and Thang Nguyen Barrett.

Congratulations, Judge Koh!

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL BAY AREA ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (BAAPALSA) CONFERENCE

**Saturday, February 23, 2008 ~ University of California, Berkeley -
Boalt Hall School of Law 9:00am to 6:30pm**

REGISTRATION FORM

On Saturday, February 23, 2008, Boalt Hall's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) will proudly host "**The New Faces of Justice**," the Eighth Annual Bay Area APALSA Conference. Check-in and on-site registration begins at 9:00am at Boalt Hall, in Laub Lobby.

The registration fee for the conference includes: continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon coffee break, a networking reception, conference t-shirt, and sessions on the following topics: (1) Alternative Career Paths; (2) Diversity in Law Schools and Beyond; (3) Asian Americans in the Judiciary; (4) Asian Americans and Media/Sexuality; (5) Public Interest Lawyering; (6) Asian Americans in Litigation (Trial Techniques); (7) Current Issues in Politics; (8) Asian Americans and the Criminal Justice System. MCLE credit will also be available for attorneys.

To pre-register, please complete and return this form with a check made payable to **Bay Area APALSA, postmarked no later than Friday, February 15, 2008**, to the following address: Bay Area APALSA, c/o Tran Ly, 6329 Ridgmont Dr., Oakland, CA 94619. Returned checks will incur an additional fee. Registration at the door is accepted, but will result in an additional fee (please see below for details).

Please CHECK one:

- Law Students: \$25*
- Attorneys and Judges: \$50*
- Non-profit member/organization: \$30*
- Undergraduate Students: \$15*

** On-site and late registration will be available at an additional cost of \$5 for students and \$10 for attorneys, judges, and non-profit/organization members.*

Please provide the following information (please PRINT legibly):

Name: _____

School and Year of Graduation: _____

Organization/Company/Firm: _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Area(s) of practice or legal interest (list up to three): _____

How did you hear about the conference? _____

Comments (e.g. require vegetarian meal, require disability accommodation): _____

For more information about the conference, please contact BAAPALSA Conference Chair Tran Ly at tran@berkeley.edu, or visit our website at <http://baapalsa.blogspot.com>



In honor of Senior Federal Court Judge Robert M. Takasugi (C.D. Cal) — the first Japanese American appointed to the federal bench - the Takasugi Fellowship will select one of more law students as Takasugi Fellows for the summer of 2008 and fund those fellows' work in an amount up to \$5,000

A twelve-year old Robert M. Takasugi and his family were uprooted from their home in Tacoma, Washington, relocated and interned along with 130,000 other Japanese Americans pursuant to President Order 9066. Describing the ordeal as “an education to be fair” and one of many challenges he faced, Takasugi went on to receive degrees from UCLA and USC Law School thereafter, his commitment to equal Justice took him to the streets of East Los Angeles, where he represented many indigent arrestees of the Watts Riots, East Los Angeles Riots, and other civil rights protestors in the sixties’.

After serving on the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior Court benches, Judge Takasugi became the first Japanese American appointed to the federal bench in 1976. As both a district court judge for over thirty years and an invitee of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Takasugi’s work has consistently been marked by a high degree of integrity and a commitment to equal access to justice He has been an icon and leader for minority communities for the past forty years.

In 1999, the legal community, including former externs and law clerks of Judge Takasugi, proudly created the Robert M. Takasugi Public Interest Fellowship. The Fellowship was created to honor Judge Takasugi and to perpetuate his influence, independence, courage vision of equal justice and demand that women and minorities be accorded equal treatment. From its inception, the Fellowship has selected fellows from across the nation and funded their summer legal work for the public interest. Fellows were selected to work in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area and worked in exciting and challenging capacities in forward-thinking organizations, including among others the Asian Law Caucus, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund Takasugi Fellows have gone on to make substantial contributions to our public interest community. Among its alumni, the Takasugi Fellowship boasts three public defenders (both federal and state) a Stanford Law School professor, and numerous public interest attorneys at non-profit organizations such as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

