



AABA Newsletter

WWW.AABA - BAY.COM

FEBRUARY 2010



Garner Weng

President's Column

The Annual Dinner is Coming!

AABA's 33rd Annual Installation Dinner is coming! You should hopefully have seen news of this no less than 1,037 times by now—in our newsletter, website, e-mail blasts, social networking (surely, you've joined the AABA groups on Facebook and LinkedIn by now?), text messages, and transmitted directly to a chip we've implanted in your brain.

If for some reason your chip has malfunctioned, the dinner is the evening of Friday, March 19, at the New Asia Restaurant in San Francisco. According to review highlights at Yelp, "The oft-mentioned egg tarts were the best [Sean B. has ever] had, bar none." And though we're not printing his picture here, I can tell you that Sean B. sure looks like he knows egg tarts.

I'm not actually sure if egg tarts are on the evening's menu, but this is obviously an event not to be missed. Undoubtedly, you've already realized this and purchased your seat through Acteva, sending in your check, or texting "I LOVE BILLY CHAN" to 93214!97123#123.

I also hope that those of you who are able or who are at organizations who are able are considering sponsoring the dinner. Sponsorships of the Annual Dinner are by far the largest source of revenue for AABA—and fund all of AABA's operations, events, and programming for the year to come. It is the strong commitment of AABA's sponsors—coupled of course with the tireless contributions of volunteers—that allow AABA to engage in such a breadth and depth of activity each year. Of course, we are always looking for more ideas on how to deliver more benefits and value to our diverse membership—law students, attorneys at all levels of experience and in all different practices, and attorneys at civil rights organizations, law firms, corporate legal departments, and government, in academia, on the bench, and more.

I look forward to seeing all of you who are not trapped beneath heavy objects on March 19!

[EDITOR'S NOTE: INFORMATION ON THE ANNUAL DINNER IS AVAILABLE ON THE AABA WEBSITE (SEE THE LINK ABOVE) AND BY CONTACTING AABADINNER@GMAIL.COM.]

Garner Weng is AABA's 33rd President. He is a partner at Hanson Bridgett LLP, where his law practice concentrates on technology and intellectual property. Please contact him to get more involved with AABA, give your ideas about AABA, or otherwise provide comments, suggestions, flattery, or complaints: gweng@hansonbridgett.com

AABA THANKS THE FOLLOWING SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF 2009!

Kathy Asada

Michael Isaku Begert

Billy Chan

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S. Isabel Choi

Maki Daijogo

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AABA SPONSOR ATTORNEY PROFILE



Ned N. Isokawa

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP

Ned is a partner at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, where his main area of practice is technology litigation. He represents Asian and other clients in technology-based cases in federal and state courts in California, federal courts in other states, and federal tribunals such as the International Trade Commission. His clients include public and private companies from China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, state owned entities from China, and multinational corporations headquartered in the U.S. Ned is a longtime supporter and friend of AABA and served previously both as a board member and as President.

Did you always aspire to be an attorney?

No. I thought I'd become an engineer, and my undergraduate degree is in Electrical Engineering.

If you were not an attorney, what would you be? A musician.

What are some of your favorite non-work, non-AABA activities? Spending time with

my family, especially my three daughters. Family vacations in Maui. Traveling to different countries. Discovering cheap but interesting wines from lesser known wine growing regions and countries. Attending Cal basketball and football games.

Describe one of the happiest, proudest, or most exciting moments of your life.

I am the happiest at work when I'm able to solve a client's problem in a way that avoids or minimizes wasteful and needless litigation. I've seen way too much of that in my career.

What do you wish you knew in law school or as a new lawyer that you know now?

That the emergence of a global economy would open up opportunities for a lawyer outside the U.S.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? That being a good lawyer is not enough.

Each year, we recognize our Platinum and higher-level sponsors of our Annual Dinner by featuring profiles of their attorneys. Please join us in thanking these attorneys and their organizations for their support of AABA. The answers in the profiles are provided directly by the attorneys based on questions originally developed by Past President Edwin Prather and since built upon by Annie Tsai and Garner Weng.

