



NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays!

December 2002

AABA thanks the sustaining members of 2002!

- Kevin Chung
- Howard N. Chung
- Kevin M. Fong
- Keith Fudenna
- Naoko Fujii
- Joan Haratani
- Edith M. Ho
- Helen Y.H. Hui
- Lily Mayumi Kimura
- Jerry Lee
- Jennifer Y. Liu
- Wesley M. Lowe
- Mari Mayeda
- Christine Noma
- Bernard C. Shek
- Audrey L. Sung
- David C. Tseng
- Garrett L. Wong
- Darryl M. Woo
- Franklin H. Yap
- Stanley Young

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Standing Room Only at AABA Mentor-Mentee Program Kickoff Brunch

On November 2, more than 125 law students and attorneys from around the Bay Area gathered bright and early on a Saturday morning at the law firm of Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe LLP to kick off the AABA Mentorship Program for the 2002-2003 school year.

AABA's Mentorship Program began a few years ago, when AABA Board Member David Chiu organized the first mentoring group of 30 public interest attorneys and law students interested in public interest careers. Two years later, AABA Board Member Kevin Chung started to match private sector attorneys with law students interested in private sec-



It was wall-to-wall people at the kickoff brunch for AABA's 2002-03 Mentorship Program, which was held at Heller Ehrman on November 2. AABA VP Phil Shinn stands at far right.

tor careers. The Mentorship Program has expanded dramatically: this year, more than 200 students and attorneys are participating in the program.

As an icebreaker, Kevin Chung led a trivia match between teams of stu-

dents and mentors from the various Bay Area law schools. This year, students of Santa Clara Law School prevailed in the heated battle for the prize of three dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts among Bay Area law schools,

(Continued on page 3)

Large AABA Contingent Travels to Atlanta for 14th Annual NAPABA Conference

By Gene Woo

A sizable contingent traveled from the Bay Area to Atlanta for the 14th Annual National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) convention,

which was held November 7-10.

AABA members attending were Dale Minami, Jeff Adachi, Kevin Fong, Darryl Woo, Margie Fujiooka, Stan Young, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge Erica Yew, Mark

Morodomi, Gene Woo, prospective member Henry Su, Jennifer Liu, Kevin Chung, Edith Ho, Julie Soo, Cedric Chao, Alex Chiu, and Mai-Anh Nguyen.

This year's convention *(Continued on page 5)*

Schedule of Events

- **December 3** — AABA Board Meeting, Heller Ehrman, 6 p.m.
- **December 11** — ALC/AABA Law Clinic. Contact ritahao@earthlink.com for information.
- **December 12** — AABA Holiday Party, Lapis Restaurant, Pier 33, The Embarcadero, 5:30-8 p.m. See News and Notes for details.
- **December 16** — AABA CRC meeting, 7 p.m. Contact aabarc@yahoo.com for information.

For updated events and schedule changes, visit www.aaba-bay.com.

December 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 AABA Board Meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 ALC/AABA Law Clinic	12 AABA Holiday Party	13	14
15	16 AABA CRC meeting	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31				

AABA News and Notes

AABA Holiday Party Dec. 12

The AABA Holiday Party will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 12 at Lapis Restaurant, which is at Pier 33 on the Embarcadero in San Francisco.

Valet parking will be available. This event is free for AABA members. For information, contact ekprather@mindspring.com or malyeung@yahoo.com.

AABA Members Talk to USF Students About Careers

AABA members **Gene Woo**, **Rod McLeod** and **Debbie Wong** met and talked with law students about careers at USF Law School's 9th Annual Networking Event on November 13, which was sponsored by various student organizations and the USF Career Services Office.

Pro Bono Legal Help Needed for New Asian-American Magazine

Hyphen, a new national pan-Asian-American magazine launching in spring 2003, is looking for pro bono legal help. Based in the Bay Area, the magazine will go beyond pop culture to cover the full spectrum of Asian America through investigative journalism and engaging analysis.

Hyphen is in the process of securing a fiscal sponsorship and plan to convert to an independent 501(c)3 in the next two years. *Hyphen* currently needs legal assistance in the following areas: freelancer contracts; fiscal sponsorship; and copyright and libel law.

If you are interested, please contact publisher Yuki Tessitore at ki@hyphenmagazine.com or **David Chiu** at david.chiu@grassroots.com.

