



AABA Newsletter

WWW.AABA - BAY.COM | JUNE 2006

AABA thanks the following sustaining members of 2006!



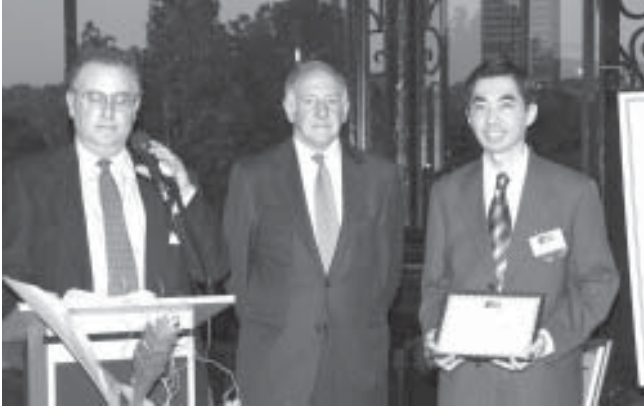
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I hope everyone is enjoying the first days of summer. Barbecues, beaches, summer movies, and lawyering — life couldn't be better! Here are some highlights on what AABA's up to these days: **CITY COMMISSIONS AND MAYOR NEWSOM.** Several weeks ago, leaders representing five Bay Area Asian bar associations met with Mayor Newsom to discuss a variety of topics, including immigration, language access, trafficking, and post-9/11 law enforcement. One of the major topics discussed was the under-representation of Asians on San Francisco commissions. Mayor Newsom was aware of this under-representation, and welcomed members from our bar associations to submit resumes for particular commissions. To learn more about San Francisco commissions, visit http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_index.asp?id=4386. If you are interested in applying for commission vacancies, you can submit applications to the Mayor or the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Let me know that you are applying, so we can track applications from our membership. **DRINK WITH OUR FELLOW BARS!** This year, our board has committed to interacting and working more closely with our fellow Asian bars — Filipino Bar Association of Northern California, Korean American Bar Association of Northern California, South Asian Bar Association of Northern California, Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California, Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley, and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association — as well as other ethnic bars in the area, including La Raza Lawyers Association, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, Charles Houston Bar Association, and the Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers. To this end, our Social Committee is kicking off a series of happy hours, with the first to be co-hosted with the South Asian Bar Association on June 28th. Read this newsletter for more details. **GOT CIVIL RIGHTS?** At the recent retreat hosted by the Civil Rights Committee (CRC), we discussed many community issues that are facing our Asian American communities. As described in this newsletter, CRC is planning a great series of forums on a variety of topics to educate and inspire our membership to get involved, and we hope many of you will attend, starting with a forum on current topics in immigration law on June 22. I want to thank the CRC co-chairs for raising issues and perspectives within AABA, and for helping to craft our recent position on the ongoing immigration debate. To join the CRC listserv, email aabarc@yahoo.com. **WANNA BE A JUDGE?** Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is printed, we will have at least one and hopefully two more Asian American judges in the Bay Area, depending upon election results. But our work never ends. Our Judiciary Committee is planning a small dinner with our Asian judges to discuss strategies to get our qualified Asian attorneys onto the bench; if you have ever considered becoming a judge, please contact one of our Judiciary Committee co-chairs to attend. **SUMMER JOB, ANYONE?** I am frequently contacted by law students who are still looking for summer jobs. If you are an attorney and can sponsor a summer law clerk, whether paid or unpaid, please email jobs@aaba-bay.com. And if you have any attorney positions, email the same.