AABA SPONSOR ATTORNEY PROFILE



Ashok Ramani
Keker & Van Nest

Ashok is a partner at Keker & Van Nest, where his main area of practice is trial litigation, emphasizing intellectual property. Some of his most notable cases include: TSMC v. SMIC, in which he represented Taiwanese semiconductor foundry TSMC in its trade-secret and breach-of-contract dispute against SMIC—with the ultimate verdict named by The Daily Journal among its top ten plaintiffs' verdicts for 2009; Netflix v. Blockbuster, in which he represented Netflix in patent litigation against Blockbuster relating to both companies' method for selecting and delivering DVDs to consumers; and Chiron v. Montgomery, in which he defended two company founders against trade-secret misappropriation and breach-of-fiduciary-duty claims—and ultimately won summary judgment on the trade-secret claims. Ashok has also represented technology companies including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Roche Diagnostics Corporation, Genentech (now Roche), Google, and National Semiconductor.

Did you always aspire to be an attorney? No.

If you were not an attorney, what would you be? Dog-shelter owner or marine biologist.

What are some of your favorite non-work, non-AABA activities? Hiking, tennis, watching Cal football, playing with my daughter and dog.

Who are your heroes? My parents.

I am a huge fan of... the Cal Bears.

What one experience do you want to have before you die? Visit every continent (only Antarctica remains).

How do you make your favorite drink? Pop open the cap and pour it into a glass (Dogfish Head Midas Touch beer).

Describe one of the happiest, proudest, or most exciting moments of your life. When I first held my daughter

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? You should not adopt or fake a courtroom demeanor—just be yourself and you'll succeed.

Most AABA members probably don't know this about me. I've traveled to Taiwan and China each more than India—perhaps as a result, congee is my favorite breakfast food

Pick three words that you believe your clients would use to describe you. Wins quickly, efficiently

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L-R: Betty Duong (UC Davis School of Law, '10), Anne Shiau (UC Davis School of Law, '10), Melissa Lin (Washington University in St. Louis, '10), Judge Judy Draper (21st Judicial Circuit, MO), Maisue Xiong (William Mitchell College of Law, '10), Jean Curioso (Florida Coastal School of Law, '10), and Nikki Dinh (Golden Gate University, '10) at NAPABA's Gala Dinner.

photo credits: Anne Shiau
courtesy of NAPABA

The Revolution Continues: NAPABA Convention and NAPALSA Conference

By Nikki Dinh, AABA Student Member (Golden Gate University School of Law '10)

The 21st annual National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) convention and the annual National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (NAPALSA) conference were held concurrently on November 18, 2009 to November 22, 2009. Despite taking place in winter in Boston, Massachusetts, judges, attorneys and students from all over the nation, including warm California, did not hesitate to make their way to the conferences.

At 21, the NAPABA convention, themed The Revolution Continues, was bigger and better than ever. The first annual NAPABA convention boasted 30 convention attendees. In 2009, the number was in the thousands. Its continual growth marks the significant progress of API's in the legal profession and solidifies NAPABA as the largest congregating place

for API judges, attorneys and students to share ideas, gain fellowship with peers and celebrate diversity. Some highlights of the convention included speakers like Harold Hongju Koh, Legal Advisor to the U.S. Department of State, panels like Immigration Concerns in a Global Economic Slowdown – Corporate Restructuring, Layoffs, and Reorganization, and of course, the late night karaoke sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, Inc. Each year, NAPABA also recognizes excellence in the profession through awards such as the the Best Under 40. This award is only given to a few distinct and talented individuals each year. This year our very own, Celia Lee, former president of AABA, was a recipient of this very prestigious award for her prominence in her field and her demonstration of a strong commitment to her community.

continued on next page



NAPALSA's "Standing Out From the Crowd" Panel featuring Edwin Prather, Supria Kuppuswam, Misasha Suzuki, and Alan Tse moderated by Anne Shiau (UC Davis School of Law, '10).

