



AABA Newsletter

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President's Column

Happy Asian Pacific American Heritage Month! Since the Annual Dinner, AABA has been off to a fast start, thanks to the great work of our AABA members. Here are some quick highlights of significant happenings:

- **AABA's Going Green.** Hopefully, you've noticed that you're receiving this newsletter in your e-mail box, rather than your U.S. mailbox. Due to environmental interests, we've decided that this delivery system is a more suitable way of reaching our members. For feedback on the new delivery system, please feel free to send an e-mail to newsletter@aaba-bay.com – and remember, you can always access past newsletters on our website, www.aaba-bay.com.
- **Noteworthy Events.** It was rewarding to attend two events in the past month for other organizations that have significant ties to AABA: the Asian Law Caucus Annual Celebration (April 18) and the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California Annual Dinner (April 25). Congratulations to the dinner committees of both organizations for their successful and inspiring events, and a special congratulations to Rafael (Ace) Climaco for his ascension to the presidency of FBANC!
- **The House Always Wins.** AABA's In-House Counsel Committee has been busy. On May 27, AABA, in conjunction with the Asian Pacific Bar of Silicon Valley and Morrison & Foerster, will host the first General Counsel Roundtable. Entitled "Climbing the Corporate Ladder," the event will be an opportunity for general counsels to share personal insight and experiences as legal officers of public and private companies. The event is limited to in-house lawyers and space is limited. Please contact AABA In-House Counsel Committee co-chair Larry Chew at larrymchew@yahoo.com for more information.

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PRESIDENT'S PROFILES



Jenny Lee: Jenny is a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP San Francisco, in the intellectual property group. Ms. Lee focuses her practice on client counseling and intellectual property litigation in federal district court and in the International Trade Commission. She has also worked on transactional deals focused on intellectual property rights, including licensing arrangements, joint ventures, product development agreements, and supply agreements. In addition, she has assisted artists and non-profit organizations in a variety of pro bono matters.

Jenny is a relative newcomer to the Bay Area and to AABA, having practiced in New York for five years before arriving in San Francisco in mid-2006. Kirkland made Jenny a partner in the fall of 2007.

Who are your heroes in real life? My parents. They came to the U.S. as grad students and have led what I consider to be exemplary lives.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? Making it to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro and back down, without hurting myself or anyone else.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? The people matter as much as, if not more than, the work.

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Angus MacDonald: Angus, a longtime member of AABA, was named a partner at Townsend Townsend & Crew LLP in San Francisco, as of the beginning of 2008. He practices in all areas of intellectual property litigation, including patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret litigation. Angus has litigated cases involving the following industries: semiconductor devices, video gaming, biotechnology, telecommunications, and information technology.

What was the first AABA event that you attended? A summer associate event in 1999 at the old (and now relocated) Yank Sing restaurant on Battery Street.

What was the most memorable AABA event you have attended to date? The Dale Minami roast about 5 years ago.

What historical figure do you most admire? A toss-up between Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Who are your heroes in real life? It may be a cliché, but my parents are truly my heroes.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? Fatherhood.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? Always take the high road.

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Marcus Wu: Marcus is a new partner at Hanson Bridgett in San Francisco, in the Employee Benefits practice group. Marcus focuses on representation of public and private employers with respect to compensation and benefits matters, including the design and implementation of all types of retirement and deferred compensation plans, particularly 401(k) plans and ESOPs, and equity compensation programs. He also assists employers with the establishment and administration of health plans, flexible benefit plans, dependent care plans and a wide range of severance benefit plans. Marcus has long been active in AABA, and currently serves as one of the co-chairs of the Membership Committee.

What was the first AABA event that you attended? The 1995 installation dinner for the AABA Board.

What was the most memorable AABA event you have attended to date? A 1995 AABA event at Hastings. It was my first time hearing Fred Korematsu speak.

What historical figure do you most admire? FDR.

Who are your heroes in real life? Seymour Hersh and Richard Dawkins.

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California Department of Fair Employment and Housing
 U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
 California Employment Lawyers Association
 Plaintiff Employment Lawyers Association
 Asian American Bar Association Civil Rights Committee

invite members of the plaintiffs' bar
 to a brown bag luncheon with

Phyllis Cheng, Director
California Department of Fair Employment and Housing

Thursday, May 22, 2008
12 noon to 2:00 PM

EEOC San Francisco District Office

350 The Embarcadero, Suite 500 (corner of Folsom), San Francisco, CA 94105
 (The MUNI N & T streetcars stop right in front of the office; Folsom Stop)

If you are a plaintiff's lawyer, come share your views as representatives
 of employees and hear her plans for DFEH