Consider a Charitable Contribution to AABA Law Foundation

Did you know that the AABA Law Foundation is registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as a charitable organization? As such, contributions to the Law Foundation are considered to be charitable contributions and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Your contributions allow AABA to continue to fund the scholarship program for deserving law students.

Thanks from AABA Community Services Committee

The November clinic volunteers were **Helen Kuo** and **Virginia Sung**. Also, thanks to **Joannie Chang** for helping with the CSC's first clinic training session on employment law.

First Person Report on Mentor-Mentee Brunch

By Debbie Wong

I became a first-time mentor for AABA this year and attended the mentorship brunch on November 2 at the law offices of Heller, Ehrman. I've never been so stunned to walk into an AABA event that was totally wall-to-wall with people. There wasn't even room on the floor to sit. An absolutely tremendous effort by Kevin Chung and David Chiu to organize the mentorship brunch. Special thanks to Carol Rabuy, a paralegal at Heller, Ehrman who donated much of her time and sat at the reception booth for the mentorship brunch and she's not even an AABA member! This event included food (a must for any event!), attendance by a lot of mentors and mentees and numerous well acted skits by Kevin Chung, Felix Lee, Leslie Cheng and Rita Hao on the expectations and obligations of a mentor/mentee relationship.

My mentee was Caroline Sung of UC Davis. I contacted Caroline in the first week and arranged to talk. On the day that I was to talk to Caroline, I attended the USF Law School 9th Annual Networking Event. Later that night I talked to Caroline about her expectations and what I felt my role was as a mentor. Caroline asked me many of the

same similar career questions I encountered at the USF Law School 9th Annual Networking Event.

As I talked to Caroline I realized



More than 125 students and attorneys attended AABA's Mentorship Program brunch.

that mentorship itself is a great networking event. Note, it is a great networking event for a law student's future and is not the path to a summer job. I know everyone tells law students to network but they don't have a base to network from. Meeting attorneys randomly at events is not networking. However, mentorship is a great base to start networking.

I realized that for Caroline, I made a commitment to be a mentor and I was going to invest more of my time to make sure she got her

questions answered (whether by myself or a friend) and guidance about career choices, finding a job and life in general. I never knew about mentoring programs when I was in law school. When I graduated I had no one to guide me on career choices and no networking base. I've had informal mentors in my life but they were people I met in jobs AFTER law school. If I started my networking base in law school through a mentorship program (and not the random events where you meet attorneys), I think I would have been better prepared. Remember,

it is a two-way street and both the mentor and the mentee must put in the same effort to come out with a great result.

Law students have the opportunity to be in a formal mentorship with AABA and I think in today's shrinking job market, it is more important than ever to start networking early. Plus, mentorship offers more than just a base for networking, it offers friendship on the personal, career and academic levels. Fill out the mentorship form and become a mentor or mentee!

Kickoff Brunch for AABA's Mentor-Mentee Program a Success

(Continued from page 1)

beating out teams from Hastings, UC Davis, McGeorge, Boalt, USF and Golden Gate.

David Chiu explained that the mission of the Mentorship Program is to foster mentoring around career choices, jobs, and law school. Many attorney mentors have opened up their professional networks to their

student mentees. In addition, several mentors in this year's programs are former law student participants themselves who are now giving back to current law students.

If you have additional questions about the Mentorship Program, contact David Chiu at david.chiu@grassroots.com (public interest/government/non-profit) or

Kevin Chung at kchung@hewm.com (private sector).

Special thanks to Carla Rabuy of Heller Ehrman for her volunteer efforts in co-coordinating the private sector side of the Mentorship Program, and to Heller Ehrman for providing the space and beverages for the brunch event.

Q&A with Steve Shin, AABA Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair

1) Why did you decide to become an attorney?

Well, after my teaching fellowship at a private high school was over, I came to two conclusions: I was not going to enter the teaching profession and I needed to find another career. So, with my history degree, there weren't too many options for me except law school. Also, I was/am still an idealist, and making a change/difference was another factor.

2) Who were your role models when you started practicing?

These days...it would have to be the attorneys at the law firm of Donnell, Young, Frutt and Dole. They are Boston attorneys.

3) Your finest moment as a (student) has been...

When I attended a class without being called on in my first-year of law school.

4) If you weren't in the legal profession, you would be...

Working at some minimum-wage job and trying to become a contestant on Jeopardy!

5) What's the single most important thing that AABA can accomplish?

Getting all its members to pay their dues.