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From left to right - VLSC President Richard Waxman, Chief Justice Ronald George, and AABA Member Dennis Chin

Pro Bono Award Received by AABA Member

On May 25, 2006, about 200 guests including attorneys and judges attended the annual pro bono awards ceremony sponsored by the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA) Volunteer Legal Services Corporation at the Lake Merritt Hotel in Oakland. CBS 5 East Bay Bureau Chief Sherry Hu was the Mistress of Ceremonies. California State Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald George presented AABA member Dennis Chin with the State Bar of California's Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services for his work with the Low-Income Landlord Eviction and Family Law Day of Court Clinics. The award is given to attorneys who contribute at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services in a given year. Additionally, Dennis was named the 2006 Volunteer of the Year by the ACBA Volunteer Legal Services Corporation. He is an attorney for Toschi, Sidran, Collins & Doyle, an Adjunct Faculty at California State University East Bay for the Paralegal Program, and a Human Services Commissioner for the City of San Leandro. In his inspiring speech to encourage attorneys to give back to the legal community, Dennis compared the feeling of providing free legal services to low-income individuals to the average cost of an annual membership fee to the Alameda County Bar Association (\$150), California State Bar Membership (\$390), and law school education plus room and board (\$120,000), stating that the feeling of giving free legal services to the economically disadvantaged was "Priceless," and that "there are just some things that money can't buy. The Pro Bono Feeling – Don't let life go by without it."

AABA Law Student Summer Grant Deadline Extended to June 15, 2006

The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area ("AABA") is offering one or more grants to help fund one or more qualified summer law clerks to work on legal projects that would provide free legal services to the Asian-American community. Applicants must be sponsored by a nonprofit legal organization that has agreed to supervise the applicant. The grant will be funded by the AABA Law Foundation through the Community Services Committee of AABA.

Interested applicants should meet the following requirements:

1. Have a summer position with a nonprofit legal service organization;
2. Will be working on a project(s) which will provide legal assistance to the Asian American community;
3. Commit to at least 10 weeks of work on the project(s) this summer.

The procedures for submitting an application for the AABA Summer Grant are as follows:

1. Submit a 1-2 page grant proposal, including:
 - (a) Your name, address, phone number and e-mail address;
 - (b) A description of the type of work that will be done under the grant;
 - (c) A description of your qualifications;
 - (d) The name of the nonprofit legal service organization at which you will be working, along with a reference contact and telephone number; and
 - (e) A description of any other grants, compensation or financial aid you will receive for this summer's work, if any.
2. Submit a resume.

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO **JUNE 15, 2006**. DECISIONS WILL BE MADE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THE SUMMER GRANT WILL BE AWARDED AT AABA'S ANNUAL SUMMER ASSOCIATE RECEPTION ON JULY 13, 2006.

Email, fax or mail your application to:

Ruth Ann E. Castro, Esq.
 Farella Braun + Martel LLP
 Russ Building
 235 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94104
 rcastro@fbm.com, Fax 415.954.4480

AABA Civil Rights Committee Retreat & Upcoming Events

By Jennifer Chang and Juna Kim, Civil Rights Committee Co-Chairs

On May 13, the AABA Civil Rights Committee (CRC) held a retreat to discuss the CRC's goals, priorities, and role for the upcoming year. Candace Jan, CRC co-chair, facilitated the wide-ranging discussion. The participants, AABA members from the public interest, government and private sectors, worked well together to refine and develop the following list of goals for the committee:

- Identifying civil rights issues impacting the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community and facilitate dialogue on those issues;
- Generating activism in the API legal community regarding current social justice issues;
- Building support within AABA for the advancement of social justice;
- Advocacy on behalf of AABA regarding local and national civil rights issues;
- Supporting the professional development of API attorneys interested in social justice issues.

The participants also brainstormed about social justice issues CRC might address through discussion panels or direct advocacy, including immigration reform, domestic violence and human trafficking, hate crimes, the position of API parents in the San Francisco public high school debate, language access issues, and the rising incidence of teenage depression and suicide in certain API communities. If you have issues that you think AABA or CRC ought to work on, please contact one of the CRC co-chairs.

The CRC also set dates for the following evening discussion/panel events (mark your calendars!):

June 22, 2006, 6pm - Current Issues in Immigration Law, at 100 McAllister Tower, Suite 300 (Hastings College of the Law), San Francisco

August 3, 2006 - Panel on Human Trafficking

October 5, 2006 (tentative date) - Forum on Criminal Justice & the API Community

November 2, 2006 - Panel on Diversity in Education

February 1, 2007 - Panel on Deportation & the Impact on APIs

Going forward, the CRC is excited about the year to come and the many opportunities for education and advocacy on social justice issues that are arising, and welcomes participation and attendance from all AABA members!

