



AABA Newsletter

WWW.AABA - BAY.COM | NOVEMBER 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
- 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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! This month, there are so many committees to thank for organizing outstanding AABA programming. Our Mentorship Committee for an excellent 2007-08 Mentorship Program kickoff (Maki Arakawa, Marshall Khine, David Sohn and event host Orrick Herrington); our Social Committee, for a packed Unity Reception (hats off in particular to Sinclair Hwang, Daisy Hung, Alan Ting, Ed Prather and event host Hanson Bridgett); our Judiciary Committee, for a great Second Annual Judges' Reception (Salle Yoo, Jenny Huang, Ted Ting, Avin Sharma, Emi Gusukuma, Celia Lee and event host Reed Smith); and the Civil Rights Committee and Hastings law students, for a fascinating forum on the criminal justice system with Public Defender Jeff Adachi and District Attorney Kamala Harris (thanks to Hastings 3L Allison Hua for all of her work!). Read about what you missed in this month's newsletter.

AABA BOARD ELECTIONS & THE RIGHT TO VOTE! The deadline for applications to join the AABA board has passed; outstanding AABA board members and committee chairs have submitted their candidate statements; and we will be having contested elections with candidates to be announced in the next newsletter. If you wish to vote, you **MUST** be a paid and current AABA member as of November 30, 2006, to receive a ballot. To sign up as an AABA member (and to see the AABA board election rules), visit our website at www.aaba-bay.com.

ANOTHER REASON TO BECOME AN AABA MEMBER! We hope everyone understands the tremendous value of AABA membership (in addition to voting for next year's board) — among other things, members enjoy MCLE sessions, professional mentors, advocacy for civil rights and judicial appointments, pro bono legal clinics, rockin' social events, job and networking opportunities, and great newsletters. But one more reason to become an AABA member is that we are planning to put out our first AABA membership directory in many years, which will be a resource for AABA members as well as potential clients. If you are a current member as of the end of the calendar year, we will include you in the upcoming AABA membership directory. Sign up on our website!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! December 7th — our famed Annual Holiday Party. You'll receive an invitation in the mail. Happy Thanksgiving!

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AABA Community Services Committee: Expanding Services to the Greater Bay Area

By Victor Hwang, AABA Past President

The AABA Community Services Committee is chaired by Dot Liu, Jason Lee, Ruth Ann Castro, and Victor Hwang. Among its many activities, the CSC hosts several community clean-up events each year, coordinates free legal clinics, and awards grants to law students working in the public interest.

The Community Services Committee (CSC) and its volunteers are proud to serve the San Francisco community, and in May 2006, the AABA Board approved a CSC initiative to expand legal clinics in conjunction with API Legal Outreach into Oakland, Daly City, and Vallejo. The decision to extend services into these areas was prompted by a report earlier this year showing that there are both larger and more diverse API constituencies outside of the city of San Francisco.

Since May 2006, the CSC and API Legal Outreach have coordinated approximately 36 legal clinics (over six months), seeing roughly 700 clients and providing more than 650 pro bono hours. Nearly 100 attorneys, law students, and undergraduate language volunteers have contributed to the clinics, serving a wide range of clients in more than a dozen

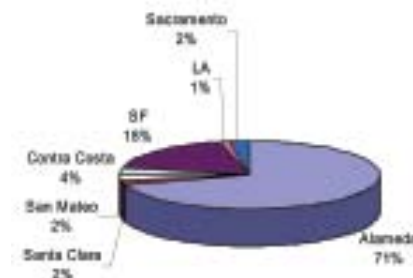
languages and a range of legal issues.

The East Bay clinic operates under the supervision of one or more API Legal Outreach senior staff attorneys and takes place on the third Wednesday of each month at the API East Bay office (at the 12th Street Oakland BART station). It draws people of all ethnicities from Santa Clara to Sacramento with the bulk of clients from the Oakland/Alameda County area.

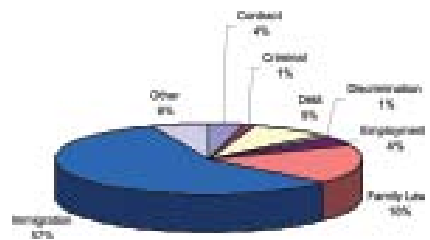
The clinic sees a maximum of 25 clients per night and provides both advice/referral, on-the-spot legal services (such as completing responses or filling out naturalization and visa applications) as well as follow-up from API staff on complex meritorious cases. Recent clients have included victims of human trafficking, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and seniors with housing issues.

The following is a breakdown of services provided:

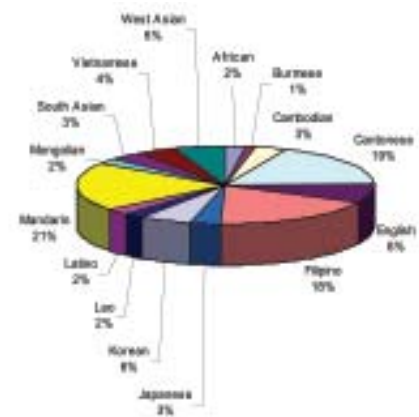
COUNTY OF RESIDENCE



TYPE OF LAW



LANGUAGE/ETHNICITY



Vincent Law, a third-year law student at Boalt, has been a dedicated volunteer over the past two years.



