2021 Garrick S. Lew Fellowship

The Garrick S. Lew Fellowship awards $10,000 to a 3L law student committed to a criminal defense practice after graduation. The Fellowship is funded through a grant from the Minami Tamaki Yamauchi Kwok & Lee (MTYKL) Foundation’s Garrick S. Lew Legacy Fund to the AABA Law Foundation, which administers the Fellowship and selects the recipients. The MTYKL Foundation created the Garrick S. Lew Legacy Fund in conjunction with the Lew family to support efforts that continue Garrick’s legacy of advocating for our Asian American communities, AAPIs in the legal profession and criminal defense.

Applicant requirements (application is attached):

● 3L or third/final year law student
● Committed and demonstrated interest in criminal defense work
● Bay Area—must be a 3L at a Bay Area school
● Membership in the Asian American Bar Association will be considered
● Financial need will be considered
● Essay as to why your interest mirrors Garrick Lew’s values and principles

About Garrick S. Lew

Garrick is remembered as a skillful and talented attorney, a tireless advocate in the fight for social justice and equality, an icon in the Asian American community, a devoted husband to his wife, Diane Hiura, a loving and engaged father to his two sons, Dillon and Brandon, and an indispensable friend to those who knew him. Garrick, the first of three children, was born on July 25, 1950, in Oakland, Calif., to parents Share and Jennie Lew. A product of the Oakland public schools, Garrick received his B.A. with honors from the University of California, Berkeley in 1971, and his J.D. from UC Berkeley’s Boalt Hall School of Law in 1974. From his first years as a student at Cal, he fought for the establishment of an ethnic studies program, demonstrated in the Third World Strike, and helped establish youth organizations in Oakland’s Chinatown.

Throughout his legal career, Garrick was an ardent champion of civil rights and social justice, and a staunch defender of those unable to defend themselves. As a fearless young lawyer, he represented Wendy Yoshimura, the fugitive who was caught with Patty Hearst and the Symbionese Liberation Army. He was also part of the legal team fighting the eviction of tenants from the International Hotel, and provided pro bono services to demonstrators arrested in anti-Vietnam war protests.
It was out of this sense of justice and pride in his heritage as an Asian American that he helped establish the Asian Law Caucus while still a law student. Garrick later co-founded Minami, Tomine and Lew, one of the first Asian American law firms in the country. The firm later became Minami Lew & Tamaki, and then Minami Tamaki LLP when Garrick started his own practice in 2006. In his 42 years of practicing law, Garrick specialized in criminal defense trial work with a focus on complex white-collar cases, but also served on the federal court’s Criminal Justice Panel for 30 years, handling hundreds of cases for indigent clients. In a testament to his belief that every person charged with a crime deserved representation, he was the defense attorney for the notorious serial killer Charles Ng.

Garrick received numerous honors, awards, and recognitions for his professional accomplishments. He was also one of the funniest people alive, sometimes unintentionally. Throughout his life, Garrick stayed true to the principles that guided his life: advancing justice, fighting for the underdog, mentoring young attorneys, and being fiercely loyal to family and friends.
2021 AABA Law Foundation Garrick S. Lew Fellowship Application and Instructions

Name: __________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ______________________________

Alternate Phone Number: _______________________

Email: ______________________________________

Are you a member of AABA? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Law School: ___________________________________________________________________

Anticipated Graduation Date: ____________________

2021 Post Grad Employment (if known): ________________________________

Are you the first person in your immediate family to attend law school in the United States?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Law School GPA: ________________

Law School Honors and Activities:

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
Undergraduate School: __________________________________________________________

Degree: __________________________________________

Major: __________________________________________

Graduation Date: ______________________________

Undergraduate Honors and Activities:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Graduate School (if applicable): __________________________________________________

Degree: __________________________________________

Major: __________________________________________

Graduation Date: ______________________________

Languages Spoken: _____________________________________________________________

Fluency: ______________________________________

Education Level of Father: ________________________

Occupation of Father: ____________________________

Education Level of Mother: _______________________

Occupation of Mother: ___________________________
Financial Aid Information:

Non-Loans: _______________________________

Loans: _______________________________

Grants: _______________________________

Scholarships: ________________________________

Campus Job or Work/Study Earnings: __________

Federal Loans: ________________________________

Private Loans: ________________________________

Outstanding Student Loan Debt: __________________

Undergraduate: Graduate (if applicable):_________

Total Law School Debt: _______________________

Optional Statement of Financial Circumstances:
INSTRUCTIONS:

Please submit a completed Application Form, a resume, and a personal statement of no more than three pages, double-spaced, addressing the following issues:

(1) Please describe how your background, upbringing, community work, and experience reflects the values Garrick S. Lew exhibited over his lifetime.

(2) Please explain why you are committed to a career in criminal defense and how you have demonstrated that commitment

If you are not currently a law student at a San Francisco Bay Area law school (Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Hastings, University of San Francisco, Golden Gate University, Santa Clara University, or McGeorge School of Law), please explain in a separate statement (no more than one page), your commitment to serving the Asian Pacific American community in the Bay Area.

Please submit all applications by March 15, 2021 via e-mail to aaba.bayarea@gmail.com.

Finalists will be notified if they are selected for an interview, likely by video conference, by early April 2021. Interview date and location TBD.

The Recipient of the Fellowship will be notified by early May, 2021.

The Garrick S. Lew Fellowship recipient will be recognized at the Asian American Bar Association Annual Gala that is in the process of being planned. If an in-person event is possible, it will take place in San Francisco in the summer; if not, a virtual event sometime later will be scheduled. We will notify the recipient of the date as soon as possible.