The next Civil Rights Committee meeting is set for **June 22, 2006, 6:00 p.m., at UC Hastings School of Law at 100 McAllister Tower, Suite 300**. The meeting will focus on the status of the Immigration Law, in particular, the bills recently passed by the House and the Senate. Please RSVP to Juna Kim at jkim@vanlevylaw.com.

AABA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE 2006-07 MEETING DATES

All dates are Thursdays, 7pm - location (S.F.) to be announced

June 22 - Current Issues in Immigration Law

August 3 - Panel on Human Trafficking

October 5 - (date subject to change) Forum on Criminal Justice & the API Community

November 2 - Panel on Diversity in Education

February 1, 2007 - Panel on Deportation & the Impact on APIs

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| June 8 | La Raza Lawyers Association Annual Dinner |
| June 19 | CAA Dinner |
| June 22 | Civil Rights Committee: Current Issues In Immigration Law |
| June 28 | Happy Hour with South Asian Bar Association |
| July 13 | Summer Law Clerk Reception at Yank Sing restaurant in San Francisco (Rincon Center location) |
| July 15 | Community Services Committee Chinatown Work-a-Thon |
| July 27 | Civil Rights Committee Happy Hour |
| August 3 | Civil Rights Committee: Human Trafficking |
| August 26 | Career Day at USF School of Law |

Judges Needed for Thomas Tang National Moot Court Competition

The NAPABA Thomas Tang National Moot Court Competition is coming to Palo Alto, California on October 20-21, and we are looking for 12 to 15 attorneys willing to volunteer their time to serve as judges for oral argument. Most of our volunteers will serve on Friday, October 20, from 9am to 12 noon, with the rest serving on Saturday. This is a good way to become a judge without going through an election. And it helps our law students. Please contact Billy Chan at billy@chanlawoffices.com if you are interested.

The Thomas Tang National Moot Court Competition was spawned in 1993 by the APA Law Student Association of the South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas. It is now administered by the NAPABA Law Foundation and the NAPABA Judicial Council. The Competition is open to all students but is especially designed to reach out to APA law students and provide them with an opportunity to showcase their writing and oral advocacy skills and compete for scholarships totaling \$10,000. 87 teams from law schools throughout the country participated in the 2005 competition.

National Conference for the Minority Lawyer

The American Bar Association Section of Business Law and the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession are pleased to announce the Eighth Annual National Conference for the Minority Lawyer, to be held June 22-23, 2006 in Philadelphia.

Co-sponsored by leading minority bar associations including AABA, the conference will present a wide array of topical programming, all offering concise, practical training sessions for minority business lawyers, litigators and government attorneys.

The National Conference for the Minority Lawyers is an opportunity for everyone, not just lawyers of color, to acquire valuable tools to enhance the skills they will need to position and promote themselves in the current environment. With receptions, luncheons and other networking opportunities, attendees will share with and learn from major diversity facilitators in the legal community. Visit the conference website today at www.abanet.org/buslaw/meetings/2006/minoritylawyer/ and register to take advantage of a great mix of practical training sessions and cutting-edge, substantive CLE programs.

First Official AABA Mixer of 2006!!!

COME OUT AND MIX AND MINGLE WITH MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, AS WELL AS YOUR FELLOW AABA MEMBERS!

Wednesday, June 28, 2006
5:30 to 8:00 pm
Cigar Bar & Grill
 850 Montgomery, San Francisco
 Price: FREE

We're buying the first few rounds and providing appetizers while they last!
 All friends, colleagues and summer associates are also invited to this event.
 Brought to you by your friendly neighborhood AABA Social Committee.

Questions may be directed to Eumi Lee (leeeu@uchastings.edu) or Michelle Yang (michelle.yang@dechert.com)

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO - EMPLOYMENT LAW CENTER (LAS-ELC)

9TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SERIES
ELIZABETH J. CABRASER
SUMMER BROWN BAG LECTURES IN PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

NEW LOCATION EACH WEEK

(Check each listing for details)

Bring your lunch and join us for the 24th session of our Summer presentations on a variety of current topics in public interest law. Light refreshments will be provided. This year, we are celebrating our 8th Anniversary. We are honored to have the lecture hosted by a sampling of San Francisco area firms that have for decades generously supported the LAS-ELC's work and the public interest community as a whole.

