



AABA Newsletter

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President's Column

As the summer season draws to a close, our committees have been keeping up the pace with an admirable amount of events that have benefited our membership and reinforced ties with our colleagues:

- Hats off to the Social Committee for an impressive trio of events in the past few weeks. On June 25, the committee hosted the 2008 Kick-Off Mixer at the Ambassador. On July 31, members of AABA and the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley mingled at an AABA-APBASV mixer at Bistro 142 in Palo Alto. Last, but not least, AABA's annual Baseball Night was held on August 8, with an impressive reception hosted by Perkins Coie at Pete's Tavern. Many thanks to the Social Committee, and to Noelle Nguyen for her work on the AABA-APBASV Mixer.

- The Employment Committee produced their second successful event in two months. After the Summer Associate Reception in June, members of the Committee continued their energetic efforts by holding the first AABA Resume Review Workshop on July 19. You can read all about it in more detail in the article in this newsletter.

On an entirely different note, many of you may have heard about the murder of Bay Area attorney and 2002 Hastings alumna Xia Zhao in San Jose on July 1, 2008. Her suspected murderer is the defendant in a wrongful death suit in which Ms. Zhao represented the plaintiff. In other words, Ms. Zhao died doing her job – a situation that by and large is unfamiliar to us attorneys, who often occupy rarefied worlds.

Unfortunately, Ms. Zhao did not leave much financial resources to her family. She was in the process of obtaining life insurance when she was killed. Running her own law firm meant she lost money for the first few years. When she died, her law firm had just started to become successful. Her two-year-old son Kael and her aging parents need your help.

Ms. Zhao, a first-generation immigrant and former nurse, was active in an organization called the Chinese American Lawyers of the Bay Area (CALOBA). CALOBA is actively seeking donations to assist Ms. Zhao's son and her parents, whom she supported. I am including a letter from CALOBA in this newsletter regarding Ms. Zhao's life and her work, and how you can donate. In the spirit of generosity and community, I hope you consider assisting Ms. Zhao's family.

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The President's Profiles feature is on summer hiatus. Please check back for additional President's Profiles in our September issue.

Please Help the Family of Xia Zhao

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Many of you may have already heard about the murder of attorney Xia Zhao (赵霞). The San Jose Police Department presently has a suspect in custody. The suspect was charged but not convicted of killing his wife in 2003. Xia had been representing the late wife's mother in a wrongful death lawsuit against the suspect. It was not Xia's usual practice, but she took this case out of a sense of justice, and to help a grieving mother.



Xia was a first generation immigrant who became a successful attorney with her own practice. She graduated from UCLA and UC Hastings College of the Law, while working night shifts as a nurse to support herself. All those who knew her remember her as a warm, earnest, smart and remarkable lady. In addition to her legal practice, Xia was actively involved in the Bay Area legal and Chinese communities. Xia was the President of CALOBA (Chinese American Lawyers of the Bay Area), an organization of Chinese attorneys in the Bay Area. She is survived by her husband, Kevin Schwarckopf, her two-year-old son Kael, her parents, Mr. Lisheng Zhao and Mrs. Jinfeng Zhu, who are in their 70s, and a brother, Steve. In memory of this dedicated, generous, and courageous woman, a fund has been established for her son and her parents, who, as recent immigrants, were wholly dependent upon her for support. Contributions to this fund may be made by check payable to Xia's Memorial Fund at P.O. Box 10399, San Jose, CA 95130. Alternatively, you can make a donation online to Xia's parents and son through Google Checkout on CALOBA's website at www.caloba.org/xia.html. Please specify whether the donation is for Xia's parents or child.

If you are a lawyer, you understand that Xia died for doing her job. Lawyers being killed for their work are not common. A lawyer should be free to represent clients in difficult or even controversial cases without the danger of being shot and killed in front of her office. To the best of our knowledge, the last it happened in the Bay Area was in the 1980s. Very few lawyers would have prepared financially for such events. After practicing for six years, Xia developed a successful practice but not yet accumulated significant assets due to large expenses that come with running one's own law firm. In addition, unfortunately, the payout from Xia's life insurance is limited and is not enough to provide adequately for her aging parents and child. You would want the legal community and your friends to take care of your family if such tragedy happens. Please donate to help Xia's aging parents and two-year-old son.