“I get a lot of satisfaction in being able to use both my legal training and my Chinese language skills to help our immigrant clients navigate the American legal

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AABA's Second Annual Judges' Reception Yields Valuable Advice

By *Celia Lee, AABA Treasurer*

On October 26, 2006, over 80 AABA members mingled with Bay Area Asian-American jurists – including California Supreme Court Justices Ming Chin and Joyce Kennard — at AABA's Second Annual Judges' Reception. AABA's Judiciary Committee hosted the reception at the offices of Reed Smith LLP in San Francisco.

The event is quickly becoming an AABA tradition for its unique opportunity for informal and frank discussion with distinguished members of the judiciary. In addition to Justices Chin and Kennard, attending judges included the Hon. Julie Tang, Hon. Lillian Sing, the Hon. Garrett Wong, and Hon. Bruce Chan (Commissioner) from San Francisco County; Hon. Edward Chen, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of California; Hon. Elizabeth Lee from San Mateo County; Hon. Erica Yew from Santa Clara County; and Hon. Delbert Gee, Hon. Roy Hashimoto, and Hon. Vernon Nakahara from Alameda County.

After socializing with AABA members, the attending jurists participated in an informal panel discussion on various topics. AABA Judiciary Committee member Avin Sharma moderated a discussion on the issues of the measure of adequate representation for Asian Americans on the bench and the most important qualities for an attorney to have in order to become a judge. The jurists also imparted words of wisdom for junior attorneys in their initial years of practice, as well as their informed opinions on the appointment and elections processes, and ways to increase the attention of the Governor's Office to the appointments of Asian American judges.

The AABA Judiciary Committee – co-chairs Jenny Huang, Ted Ting, and Salle Yoo, and Avin Sharma, Emi



Our wonderful panel of API judges



Judge Erica Yew speaking with other judges looking on



Judge Garrett Wong speaking

Gusukuma, and Celia Lee – thanks all for attending. The Committee also gives special thanks to Melissa Belgara of Reed Smith and Marcia Delgadillo of Davis Wright Tremaine for their valuable assistance in planning this event.



Rose Zimmerman Selected As Daly City's First Female City Attorney

By Rhean Fajardo, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair

On November 6, 2006, Rose Zimmerman will be sworn in as the first female City Attorney of Daly City, succeeding Stan Gustavson who has served as City Attorney since 1992.

Zimmerman is also the first Filipino-American to be appointed as City Attorney in Daly City, whose over 100,000 population is more than one third Filipino-American, and majority Asian. When asked about her thoughts on making history, Zimmerman says "I am honored to serve as an attorney for a city that appreciates diversity in top management."

The City Attorney is an appointed position and is selected by the members of the City Council. The office's term is indefinite. "We have selected a tremendously talented lawyer as our new City Attorney," says Mayor Michael Guingona. "Her legal prowess, creative problem solving ability, and enthusiasm will be invaluable to Daly City for many, many years."

During her tenure, Zimmerman intends to maintain visible representation in the public sector and expand responsibilities to keep up with the increasing changes of management, and of the City Council.

Zimmerman has served as an Assistant City Attorney for Daly City since 2002. Before

that, she served as a Deputy Public Defender for the City and County of San Francisco. She is a long standing member of AABA; the Vice President of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California (FBANC); a project coordinator for at-risk girls through the Filipino Girls Development Program of Filipinos for Affirmative Action; professional staff to Immigrant Legal Services in Alameda County; and provides pro bono legal services through FBANC and the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place on November 6, 2006 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall of Daly City. The Council is expecting over 100 people to attend this momentous event.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE

invites you to a meeting / happy hour

Thursday, November 9, 2006
6:00 pm

Zebulon

83 Natoma
San Francisco

Happy Hour includes both substantive follow up discussion about topics raised by past speakers and some hosted food and drinks.

Bill Lann Lee Receives California State Bar Diversity Award

By Soyeun Choi, Newsletter Co-Chair



Mr. Lee was recognized by the California State Bar for his continuing work ensuring diversity in the profession. During the annual meeting held in Monterey, on October 7, 2006, Bar President James Otto Heiting presented Mr. Lee with the Diversity Award, recognizing his contribution as an individual attorney in California.

Mr. Lee chaired the BASF Diversity Task Force and presented the findings in the 2005 Report of Goals and Timetables for Minority Hiring and Advancement. The collection and analysis of statistical data in the fifty page document were the product of eighty attorneys who conducted interviews. The document is available online as a .pdf document: http://www.sfbar.org/diversity/minority_hiring.aspx.