Co-sponsored by the Bay Area Law for American Civil Rights Committee

JUNE 6

Local Hiring in East Palo Alto:
A Redevelopment Success Story

Leif Cabraser, Partner & Director, LLP
279 Market Street - 28th Floor, Conference Room

Julian Goss | Attorney
Mico Mitrice | Redevelopment Manager, East Palo Alto

Since large-scale redevelopment began in 1985, the economically troubled city of East Palo Alto has required all employers in its redevelopment projects to commit to a "local source" hiring program. The program - crafted with the advice and counsel of community advocates and non-profit lawyers - is designed to draw workers from a pool of low-income residents, and includes a critical job-training component. With a strong policy and committed implementation efforts, the city has succeeded in hiring 1,200 jobs for low-income residents, and has made considerable inroads open to historically high unemployment rates.

JUNE 13

Times of Crisis:
How the Legal System Has Failed the Victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Hanson, Rodgers, Wilcox, Vialos & Rely, LLP
220 Market Street - Golden Gate Rooms 1 and 2, 20th Floor

William E. McNeil, II | Managing Attorney, The LAS-ELC
Katheryn Thomas Rapp | Director of Law and Public Policy, Equal Justice Society
Drewn Bunkle | Attorney, Public Interest Law Project

In the summer of 2005, hurricanes Katrina and Rita ripped through Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. Among the strongest hurricanes ever recorded, they displaced more than one million people and caused an estimated \$85 billion in damages. The government's lackluster response to the crisis has been called one of the great tragedies of our time. Drawing upon their first-hand experiences working in the affected communities and litigating against the government, the panelists will discuss the legal realities facing victims today as well as the ongoing efforts to hold the federal government accountable for its inaction.

JUNE 20

Speaking Out of Turn?
Adventures in State Government Service

The LAS-ELC
882 Harrison Street, Suite 120

Miles Locker | Staff Attorney (Retired), California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement

Over the course of a 20+ year career as an attorney for the State of California, including a stint as Labor Commissioner, Miles Locker worked tirelessly to ensure that California workers enjoy the protection of the state's labor laws, including the right to overtime pay and appropriate meal and rest breaks. Yet Locker was fired earlier this year - purportedly for criticizing the Schwarzenegger Administration's efforts to weaken those workplace protections - (or is lawyers' lunch on last year). He will discuss the current state of labor and employment law in California, and reflect upon his life as a civil servant.

JUNE 27

Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking:
Tools for Action in Immigrant Communities

Heller Eisman LLP - 322 Bush Street, Suite 2000
27th Floor, Room 2124/26

Ivy Lee | Attorney, APL Legal Outreach
Suzanne Rupp | Advocate, Rummel

Recently enacted state and federal legislation promise to protect and help immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The panelists will discuss the dynamics of domestic violence and human trafficking in immigrant communities, the range of relief available for victims, and the challenges victims face in their efforts to create safe and secure lives for themselves and their families.

JULY 11

Emerging Issues in California Family and Marriage Law:
The Changing Landscape for LGBT Families

Philbrick Worthington Shaw Pittman LLP
28 Prescott Street - Conference Room 204-F

Jerry Moss | Family Law Practice
Drew Sabatini Goss | Deputy City Attorney

Discrete developments are opening the legal landscape for lesbian and gay families in California. In August 2005, the California Supreme Court issued groundbreaking opinions in three cases ruling on the legal status of children born to same-sex parents. Also, it will soon hear consolidated cases challenging California's marriage ban, which currently prohibits same-sex marriage. Advocates and community groups are pursuing legislative action and enforcement of the state's domestic partnership legislation, which became effective last year. The panelists will review the law and share strategies.