If you are not a lawyer, you would want a lawyer willing to represent you in a difficult case without being intimidated, harassed, or even killed. You would want all the lawyers to have the courage to help people when they are in trouble. If you believe in this, please donate to help Xia's aging parents and two-year-old son.

If you are an immigrant like Xia, you understand that her success was built on hard-work, courage, perseverance, and a strong sense of family and community. You would want your community and friends to take care of your family if you encounter any accidents or illness, not only in the event of a tragic killing. If you believe in this, please donate to help Xia's aging parents and two-year-old son. Thank you.

Chinese American Lawyers of the Bay Area (CALOBA)



Stuart Hing Appointed to Alameda County Bench

By Alice Chin, Newsletter Co-Chair

On July 21st, the Governor's Office announced that AABA member Stuart Hing was being appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court. Hing, the son of former Alameda County Administrator Mel Hing, has been a prosecutor in the Alameda County District Attorney's office since 1985. He attended California State University, Sacramento for his undergraduate studies and is a 1985 graduate of McGeorge School of Law.

He has been active in many organizations including the Earl Warren Inns of the Court and APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs).

The AABA board and the AABA Judiciary Committee endorsed his nomination last November. Stuart was sworn in on July 28th. There will be an Induction Ceremony on August 28th at 5:30 p.m. at the Oakland Museum. Congratulations Stuart!

AABA Folks Kick It Off!

By Derek Shek, M.D.

Promises of strong drinks, tasty appetizers and weekday socializing brought the crowd out to the 2008 AABA Kick-Off Mixer on June 25.

This annual event marked the beginning of AABA's social year and it did not disappoint. The dim interior and sleek design of San Francisco's Ambassador Lounge played host to this year's festivities, and the large after-work crowd filled the room.

The similarly black and white-clad crowd included summer interns trading the details of their latest projects, law school classmates regaling old times, and junior associates complaining about the managing partners.

As would be expected of an AABA event, the free drink tab went quickly as attendees quenched their thirst at the bar. Those who were more food-minded stayed close to the appetizer trays and it was obvious some people did not eat lunch. This opening night event organized by the Social Committee welcomed those new to AABA, and provided a tease of what's to come this year.

Stay tuned for information about our next event!

San Francisco Chinatown Tour with AABA! – August 16, 2008

Please join the AABA Social Committee in their first-ever San Francisco Chinatown Tour led by Reverend Norman Fong from Chinatown Community Development Center.

Saturday, August 16, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Portsmouth Square (near Washington and Kearny)
50 Walter U. Lum Place, San Francisco, CA

Rev. Fong will take us on an exciting and educational tour of Chinatown, through alleyways and off the main streets, to learn about the history, culture, and community of Chinatown. This is a family-friendly and guest-friendly event. The tour starts at 10:00 a.m. in Portsmouth Square, and ends at 12:00 p.m. After the tour, we will have a dim sum lunch at a nearby Chinatown restaurant.

Members will be responsible for paying the \$12.00 tour fee, but AABA will cover the lunch. Space is limited. Email any questions you have, to Daisy Hung at dhung@apilegaloutreach.org or call 415-567-6255.

California Supreme Court's Marriage Cases: *Pursuit of Equality*

By Carol C. Copsey, California Women Lawyers Governor-at-Large



L to R: Molly McKay, Kevin Fong, and Elizabeth Hillman
photo credit Bill Wilson

California Women Lawyers, along with Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALiF), organized an MCLE that featured a screening of Geoff Callan's award-winning documentary "Pursuit of Equality" chronicling the revolution over same-sex marriage in San Francisco, including behind-the-scenes footage of the reflections of Mayor Gavin Newsom and City Attorney Dennis Herrera and the personal experiences of some of the plaintiffs involved in the protest on this historic civil rights issue. (www.pursuitofequality.com). The audience reacted to the touching film with emotional expressions including laughter and tears.

The 90-minute film was followed by a discussion moderated by UC Hastings professor Elizabeth Hillman with panelists Kevin Fong of Pillsbury, who co-wrote and submitted the Asian Pacific American organizations Amici brief in support of the freedom to marry in the California Supreme Court case, and Molly McKay of Gordon & Rees and Media Director of Marriage Equality USA. Kevin inspired the audience with his description of briefing of the case before the California Supreme Court and his collaborating with the organizations who endorsed and signed onto this brief. Molly provided numerous opportunities for people to "get involved" in securing this historic gain through local outreach and educational activities.