The NAPALSA conference, themed Resurgence of Change, focused on the past, present and future of API's in the legal profession. "This year we wanted to get back to our roots and it was important to bring in the founders of NAPABA, judges and leaders in the community to share their personal experiences in activism and organizing over the years," said Betty Duong, NAPALSA Conference Chair and 3L at UC Davis. Some highlights from the NAPALSA conference included a judges' panel on the do's and don'ts in the courtroom, 8-minute mentoring by NAPABA's Best Under 40, and two

new scholarships for affiliate organizations and members.

Next year, the NAPABA convention and NAPALSA conference will be held in sunnier pastures in Los Angeles, California. The 2010 convention committees already promise an even bigger and better event to come.

For more information on the 2010 NAPABA convention, visit: www.napaba.org or www.napabainspire.org

Rhoda Hing and her husband, Hon. Stuart Hing

Phillip Lee and Robbie Carman at Late Night with Bud Karaoke





NAPABA Past President Paul Lee, Hon. Lucy Koh and NAPAPBA Regional Governor (San Francisco) Bijal Vakil.



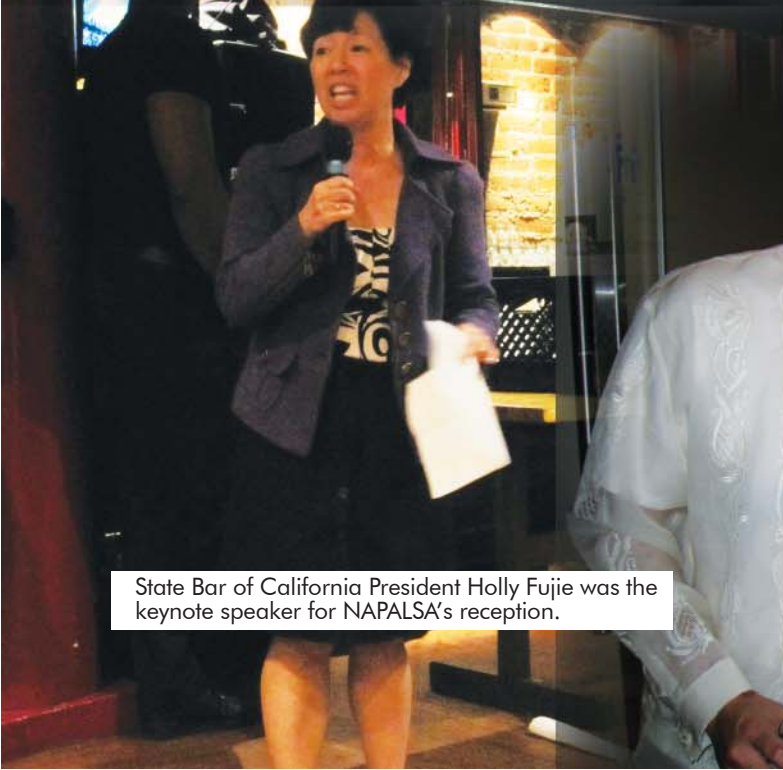
Betty Duong (UC Davis School of Law, '10) thanks Judge Erica Yew (Santa Clara County Superior Court, CA) for being a speaker for NAPALSA's "Do's and Dont's of Courtroom and Career"



NAPALSA's 2009 Conference Committee: Nikki Dinh, Betty Duong, and Anne Shiau



2009 Best Under 40 Awardee and AABA Past President Celia Lee and Hon. Al Wong



State Bar of California President Holly Fujie was the keynote speaker for NAPALSA's reception.



Joseph Juco Centeno, Ngoc Le and Billy Chan

The In-House Committee of the
Asian American Bar Association (AABA)
cordially invites you to the

4TH ANNUAL IN-HOUSE COUNSEL/ LAW FIRM NETWORKING EVENT

Thursday, February 18th

6:00-8:30 p.m.

Il Fornaio

www.ilfornaio.com

327 Lorton Avenue, Burlingame, CA 94010

650-375-8000

This annual event will be co-sponsored by Paragon Legal and will feature an evening of fine appetizers and drinks, providing the perfect networking venue for APA in-house counsel and private law firm attorneys in the Silicon Valley.