6) Your advice to an aspiring Asian-American law student/young lawyer would be?

Work hard your first year in law school. After that, have fun and enjoy the student lifestyle. There's nothing like it.

—by *Michael Cho*

10 Questions with Marsha-laine Dungog, Education Committee Co-Chair

1) Give me a short one-paragraph background on you.

I am a tax associate at Pillsbury Winthrop. My practice includes federal and state tax controversies and litigation, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate tax planning. Contrary to what others may think, tax is a very dynamic and engaging area of the law to practice. It goes straight to the core of every society, and cuts across every type of boundary you can think of — last year, Kevin Fong and I worked on a case that dealt with the property taxation of satellites located in outer space — how cool is that!



2) Who has inspired you lately and why?

My mother. She is such an intelligent, insightful and caring person. She keeps me grounded on our values, our roots and supports me in the decisions that I make. I think she is also growing younger every year!

3) What are your other interests or hobbies?

I like to go exploring and discover new places with people who are close to me.

4) If you could do something else, what would it be?

I'd like to spend a year or two working for an international organization that focuses on women's and children's issues. Why? Because these are germane issues that have gotten a lot of attention, but not a lot of action.

5) What do you do to balance the pressures of work with other interests or hobbies?

I like to go out of town on weekends and experience nature in some fun activity like white water rafting, hiking, or explore towns in the back roads.

6) What's your favorite food and why?

Adobo. Because it takes me back to that time when I used to have dinners with my grandmother and grandfather in Manila. It reminds me of home.

7) What would you travel 100 miles or more for?

Family, good friends, and anything else that will take me close to nature and far away from all the indulgences of city living— (you are

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AABA Members Attend NAPABA Convention

(Continued from page 1)

was held in conjunction with the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (NAPALSA) annual conference for the first time. As a result, law students and attorneys from across the country had an opportunity to interact and discuss various issues facing the Asian Pacific American community.

Several AABA members were panelists on the programs. Dale Minami, Jeff Adachi, Kevin Fong, Darryl Woo, Margie Fujioka, and Stan Young all participated in making presentations on issues ranging from civil rights to business development. Congressman Mike Honda and State Bar Chief Trial Counsel Mike Nisperos also participated as panel members.

Santa Clara Superior Court Judge Erica Yew was honored with the Trailblazer Award for the Bay Area region of NAPABA. Judge Yew

was honored for her past service as a member of the State Bar Board of Governors and for being the first



Trailblazer Award Winner Hon. Erica Yew, AABA President Edith Ho and AABA Board Member Kevin Chung at the NAPABA Convention in Atlanta.

Asian-American female appointed to the Santa Clara County Superior Court bench. Former AABA president Jennifer Liu was honored as one of NAPABA's Best Lawyers Under 40. She was part of a select group of 25 attorneys from across the country who were honored for their legal skills and their service to the community.

The keynote speaker for the installation dinner was U.S. Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson. His speech discussed the war on terrorism and the Bush administration's efforts to fight corporate

fraud. Ruthe Ashley of Sacramento was installed as the new president of NAPABA, and she will preside over the organization for the next 12 months.

Hats off to Cedric and Dale who were in the winning foursome in the NAPABA golf tournament and to Kevin Chung who won the longest drive contest.

The NAPABA board also reminded everyone that next year's convention will be held from November 13-16 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Special hotel room rates at the Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel and airfares on American Airlines have already been negotiated. NAPABA is in the process of lining up special packages for attendees who may want to visit one of the outer islands before or after the convention. In addition, the Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel will honor the convention rate of \$120 per night for the weeks preceding and following the convention.

For additional pictures from the NAPABA convention, please visit www.aaba-bay.com.

Q&A with Marsha-laine Dungog

(Continued from page 4)

asking the wrong person. I am a travel buff) (i.e. a favorite restaurant, to see a sport, etc.).

8) What's your best vacation and why?

On my last birthday in D.C., we spent the time in West Virginia and

went white-water rafting along the Gauley. It was fun because the drive up to West Virginia was absolutely breathtaking — fall colors dotted the landscape, the roads were clear and the river was all cold and foggy. Going down that river was symbolic — at that time, I had received two offers from the West

Coast and needed to make up my mind on which offer to take. Trying to make it through the Gauley's rapids prepared me mentally for all the decisions that had to be made. It was fantastic.