L to R: Event organizers Carol Copsey (CWL), Nancy Lawlor (BALiF), and Sarah Tigerman (UC Hastings)

This event, held July 29, was graciously hosted by UC Hastings for over 60 attendees at Hastings' Louis B. Mayer Lounge. CWL wishes to express gratitude to the corporate sponsor, O'Melveny and Meyers, whose generous donation made this event possible. CWL also expresses its appreciation to the bar associations in the greater bay area who also sponsored the event: Asian American Bar Association, Bar Association of San Francisco, Queen's Bench, South Asian Bar Association of Northern California, and Woman Lawyers of Sacramento.

A portion of the proceeds for the event were to benefit Marriage Equality USA (www.marriageequality.org). Marriage Equality USA is a national grassroots organization working for the freedom to marry by empowering and supporting a network of marriage equality activists nationwide to tell their stories on why marriage matters in our communities. Its mission is to secure legally recognized civil marriage equality for all without regard to gender identity or sexual orientation.

AABA Resume Review Workshop Preps Law Students for Upcoming OCI Season

By Phillip Lee, Employment Committee Co-Chair and Nikki Dinh, 2L at Golden Gate University School of Law

The Employment Committee successfully held the first AABA Resume Review Workshop on July 19th. The Workshop was well attended as law students from eight law schools convened on this Saturday afternoon to meet and discuss with eight volunteer attorneys how to improve their resumes for the upcoming On-Campus Interview (OCI) season.

As many of us attorneys may remember, it is quite competitive to simply be invited for an OCI interview slot, so students must stand out more than ever. The Resume Review Workshop goal was to help students with one of the key tools for securing an interview slot -- a well put together resume. However, because of the unique design of the event, the Workshop gave most students more than just resume tips.

At the Workshop, the eight volunteer attorneys drew upon their own experiences as employers to provide students with tips to effectively convey information that catches the employer's eye. Each student met individually with one of the attorneys in a 30-minute session and also gathered in the main conference room to connect with other students and to ask follow-up questions of the attorneys.

Students like Derek Chien from Santa Clara University took quite a commute to attend the Workshop because he has his eyes on a summer associate position. Like many others, he not only attended the event to receive feedback on his resume, but also to meet AABA attorneys. Indeed, this venue provided a kind of personal interaction between attorneys and students that is difficult to find in our fast-paced profession. David Yoshida, a 2L at University of California, Hastings, found that "the interaction and conversational component is what had a more lasting effect than the review of my resume."

Vinita Kailasanath, a 2L at Stanford Law, expressed similar sentiments. "The event was definitely set up in such a way that provided for a cozy networking atmosphere between the students and attorneys. During the span of about three hours, students from all over the Bay Area were able to mingle and snack on a hearty selection of food."

The Workshop was a success due to the planning and execution of AABA Employment Committee Co-Chairs: Phillip Lee, Elizabeth Loh, Ting-Mao Chao, and Ivana Fedor. Indispensable guidance was provided by AABA Board Member, Isabel Choi, who shared resume and interview guidelines prepared by the USF School of Law's Office of Career Planning. At the event, she addressed numerous inquiries relating to interviewing strategies and the impact of grades on the OCI season.

Many thanks go out to Adeel Akhtar, a partner at Knobbe Martens Olson and Bear, who graciously provided his firm's beautiful 35th floor office in downtown San Francisco to serve as the event venue. Qualcomm Incorporated, in continuing to support diversity within the legal profession, happily sponsored the event catering.

The event was a great success as the students tuned up their resumes and received interviewing guidance from the perspective of practicing attorneys. The Resume Review Workshop represented yet another way that the Employment Committee continues to assist Asian Americans in reaching their career goals. Stay tuned for developments on the Attorney Mentorship Program, connecting attorneys with mentors, later this year!

Asian American Bar Association
of the Greater Bay Area
presents

Taking Your Legal Vitamins: Best Practices for California Employers

California employment law is a minefield of risks. To effectively advise California companies, attorneys need to be able to identify and understand the employment law risks facing their corporate clients. On August 21, our panelists will discuss the best practices that every employer in this state should implement to avoid employment law claims, such as:

- Developing and enforcing clear and effective employee policies
- Proper documentation and recordkeeping
- Classification of exempt and non-exempt employees
- Investigating employee complaints
- Protecting trade secrets and preventing solicitation and raiding

Additionally, the panelists will discuss emerging employment law risks in California.