The honorable tradition of attorneys using the law for the public interest in our communities is fading as taking a nobler path is more financially challenging than ever before. While such work is in itself rewarding, the Robert M. Takasugi Public Interest Fellowship is committed to assisting dedicated law students pursue careers in public interest law. For application information or to learn more about Judge Takasugi, please visit www.takasugifellowship.com. The application deadline is March 14, 2008.

www.takasugifellowship.com

The Robert M. Takasugi Public Interest Fellowship
 c/o Mimami Lew & Tamaki, LLP
 860 Post Street, 8th Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94108

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ASIAN AMERICAN TRIVIA
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SF School Board Member

Yul Kwon,
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Judge Erica Yew,
San Jose Superior Court

Fri, Feb 22
8 am - 1 pm
Federal Bldg - San Francisco, CA
450 Golden Gate, 19th Floor

Free Law School Advice for Youth!
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 Asian American Bar Association
www.aaba-bay.com

Upcoming Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Neil Gotanda Lecture in Asian American Jurisprudence.
Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 4:00 PM in
Goldberg Room at Boalt Hall School of Law.

The Asian American Law Journal at Boalt Hall, UC
Berkeley is hosting a symposium on **Tuesday, February
22, 2008** at Booth Auditorium entitled "Majority-
Minority State: Turning Power in Numbers to Power at
the Polls in 2008."

Legally Asian **Tuesday, February 22, 2008** 8AM - 1PM,
450 Golden Gate, 19th Floor, San Francisco. Free
law school advise for youth.

8th Annual Bay Area Asian Pacific American Law
Students Assoc. Conference. **Saturday, February 23,
2008.** University of California, Berkeley - Boalt Hall
School of Law. 9AM to 6:30PM

MARCH

20th Annual National Asian American Trivia
Championships. 6:30 PM. **Saturday, March 1,
2008.** 1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

SAVE THE DATE:

AABA ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER **Friday,
March 7, 2008,** 6PM Cocktails, 7:00 Dinner. Hyatt
Regency, Embarcadero Center

Please check for details on our website: www.aaba-bay.com

PRESIDENT'S PROFILE *continued from page 3*

What is your most treasured possession? I try not to be too attached to possessions, but a jade ring from my late grandmother has great sentimental value to me.

What is your most marked characteristic? I'm determined.

If you could change one thing about yourself, it would be...? I'd like to be a couple of inches taller.

What skill should every lawyer have? The ability to both listen and observe non-verbal cues.

What's the worst physical pain you've ever experienced? The first day after a car accident around 15 years ago.

What was your favorite meal? The first meal I ever had at Gary Danko.

How do you make your favorite drink? Hendricks gin, vermouth, a cucumber slice.

Do you have a scar that tells a story? I still have a couple of scars on my knee from when I was 7 years old – I fell out of a tree that I climbed several times every single day to "conquer" it.

What one experience do you want to have before you die? I'd like to learn how to surf.

What do you like to do when you're not working? Go for a long run, read, see movies, spend time with my family and friends, savor a great meal.

What is your favorite vacation destination? It's a tie between Copamarina in Guanica, Puerto Rico, and Paris.

Fill in the blank. Most AABA members probably don't know that I... appeared in the newspaper in a comic strip (Pearls Before Swine) drawn by my cartoonist friend Stephan Pastis.





Fill in the blank. AABA is... a fantastic organization that serves its members and the community in many diverse ways.




The Asian American Law Journal is proud to present the **Neil Gotanda Lecture in Asian American Jurisprudence**. A pivotal figure in legal academia, Professor Gotanda (class of '72) is a constitutional law expert and is widely considered the founder of Asian American jurisprudence. AALJ has created a lecture series in honor of Professor Gotanda. The lecture will be delivered annually by an established or up-and-coming scholar in the field of Asian American jurisprudence with the goal of fostering development of the field at Boalt Hall and across the country.

Professor Gotanda will deliver the inaugural lecture entitled "New Directions in Asian American Jurisprudence" on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 4pm in Goldberg Room at Boalt Hall School of Law.

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Business addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and biographies of all Officers
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Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

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www.aaba-bay.com