As stated on the BASF website, the goal of this Diversity Program is to "advance racial and ethnic minorities in the San Francisco Bay Area legal community work force" by setting goals and timetables, with regular follow up on the firms and businesses who voluntarily signed onto the program. Included on the list of signatories are more than 80 law firms, governmental agencies and corporate legal departments.

Other recipient for the Fifth Annual Diversity Award for individual attorney efforts was Alfred Jenkins and the Bar Association recognized for its efforts was the California Association of Black Lawyers, represented that night by its President Gary Farwell. Also on hand at the Ceremony were BASF Secretary Russell Roeca, Chief Justice Ronald M. George, Michael Nava as well as attendees of the State Bar Meeting.

Mentorship Brunch

By David Sohn, Mentorship Committee Co-Chair

On October 14, 2006, the Mentorship Committee kicked off the 2006-2007 school year with its annual Law Student Mentorship Brunch. The Brunch was hosted by Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe in its spacious cafeteria and was generously sponsored by Kirkland & Ellis.

The Brunch was well attended by over 100 students and attorneys, including state judges Lillian Sing, Delbert Gee and Julie Tang, and federal magistrate judge Edward Chen. Students from law schools all over the Bay Area, including Golden Gate, USF, Hastings, Santa Clara and UC Davis, were represented at the event. After partaking in a breakfast buffet rivaling that of any 5-star hotel in San Francisco, students were given an opportunity to mingle with attorneys from various practice areas. A fun and engaging time was had by all.

The Mentorship Committee will be holding another event for students and attorneys in the next couple months. In the past, we've held events at locations such as a spa, bowling alley, restaurants and bars. An announcement in the newsletter will be forthcoming. Please keep an eye out for it!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Law Student Mentorship Program, or are interested in serving as, or being assigned a mentor, please don't hesitate to contact Dave Sohn of the Mentorship Committee at dsohn@skadden.com.

Minority Bar Coalition Unity Reception

Through the great work of our AABA Social Committee, on October 19th, AABA hosted a packed Bay Area Minority Bar Coalition Unity Reception for eleven local bar associations at the law firm of Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus, Vlahos & Rudy, LLP (thanks to Hanson partner/AABA Secretary Garner Weng).



Edwin Prather presents the Champion of Justice Award to Joan Haratani



L-R: Esther Que, Genevieve Dominguez, Ace Climaco, and Melissa Rodriguez



Award recipients including AABA's own Kathy Asada and Billy Chan

Pictures were taken by AABA Member Al Sambat.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

November 2006

Civil Rights Committee (11/9)

NAPABA Convention – Philadelphia (11/9-11/12)

December 2006

AABA Annual Holiday Party (12/7)

January 2007

AABA Winter Mentorship Program Event (TBA)

February 2007

AABA 30th Annual Dinner (TBA)

AABA is pleased to co-sponsor
(along with other Bay Area Bar Associations)

The Women Lawyers of Alameda County Annual Judges' Dinner

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Justice Carol A. Corrigan, California Supreme Court

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2006

Time: No Host Bar: 6:00 P.M.

Dinner 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Location: Oakland Marriott Hotel, City Center
11th Street and Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Price: between \$60 - \$125

Table Sponsorship Levels also available.

Please direct all inquiries and reservations to

Patricia Delgado at 415-641-8328 or email
WLAC@sbcglobal.net.

RSVP by Friday, November 10, 2006
(must include payment postmarked by this date)

Race Discrimination Against Asian- Americans Physicians

A Chinese American physician is seeking counsel with regards to alleged race discrimination against the doctor and possibly other Asian American physicians by two East Bay hospitals. The physician believes that she has been harassed for many years by hospital personnel and, ultimately, had her staff privileges revoked by two hospitals, due to her race/ethnicity. She is seeking a modified contingency arrangement: she has significant resources to pay for an attorney; however, she would like a cap at a certain point, after which the attorney would be representing the doctor on a contingent basis. She needs help immediately: she has an administrative hearing in mid-November, for which she may appear alone, but would probably benefit from behind-the-scenes attorney counseling (if not an attorney presence). If you are interested in helping or know someone who would, please call (510) 449-2929 or bachzion@comcast.net.

Continued from page 2 **Expanding Services to
the Bay Area**

system. At the clinic, I perform intake interviews and confer with our volunteer attorneys to provide advice and referrals. Intake is crucial, since our clients come in with problems dealing with many different areas of the law and it is a challenge to draw out the relevant facts to identify the issues. I have learned a lot about the types of legal issues that are common in our API communities and a sense of where the greatest needs are."

The East Bay clinic is a great way to learn about a new area of law, meet others interested in serving the community, and also meet a critical community need. For more information on joining the CSC listserv, e-mail Victor Hwang at vhwang@apilegaloutreach.org.

Beginning in Spring 2007, the CSC and API Legal Outreach will also re-launch the San Francisco AABA Legal Clinic, tentatively scheduled to be hosted at the UC Hastings Civil Justice Clinic. Prior to starting the clinic, the CSC will pull together a series of MCLE trainings on working with low-income clients and legal issues that they face. For more information, contact Ruth Ann Castro at rcastro@fbm.com.

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