Please RSVP to: Yolanda at (415) 625.5647 or yolanda.berganos@eeoc.gov



Nominated by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in January 2008 and approved by the state senate, Phyllis served as Of Counsel at Littler Mendelson since 2007. From 2003 to 2007, she was a senior appellate court attorney to Justice Laurie D. Zelon, Associate Justice of the Second District Court of Appeal, Division Seven. Prior to that, Cheng served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Civil Rights Enforcement Section of the California Department of Justice where she represented state agencies and prosecuted violations of the Fair Employment Housing Act, Unruh Civil Rights Act, Ralph Act and other civil rights statutes from 1999 to 2003. Previously, Cheng was an attorney in private practice from 1995 to 1999. She was an associate at the civil rights and human rights firm of Hadsell & Stormer from 1993 to 1994. She also served as a two-term commissioner and vice chair of the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission from 1993 to 1999. Phyllis earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Southwestern University School of Law, a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Southern California and a Masters in Education and Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

AABA Helps Out in San Francisco Chinatown

By Brian Wang, Community Services Committee Co-Chair

Over 20 active members and friends of AABA volunteered on a sunny Saturday morning last March to participate in the annual Work-A-Thon. Chinatown Community Development Center hosted the annual community service event, which brought out over 250 volunteers to beautify and improve Chinatown.

The AABA group was assigned to a garden in North Ping Yuen, one of the only public housing complexes in Chinatown. Most of the residents are elderly Asian immigrants and AABA was led to the worksite by several youth volunteers from the Chinatown Adopt-an-Alleyway Project. AABA members removed weeds in the main garden and a side garden, both of which were overgrown with dense vegetation. The daylong event was followed by a Barbecue with a raffle for various donated prizes.

AABA also contributed \$500 to the event, which paid for food and beverages for all the volunteers.

For more information about CCDC, please visit www.chinatowncdc.org

Photo credits: Kevin Kuang Photography





Occupation: Professional Student

*By Nikki Dinh, AABA Student Member
(Golden Gate University School of Law '10)*

An attorney's first law suit isn't the kind filed in court, but rather, a black wool two-piece suit. Those first suits transform each law student from humble book trotting student into a confident force to be reckoned with at legal functions. It's not so hard to find that the first suit law students put on to attend their first legal function can transform them from a humble book trotting student to a confident force to be reckoned with. The suit is a powerful thing.



Okay, so maybe the transformation isn't exactly that compelling or instantaneous, but it is true that a great first impression is very beneficial in the professional arena. But the catch? Looking professional can be expensive and financial aid doesn't exactly have an allotment for it. The solution? Students now have affordable options and other low-cost tricks to ease the transition from classroom to the professional world.

The Suit

A neutral colored, classic two piece suit is a highly recommended investment for law school students. Women should consider stockings with skirt suits. Men should forgo baggier options and consider a well fitted suit.

The great part is that it no longer costs an arm and a leg to buy a decent suit. Men can find three button wool suits starting from \$99 at stores like www.mensusa.com. Both H&M and Zara carry suits for both sexes starting at \$120. Banana Republic and Brooks Brothers also carry lower lines that are affordable. Designer discount stores such as Loehmann's carry high end brands such as David Chu and Elie Tahari for as low as \$139. For more cost savings, register with stores online to qualify for insider coupons.

The Card

Attorneys are infamous for networking and seldom leave home without their business cards. Students can expand their network by doing the same. It may seem silly at first to have a business card without being a part of a business, but in a sense, being a student is your business. Student business cards should include the student's name, school, date of expected graduation, phone number and email address.

Business cards are also affordable. Online websites like www.vistaprint.com offer customized business cards free of charge in exchange for subtle ad space on the reverse side (shipping costs about \$6).

The Attitude

Lastly, no first impression is complete without the right attitude. Being in a professional forum as a student can be intimidating. Many students, particularly Asian students, are less likely to be assertive confident networkers, but the more practice students have, the more efficient they will be. Know who you are and what you want. Be prepared to answer the questions that everyone has for law students (e.g. why did you choose to go to law school and what type of law are you interested in). Remember to be polite, keep your hands out of your pocket and try not to drink past your capacity just because it is an open bar. If you are particularly embarrassed by that "Asian glow," taking a Pepcid AC 15 minutes before drinking has helped many in your position.

The best part is that a student's attitude and demeanor are the most effective tools to conquer the legal profession and they are completely free of charge.

Good luck with your first law suit!

The In-House Counsel Committees of the
Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area and
the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley
cordially invite you to a panel discussion
with distinguished current and former API general counsel:

**THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL COUNSEL ROUND TABLE -
CLIMBING THE IN-HOUSE CORPORATE LADDER**

Tuesday, May 27, 2008

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Reception hosted by:

Morrison & Foerster

755 Page Mill Road, Building B, Palo Alto, CA

The General Counsel Round Table will draw upon the experiences of a prestigious panel who will discuss their lives as former or current General Counsels of a public or private corporation, and their unique opportunities and challenges while rising up the ranks of Corporate America. The panel is scheduled to include: the former GC of Oracle; the GC of Success Factors; the GC and COO of Grassroots, Inc.; and Deputy GC of Sony Playstation.