JULY 18

Seeking Justice for Immigrants:
Recent Developments in Immigrants' Rights

Steinlin, Levitt & White - One Embarcadero Center, 28th Floor, Conference Room A

Jessie S. Srikantiah | Associate Professor of Law and Director, Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Stanford Law School
Mariana Rodriguez | Public Education Coordinator, ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project
Jennifer Chang | Steinlin Fellow, ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project

While activists promote mass mobilizations and legal reforms, attacks on immigrant communities intensify. Current legislative proposals affecting undocumented workers range from punitive criminal measures to legislation. The panelists will discuss the political context of the rising debate, reflect on the impact of the 1986 anti-immigration laws, and explore realistic strategies for protecting and expanding immigrants' rights.

WEDNESDAY
JULY 26

Supreme Court Review:
Analysis and Discussion of the 2005-2006 Term Decisions

Dixon, Alexander & Satchell LLP - The Civic Building, 480 Howard Street
San Francisco Rooms North and South

Rosalee S. Karlan | Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law, and Associate Dean for Research and Academic, Stanford University

The Supreme Court will have heard many novel issues this term including: the constitutionality of federal retroactive laws; what constitutes an "adverse" employment action for purposes of Title VII retaliation claims; whether Dege's amended subtitle law violates the federal Crystal Ball Balustrade Act; and the constitutionality of the New Hampshire parental notification act. Professor Karlan will review the Court's rulings, calling upon her experience arguing before the Court, as well as her tenure as a professor of Constitutional Law and Director of the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic at Stanford. She will discuss the court's decisions and offer analysis regarding their effects on future litigation and legislation.

The LAS-ELC is a California MCLE approved provider. Each session is approved for 1.5 hours of MCLE credit. All presentations are free, wheelchair accessible, and open to the public. Interpretive services (ASL, signifying, English/Spanish, English/Cantonese) will be provided upon 72 hours notice.

For further information, visit www.las-etc.org or call 415-864-8348, TTY: 415-593-0691



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE
**AABA 19TH ANNUAL
 SUMMER LAW CLERK RECEPTION**

RECOGNIZING SUMMER ASSOCIATES AND LAW CLERKS IN THE S.F. BAY AREA
 AND HONORING AABA'S 2006 SUMMER-GRANT RECIPIENTS
 FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE
 AND CLIENT ADVOCACY

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2006

5-6 PM – ATTORNEY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM:
 PRE-RECEPTION MEET & GREET

If you have been assigned a Mentee or Mentor, come meet them! If you have not been assigned a Mentee or Mentor, come join us and find out more about how you can get involved.

6-8:30 PM – MAIN RECEPTION

Yank Sing Restaurant – Rincon Center Location

101 SPEAR STREET (AT MISSION STREET)
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

We hope you can join us!

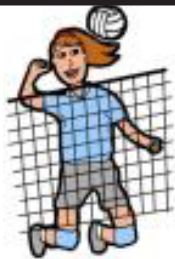
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
 REICH LEE at reichlee@yahoo.com OR IVANA LEE at ilee@wsg.com



AABA BAGS: THANKS TO AXIOM LEGAL AND OUR DINNER BENEFACTORS

If you attended our 2006 Annual Dinner a few months ago, you may recall that our Grand Benefactor, Axiom Legal, offered a collector-item AABA messenger bag — a Patagonia-designed Vertical Mass bag embroidered with AABA's logo — to anyone who signed up to be a new AABA member or was an AABA Sustaining Member at the time of the dinner. Axiom will be shipping the custom-made bags shortly to our lucky AABA members. (If you receive a bag and don't plan to use it, please give your AABA bag back to David Chiu, since we have actually received numerous requests for the bags.) For those who don't know Axiom, it's a new kind of legal services firm that's changing the way attorneys work. Axiom (www.axiomlegal.com) began in New York five years ago and just opened a San Francisco office, and we were delighted to have them as Grand Benefactor sponsor.

We also want to again thank our 2006 Dinner Benefactors: Fenwick & West LLP; Gordon & Rees LLP; Hanson Bridgett Marcus Vlahos & Rudy LLP; Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe LLP; Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP; Morgan Lewis; Preston Gates & Ellis LLP; Reed Smith; Roger Joseph O'Donnell & Phillips; and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. Much thanks to all of our AABA law firm sponsors for your continuing support!