Panelists:

Alison L. Tsao, Esq., Carlton DiSante & Freudenberger LLP

Henry Fong, Esq., Gap Inc.

Moderated by Emi Gusukuma, Esq., Haas Najarian LLP

August 21, 2008

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Registration and beverages

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Program

Location: Reed Smith LLP
2 Embarcadero Center, Suite 2000, San Francisco

RSVP: Larry Kampa, lvkampa@reedsmith.com

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Midori Kai Announces Annual Fundraiser Boutique

Midori Kai, Inc., a non-profit professional business women's organization is hosting its ninth annual fundraiser boutique and cultural event

Saturday, September 13, 2008

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Mountain View Buddhist Temple Hall

575 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Mountain View, CA

Over 60 vendors will showcase unique Asian arts and crafts, jewelry, clothes, vintage kimonos, pottery, and food items.

San Francisco actor, poet, and playwright Hiroshi Kashiwagi will be signing his books from 11:30-1:30 pm. He is the author of *Swimming in the American: A Memoir and Selected Writings* and his recently published *Shoe Box Plays*. Also, Aloha Nani Hula will be performing from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Proceeds will benefit the following non-profit organizations: Japanese American Museum San Jose, Asian Law Alliance (Domestic Violence Prevention Program), Yu-Ai-Kai, and the Ed Iwasaki Memorial Fund.

For more information, contact: Chris Noma at cnoma@wendel.com or Phyllis Osaki at posaki@gsmanagement.com or Marsha Baird Marshabaird@comcast.net

2008 Unity Conference & Reception:

"Choices and Unity"

Friday, October 10, 2008

11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Golden Gate University

536 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA

Tentative Schedule of Events

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon & Panel: "The California Marriage Cases"

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Panel 1 (choose one):

- "Choosing America's Next President: How Gender, Race, and the Media Affect Our Choices"
- "Minority Candidates in Local Elections: The Role of Coalition Building"

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Panel 2 (choose one):

- "Taking Control of Your Legal Career"
- "Legislation by the People? California State Initiatives & The 2008 Election"

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Unity Awards Reception

Registration materials forthcoming · Registration fee \$25 per person

For more information, contact: minoritybarcoalition@yahoo.com

The Marriage Fairness Task Force of
The Bar Association of San Francisco presents

No on Proposition 8 – A Leadership Workshop

SPEAKERS

Kate Kendell

Executive Director
National Center for Lesbian Rights

Donna Ryu

University of California
Hastings College of the Law

TOPICS COVERED WILL INCLUDE:

- Review of the California Supreme Court's decision in *In re Marriage*
 - Updates from the No on 8 Campaign
 - Messaging and media training
- Strategic ways to mobilize community resources and reach ethnically and geographically diverse populations

This workshop is geared for members of the legal community interested in taking a leadership role in helping defeat Proposition 8 and preserving marriage rights and equal treatment for all Californians. Those with ties to minority bar associations, minority legal service organizations, regional bar associations, or ethnically diverse communities are particularly encouraged to attend.

Thursday, September 11, 2008

BASF Conference Center • 301 Battery Street • 3rd Floor

Admission is free, but please RSVP to Dawn Lloyd at diversityevents@sfbar.org by September 10, 2008.

Registration: 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Program: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Event Code: X080042



1570 The Alameda, Suite 212, San Jose, California 95126, Phone: 408-975-9321, Fax: 408-975-9654

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National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorneys 2008 San Francisco, California *BUILDING NEW BRIDGES!*

- WHAT:** 3rd annual National Conference of Vietnamese American hosted by the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California (VABANC) and the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Southern California (VABASC).
- WHEN:** August 15 & 16, 2008
August 15: Welcome Reception
August 16: Conference and Dinner Banquet
- WHERE:** Friday, August 15, 2008 - Welcoming Reception
- Hosted by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP
 - 50 Fremont Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-2228
 - Guest Speaker: California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno & Dennis Herrera, San Francisco City Attorney
- Saturday, August 16, 2008 - Conference
- Location: Golden Gate University School of Law
536 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-2968
 - Panels Include:
 - **Intellectual Property Issues for US clients opening offices in Vietnam**
 - **Family Law/Substance Abuse**
 - **Client Development to Vietnamese Clients in the U.S. and Abroad**
 - **Surviving and Thriving in the Legal Profession: A Discussion on Retention, Attrition, and Success for the Minority Lawyer**
 - **Judges Panel: What all Great Attorneys Should Know**
 - **Reverse Migration: Implications of the 2008 U.S./Vietnam Repatriation Agreement**
- Saturday, August 16, 2008 - NCVAA's Closing Reception & VABANC's 10th Anniversary Dinner Gala
- Location: Yank Sing Restaurant
Rincon Center, 101 Spear Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-1559
 - Keynote Speaker: John W. Keker, Keker & Van Nest LLP
- FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SPONSORSHIP, REGISTRATION, OR VOLUNTEERING PLEASE VISIT WWW.NCVAA.ORG.**