Please RSVP to reserve your spot by contacting Denise Yee at: yee@visa.com.

Brought to you by your AABA In-House Counsel Committee

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Alameda County Bar Association Kicks Off 2010 With A Party

By Michelle D. Jew, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair

It was a night of celebration and honors for the Alameda County Bar Association as the ACBA installed its 2010 Officers and Directors and presented its distinguished service awards on January 14, 2010 at the Claremont Resort & Spa in Oakland, California.

"This is always a great party," said ACBA President Gregory D. Brown. It was a special moment for Brown, who was sworn in as the 2010 ACBA President. Brown had his family, friends, and colleagues from Burnham Brown in attendance to support his special achievement. Brown was given a rubber chicken from past president Charles N. Bendes as a symbolic passing of the torch.

ACBA President-Elect Wayne S. Nishioka welcomed the packed room of attorneys, judges, and legal professionals. Some of the judges in attendance included Honorable David Lee, Honorable Delbert Gee, Honorable Robert Freeman, and Honorable Stuart L. Hing.

Judge Hing, Alameda County Superior Court Judge and active member of AABA, moved the program along quickly like a Hollywood awards show as the Master of Ceremonies.

ACBA honored Honorable Delbert C. Gee of the Alameda County Superior Court, former Alameda County District Attorney Thomas J. Orloff, Stephanie Sato and Thomas J. Ogas (attorneys and active members of the Executive Committee of the ACBA Barristers Section), the Alameda County law firm of Morton, Lulofs & Wood, LLP, and the Oakland Public Library with distinguished service awards.

Assemblymember Mike Feur received the ACBA Distinguished Service Award for a legislator. Feur, the keynote speaker, was elected to the California State Assembly representing the 42nd Assembly District in 2006. Feur served as executive director Bet Tzedek legal Services, the House of Justice, which provided free legal assistance to more than 50,000 primarily elderly and disabled clients during his eight-year tenure. He recently authored Assembly Bill 590, the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act, a pilot project establishing the nation's first right to counsel in civil cases where basic needs are at stake.

Although it was a festive night, it was not forgotten during the night of celebration the tragedies of the earthquake in Haiti. Many speakers encouraged donating to relief efforts in Haiti.

"For thousands of people in Haiti, there is no next day," said Assemblymember Feur during his inspirational keynote speech where he encouraged everyone to reach out and help others who are in need. Feur said we all owe duties and responsibilities to each other, and that we all share that responsibility to come to the aid of others.



Burnham Brown's Clark Burnham and Susana Gonzales



Distinguished Service Award -Judge recipient, Hon. Delbert Gee with Hon. Stuart Hing



John Verber, Jimmie Williams and Rohit Sabnnis of Burnham Brown



New Board Being Sworn In



ACBA President Gregory Brown



2010 ACBA President Gregory Brown accepts the ceremonial rubber chicken from 2009 ACBA President Charles Bendes



ACBA Officers --President Gregory Brown, President-Elect Wayne Nishioka, Vice-Prersident Sally Elkington and Past-President Charles Bendes

Master of Ceremonies Hon. Stuart Hing

Jack Schwartz, Eric Haas and Susana Gonzales

2010 ACBA Officers and Board



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NEWS RELEASE

January 21, 2010

Contact: David J. Madden (415) 355-8800

White House Announces Nominees for Northern District of California Judgeships

SAN FRANCISCO – The White House has announced President Obama’s nominations of a California state court judge and a federal magistrate judge to serve as district judges on the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The nominations, which require Senate confirmation, were announced January 20.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Lucy H. Koh was nominated to a judgeship vacant since March 2, 2009, when U.S. District Judge Ronald M. Whyte took senior status. Magistrate Judge Edward M. Chen was re-nominated to fill a judgeship vacant since April 4, 2008, when U.S. District Judge Martin J. Jenkins resigned to accept appointment to the California Courts of Appeal.