After a brief discussion by each panel member, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Since space is limited at this time, only in-house counsels are invited. Therefore, please also provide your company name along with your title in your RSVP to Larry Chew at larrymchew@yahoo.com.

Encourage your fellow API in-house counsels to this informative (and FUN!) evening event.

Larry Chew
Verigy
Deputy General Counsel
AABA In-house Counsel Committee Co-Chair

Rew Ikazaki
Associate General Counsel
Sun Microsystems
APASV In-house Counsel Committee Chair

Ja Moon
Genentech
Senior Counsel
AABA In-house Counsel Committee Co-Chair

Orlena Fong
Counsel
Sun Microsystems
AABA In-house Counsel Committee Co-Chair

The AABA 21st Annual Summer Law Clerk Reception

Thursday, June 19th, 2008 from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Yank Sing Restaurant, Rincon Center. San Francisco

For more information, please contact

Elizabeth Loh at eloh@truckerhuss.com or Ting-Mao Chao at

tchao@formfactor.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from page 1*

- **Summertime, And The Living Is Easy ...** Our Employment Committee has also been hard at work, planning AABA's Annual Summer Associate Reception. Mark your calendars: the event will be held at Yank Sing in Rincon Center, on June 19, from 6:00 to 9:00pm.
- **SERVE — NOW!** Over the past two years, through a partnership between AABA's Community Services Committee and API Legal Outreach, countless volunteer attorneys generously donated their time and efforts to clinics in San Francisco (at Hastings Civil Justice Clinic) and in Oakland. The Oakland clinic, in particular, needs more volunteers. To help, contact a CSC cochair — Hung Chang, Kevin Chen, Richard Cooc, Daisy Hung, Eumi Lee, Robert Uy, or Brian Wang.
- **Member Accomplishments:** Last, but not least, this issue contains the first set of "President's Profiles" for this year. I've chosen to profile three members of AABA — Jenny Lee, Angus MacDonald, and Marcus Wu — who have one thing in common: since October 2007, all have been named partner at their respective law firms. Congratulations to all on your significant accomplishments!

JENNY LEE *continued from page 2*

What is the most valuable thing a lawyer can do in terms of managing their time? Speak up!

What was your favorite class in law school? Criminal law with Professor Daniel Meltzer. One of the smartest professors ever.

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

What do you wish you knew in law school that you know now? There's no reason to rush into any major life decisions. There's plenty of time for everything.

If you were not an attorney, what would you be? Probably a money manager of some sort.

What is your most treasured possession? I honestly can't say I have one.

What's the most cherished possession you've ever lost? My mother's nautical bracelet.

What is your most marked characteristic? I would say it's my unfailingly positive outlook on life.

If you could change one thing about yourself, it would be...? My metabolism.

What's the last book you enjoyed? *Eat Pray Love*. Totally a fun read.

What skill should every lawyer have? The ability to articulate your thoughts in a straightforward manner.

What's the worst physical pain you've ever experienced? Labor. 9+ pound baby. Natural delivery. Enough said.

What is/was your favorite meal? My mother's Korean food. I can think of nothing I crave more or think more fondly about.

How do you make your favorite drink? Pour Campari in glass with ice. Add orange juice.

Do you have a scar that tells a story? Yes. Those who want the (not-so-interesting) story can ask me in person. The scar is next to my right eye.

Any recurring dreams? No. But now I feel like I should get one.

What's the greatest honor you've ever received? Being asked to be the godmother of my friend's child.

What one experience do you want to have before you die? Scuba diving in the Galapagos Islands.

If you suddenly inherited a million dollars, what would you do with the money? Buy a house in the Bay Area. Maybe something with two bedrooms!

What do you like to do when you're not working? Shop. I'm incorrigibly girly that way.

What is your favorite vacation destination? I'm still exploring the world and haven't picked a favorite vacation spot yet. But blue tropical waters are always enticing.

What is your favorite restaurant? Le Bernardin in New York City.

Fill in the blank. AABA is ... a tremendous resource to the Bay Area Asian-American population and allows its members to establish a community based on shared values and social concerns. I'm excited to be a member!

ANGUS MACDONALD *continued from page 2*

What is the most valuable thing a lawyer can do in terms of managing their time? You're asking the wrong person.

What was your favorite class in law school? Civil Procedure (and the classes that had a Pass/Fail grade).

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

What do you wish you knew in law school that you know now? It's good to take at least a few years off between college and law school.