—By Debbie Wong

2002-2003 Asian American Bar Association Mentorship Program

By popular demand, AABA is pleased to announce the return of its Law Student Mentorship Program.

Bay Area law school students (1L, 2L, 3L) who complete and return this form will be paired with an attorney mentor. Participants from last year must also complete the form because they will receive a new mentor for this year's program. Based on the information provided, mentors and mentees are divided into two groups: private practice and government/civil rights/public interest. We will do our best to match you with a mentor within your practice of interest.

Program Guidelines

- participants must commit to contacting their mentor/mentee at least twice during the year
- participants should meet with their mentor/mentee at least once during the year, twice if possible
- the mentee must attend the kick-off brunch held in the fall

Space was limited last year, and some students were either placed on a wait-list or simply unable to participate. Also, keep in mind that the attorney mentors have generously agreed to donate their time and effort to mentor law students. Therefore, please sign up only if you are committed to following the program guidelines and putting in the effort to make the program worthwhile for everyone.

If you would like to participate (and you are interested in private practice), please complete the form below and return it via U.S. mail to Kevin Chung, Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe, 275 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, or via e-mail to kchung@hewm.com. If you have any questions, please call (650) 324-7162. David Chiu is in charge of the government/public interest side of the mentor/mentee program and can be reached at david.chiu@grassroots.com.

PLEASE PROVIDE ALL OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED (PRINT LEGIBLY)

Name: _____

Check One: ___ **LAW STUDENT** **1L** **2L** **3L** (Circle One)

 ___ **ATTORNEY**

Years in Practice: _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Law School/Graduation Year: _____

Undergraduate School/Graduation Year/Major: _____

Area of Interest (circle one): **Private Practice** **Govt./Civil Rights/Public Interest**

Specific area(s) of interest (*e.g.*, labor/employment; corporate, litigation, IP, tax, criminal, family, consumer): _____

Tell us one interesting thing about yourself: _____

ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE GREATER BAY AREA (AABA)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join AABA or renew your membership, please complete and return this form, with a check for your dues, to AABA, P.O. Box 190517, San Francisco, CA 94119-0517. If your dues are current, you may use this form to update your membership information.

- Law Student Member: \$15
- Associate Member (non-lawyer, non-voting): \$25
- Government/Nonprofit Member (regardless of length of practice): \$35
- Lawyer Member (in practice less than 5 years): \$35
- Lawyer Member (in practice 5-10 years): \$45
- Lawyer Member (in practice more than 10 years): \$60
- Sustaining Member (any category above): \$150
- Previously paid current year's dues. Updating membership information only.

Enclosed is an additional \$ _____ donation (made payable to AABA Law Foundation) to be used for:

- AABA Law Foundation AABA Law Clinic AABA Scholarship Program

Name: _____

Firm/Agency/Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Area(s) of Practice (list up to three): _____

Language(s) (fluent, conversational or limited): _____

Please indicate which of the following AABA committees, if any, you would like to participate in (you may check as many as you want):

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Judiciary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> In-House Counsel Roundtable | <input type="checkbox"/> New Lawyers | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Appointments | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | |

If you would like to participate in AABA's law student-attorney mentoring program, please check here:

Periodically, AABA publishes a membership directory for exclusive distribution to current AABA members. If you do **not** want to be included in the directory, please check here:

From time to time, AABA will also allow mailings from candidates recommended or endorsed by the AABA Board. If you do **not** want to be included in such mailings, please check here:

**THE ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF
THE GREATER BAY AREA**

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The AABA Newsletter Committee is Kathy Aoki, Kathy Asada (Co-Chair), Michael Cho, Elaine Chow (Newsletter Editor and Co-Chair), Wendy Kwok, Eugene Pak and Debbie Wong (Co-Chair). E-mail us at newsletter@aaba-bay.com.

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of the Greater Bay Area

We're on the Web!
www.aaba-bay.com

The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (AABA) was founded in 1976 to provide Asian American attorneys with a vehicle for the unified expression of opinions and positions on matters of concern to all Asian American attorneys, to encourage and to promote the professional growth of its members, and to foster the exchange of ideas and information among its members and with the legal community at large.

AABA is the largest local Asian American bar association in the country and is one of the largest minority bar associations in California, with members who are attorneys, judges, law students and others, representing the entire spectrum of political, social and legal concerns. It is active in six Bay Area counties - including San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Marin and Santa Clara. AABA has members throughout California and the nation, as well as overseas.