CALL FOR AABA VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS (and wannabe players)

AABA will be forming a volleyball team to play in the Asian American community league that meets on Tuesday nights at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) in San Francisco's Japantown. The recreational league, consisting of 10 teams representing Asian American nonprofits, is a ton of fun. Each week, in addition to the scheduled games, there's always food and drink, and it's a great way to hang out with players from different organizations and throughout our community. Any and all AABA members are encouraged to join our AABA team, regardless of skill level or volleyball experience; if David Chiu can play, anyone can play. If you're interested, please contact Hanesther Kim at kimha@uchastings.edu. The next season should be starting in late July.

AABA Takes Position on Recent Immigration Debate

by Jennifer C. Chang, Civil Rights Committee Co-chair and ACLU Immigrant Rights Project Attorney

In recent months, our nation has been involved in a critical and heated debate about U.S. immigration policy. Fundamentally about who is entitled to be an "American" under the law, the outcome of this debate will ultimately impact the extent of legal protections and civil rights of thousands of individuals and countless families, including Asians and our other brothers and sisters of color.

While there has been a media perception from recent marches and demonstrations that the Latino community is most interested in this issue, Asian community leaders, elected leaders, and attorneys have been fully involved in the discussion about the future of our immigration policy, and with good reason. For example, within recent weeks, Asian community leaders in the Bay Area have organized Asian American marchers, held several press conferences, and called for our communities to take part in the discussion.

Upon recommendation by AABA's Civil Rights Committee and with board approval, AABA recently took a position in the recent immigration debate, and communicated our position to our California U.S. Senators. In our letter, we urged that any plan for comprehensive immigration reform must not sacrifice due process in the name of national security.

Rather, we advocated that reform proposals must include a path for undocumented individuals to adjust to lawful immigration status without departing the U.S., adequate channels for workers to immigrate as future labor needs arise, and real avenues for family reunification. As we explained in our letter, while AABA recognizes and supports the need to reform our nation's immigration laws, comprehensive reform legislation must provide a realistic and compassionate approach to both national security and the need for immigrant labor, as well as crucial due process safeguards for immigrants and asylum seekers.

Specifically, we vigorously opposed the following unduly harsh proposals included in recent Congressional proposals:

- Eliminating or restricting administrative and judicial review for immigrants, which would prevent many immigrants from having their day in court;
- Placing exclusive jurisdiction over all future immigration appeals in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C., which is

a narrowly-focused specialized court unfamiliar with constitutional issues affecting personal liberty or immigrants, and which would greatly restrict access to the courts for immigration petitioners across the country (who are often detained and unrepresented by counsel);

- Imposing a "Certificate of Reviewability" barrier to judicial review, which raises serious constitutional questions in light of the constitutional right to judicial review of removal orders recognized in *INS v. St. Cyr*, 533 U.S. 289 (2001);
- Criminalization of immigration status violations, including making unlawful presence in the U.S. a continuing criminal offense (a provision that would entangle state and local law enforcement officers in federal immigration enforcement and undermine successful community policing initiatives across the country);
- More stringent detention provisions, including restoration of policies under which non-citizens could be detained indefinitely under certain circumstances;
- Unnecessarily broadening the definition of "aggravated felony," which already includes many relatively minor offenses (a conviction for such an offense precludes an immigrant from nearly all forms of immigration relief);
- New bars to naturalization for lawful permanent residents;
- Criminal penalties for "facilitating" illegal entry into the U.S., a formulation that could be interpreted to outlaw the work of many nonprofit agencies; and
- A massive new mandatory electronic employment eligibility verification system with few safeguards to protect workers from errors, misuse, or privacy lapses, despite the extensive record of such problems under existing pilot programs.

Despite the efforts of AABA and other advocacy groups, the U.S. Senate subsequently passed an immigration bill that includes a number of provisions that would undermine our nation's commitment to fairness for immigrants. In the coming weeks and months, as the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives conference to work out differences between the bills adopted by each body, it is even more important that AABA members stay active and informed in this important debate.

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