If you were not an attorney, what would you be? Sports journalist.

What is your most treasured possession? A good reputation (I hope it's good).

What's the most cherished possession you've ever lost? Friendship.

What is your most marked characteristic? I smile a lot – even when I'm not supposed to.

If you could change one thing about yourself, it would be...? Not turning red when I drink alcohol!

What skill should every lawyer have? A sense of humor.

What's the worst physical pain you've ever experienced? Heartbreak.

What is/was your favorite meal? Steak a la Bruno at Joe's of Westlake in Daly City.

How do you make your favorite drink? Pour desired beer into glass; drink; enjoy.

Do you have a scar that tells a story? I have a lot of small scars on my hands from my days – actually 9 years – as a food vendor at various ballparks throughout the Bay Area. The trays and metal containers (especially the hot dog cans) we carried around the stadiums had some sharp edges. My hands and arms – and sometimes the food I was serving – fell victim to these sharp edges.

Any recurring dreams? I don't remember my dreams.

What's the greatest honor you've ever received? I'd like to think that my greatest honors are in my future. So far, being elevated to partner ranks high.

What one experience do you want to have before you die? Retire young.

If you suddenly inherited a million dollars, what would you do with the money? Buy some property.

What do you like to do when you're not working? Spending time with my 4 ½ year old daughter.

What is your favorite vacation destination? The places I have not yet visited.

What is your favorite restaurant? French Laundry, though I've been there only once.

Fill in the blank. Most AABA members probably don't know that I ... love Wes Anderson movies.

Fill in the blank. AABA is ... groovy, baby. Yeah!

MARCUS WU *continued from page 2*

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? Elevation to partner at Hanson Bridgett.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? Keep your clients informed and happy. Always return calls the same day.

What is the most valuable thing a lawyer can do in terms of managing their time? Prioritize and plan. Make a to-do list, daily.

What was your favorite class in law school? Corporations with Professor William Wang.

In law school, did you sit in the front of the room or the back? Always the back to avoid getting called on.

What do you wish you knew in law school that you know now? That striving to achieve targeted goals is the key to happiness.

If you were not an attorney, what would you be? Rock star or NBA player. But since I don't have the skills for either, I would be an advocate for the poor.

What is your most treasured possession? The green card issued to me when we arrived in New York.

What's the most cherished possession you've ever lost? My 20's.

What is your most marked characteristic? Nothing gets me too down because I realize how fortunate I am to live and work here.

If you could change one thing about yourself, it would be? I would get more sleep.

What's the last book you enjoyed? The Coldest Winter, by David Halberstam.

What skill should every lawyer have? Every lawyer should know how to write in plain English.

What's the worst physical pain you've ever experienced? Botched root canal.

continued on the next page

MARCUS WU *continued from page 9*

What is/was your favorite meal? Sashimi from Nijiya grocery store.

How do you make your favorite drink? Citron tonic.

Do you have a scar that tells a story? Only unhappy stories.

Any recurring dreams? Dead relatives visiting me.

What's the greatest honor you've ever received? Making partner at Hanson Bridgett.

What one experience do you want to have before you die? Living to 100.

If you suddenly inherited a million dollars, what would you do with the money? Something prudent — \$1M . . . isn't what it used to be. Now if it were \$10M.

What do you like to do when you're not working? Using my psychic skills to solve cold cases.

What is your favorite vacation destination? Hanalei Bay.

What is your favorite restaurant? Julie's Kitchen, best buffet lunch in the City.

Fill in the blank. Most AABA members probably don't know that I... am a foreign policy wonk.

Fill in the blank. AABA is... becoming a powerful political force.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

MAY

Brown-bag luncheon with Phyllis Cheng, Director CA Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing. **May 22**, noon to 2pm. EEOC San Francisco District Office. 350 Embarcadero, Suite 500, San Francisco.

General Counsel Round Table - Climbing the In-House Corporate Ladder. **May 27**, 6pm - 8pm. Morrison & Foerster, 755 Page Mill Road, Building B, Palo Alto.

Fundraiser for Burma Cyclone Survivors —silent auction. **May 28** 6pm - 8pm. Co-sponsored by AABA. The Bentley Reserve, 301 Battery Street, SF

JUNE

Chinese for Affirmative Action Dinner: **June 11**

AABA Annual Summer Associate/Law Clerk Reception, **June 19**, Yank Sing

Centro Legal de la Raza/Youth Law Academy: **June 26**

ABA Nat'l Conference for the Minority Lawyer: **June 26-27**, San Jose

JULY

Resume Review Workshop: **July 19**

AUGUST

Annual AABA Baseball Night - **August 8**

National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorneys/Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California 10th Anniversary Dinner: **August 15-16**, SF

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

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