The Litigation Section of The Bar Association of San Francisco and SF Jurisprudence Café
are pleased to present their

Second Annual Jurisprudence Luncheon

The Legal Philosophies Behind the California Supreme Court's Marriage Equality Decision

Moderator
James J. Brosnahan
Morrison & Foerster, LLP

SPEAKERS
Honorable Joseph R. Grodin
Former Justice, California Supreme Court
Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Law, University of California
Hastings College of the Law

Professor Gerald F. Uelmen
Professor of Law and Director, Edwin A. Heafey Jr. Center for Trial
and Appellate Advocacy, Santa Clara University School of Law

Therese M. Stewart
Chief Deputy City Attorney
San Francisco City Attorney's Office

Thursday, October 16, 2008

BASF Conference Center
301 Battery Street • 3rd Floor

\$35 Student, Government, and
Nonprofit Attorneys • \$45 Section Members
\$55 BASF Members • \$70 Others

MCLE: 1 Hours
MCLE Registration: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Program: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Event Code: G083113

TOPICS

- Speakers will discuss the philosophical underpinnings of both majority and minority opinions.

Special Information:

- **YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL YOUR PAYMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN OUR OFFICE.** Please complete the registration form below and mail it with your check so that we receive it by October 4th.
- You must sign in at the program during the defined registration period as indicated on this program announcement. MCLE credit will not be given if you arrive after the registration period has ended. **In addition,** reservations will be only be held for 25 minutes beyond start time. At that time, seats are considered "no-shows" and can be sold.
- **CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:** If you cannot attend a seminar after you have pre-registered, please let us know 48 hours in advance and we will refund your money, minus a \$5.00 handling fee.

Please make checks payable to BASF.

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SPECIAL INFORMATION:

This activity has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of California in the amount specified. The Bar Association of San Francisco is a State Bar of California certified provider.

People with disabilities should feel free to contact us regarding any reasonable accommodation we may be able to provide so you can fully utilize our services..

Calendar of Upcoming Events

AUGUST

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

San Francisco Chinatown Tour, **August 16**. 10am to noon. Portsmouth Square, San Francisco.

Oakland AABA-API Legal Outreach clinic. **August 20**. 6pm to 8pm at 1212 Broadway, 5th Floor, Oakland

San Francisco AABA-API Legal Outreach clinic. **August 26**. 6pm to 8pm at UC Hastings College of Law, 100 McAllister Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco

SEPTEMBER

5th Annual Choy of Golf with Donaldina Cameron

House. **September 12**. Summitpointe Golf Club, Milpitas

Midori Kai's Annual Fundraiser Boutique. **September 13**. 9am to 4pm. Mountain View Buddhist Temple Hall, 575 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Mountain View.

API Legal Outreach, 33rd Anniversary, Lu'au by the Bay, **September 13**. 3:30pm. Google World Headquarters, Mountain View

OCTOBER

2008 Unity Conference & Reception: Choices and Unity. **October 10**. 1:30am to 7:30pm. Golden Gate University, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco.

Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College (Portland, Oregon) invites applications from entry level or experienced candidates for multiple positions to begin in the 2009-2010 academic year.

We have strong interests in business law, including both corporate law and international business transactions; criminal law; environmental law, including climate change; health care law; torts; and wills and trusts.

In furtherance of the law school's commitment to a diverse faculty, we especially encourage applications from women and members of minority groups.

Interested persons should send a résumé, references, a writing sample, and an indication of teaching interests to Doreen Corwin, Executive Assistant to the Associate Dean of Faculty, Lewis & Clark Law School, 10015 SW Terwilliger Boulevard, Portland, OR 97219.

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