Judge Koh, 41, was appointed to the Santa Clara County bench in 2008 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Prior to becoming a judge, she had been a litigation partner since 2002 in the Palo Alto office of McDermott, Will and Emery, practicing appellate, commercial and criminal law, intellectual property, and litigation. Prior to that, she was a senior associate at Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati from 2000 to 2002.

Judge Koh served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California in Los Angeles from 1997 to 2000. She also had worked as a special assistant to the U.S. deputy attorney general from 1996 to 1997, and as a special counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, from 1994 to 1996.

Judge Koh received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1990 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1993.

Judge Koh has been a member of the board of directors of the Korean American Bar Association of Northern California. She also has been an active member of the Asian American Bar Association and has served as a board member of the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley. Judge Chen, 56, who sits in San Francisco, has served as a magistrate judge of the Northern District of California since 2001 and was recently reappointed by judges of that court to a second eight-year term. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he worked as a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, Northern California chapter, from 1985 to 2001, and as an associate at the San Francisco firm of Coblentz, Cahen, McCabe & Breyer from 1982 to 1985.

Judge Chen received his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1975, and his J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law in 1979. After law school, he served judicial clerkships for U.S. District Judge Charles B. Renfrew of the Northern District of California, and U.S. Circuit Judge James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Judge Chen was first nominated by President Obama on August 6, 2009. The nomination was not acted upon by the Senate during the session. Under Senate rules, nominations not acted upon during the session are returned to the President and cannot be considered unless made again by the President.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California had 6,694 case filings in 2008. The court is authorized 14 judgeships, three of which are currently vacant. Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior.

Their current annual salary is \$174,000.



News Release

January 13, 2010

**Contact: Rich Wieking, Clerk of Court,
United States District Court for the
Northern District of California,
(415) 522-4602**

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California has announced the selection of Professor Donna M. Ryu for a full-time U.S. magistrate judge position to be located in Oakland. Professor Ryu has served on the faculty of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law since 2002, where she taught and supervised students in the Hastings Civil Justice Clinic. Prior to joining the Hastings faculty, Professor Ryu was Associate Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Women's Employment Rights Clinic at Golden Gate University of Law in San Francisco. She began her legal career in appellate practice with McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, before joining the law firm formerly known as Saperstein, Seligman, Mayeda & Larkin, where she litigated civil rights class actions on behalf of plaintiffs. She later co-founded Ryu, Dickey & Larkin, a civil rights firm in Oakland, California. Professor Ryu graduated from Yale University and Berkeley Law School, where she was a founding member of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal (now Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice).

Professor Ryu has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Asian American Bar Association's Joe Morozumi Award for Exceptional Legal Advocacy, the California Lawyer of the Year ("CLAY") Award for Employment Law; and The Rutter Award for Excellence in Teaching, presented annually to the top Hastings professor for teaching excellence. She has also been honored by the Korean American Bar Association of Northern California, the California Employment Lawyers Association, and the Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation. She has written and lectured extensively on the subject of employment law, including presentations before the American Bar Association, the National Academy of Arbitrators, the California State Bar, and the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Professor Ryu is the daughter of Korean immigrants. She and her partner, Barbara Dickey, live in the East Bay. She has one daughter.

Professor Ryu is slated to commence her judicial duties on March 1, 2010.

Calling for Nominations for the Jack Berman Award

By Juna Kim, AABA Director

Every year the CYLA presents the Jack Berman Award to an outstanding young lawyer. I am pleased to announce that CYLA is now accepting nominations for this award.

Jack Berman was a young California lawyer who was killed in the 1993 shooting at 101 California Street, San Francisco. Mr. Berman was active in his community. He was the president of the American Jewish Congress. He also chaired his firm's pro bono committee. Mr. Berman also co-founded TAX-AID, an organization that provides free income tax preparation, and the San Francisco Transitional Housing Fund, a program to aid homeless individuals in finding housing.

In 1994, CYLA renamed its "Award of Achievement for Distinguished Service to the Profession and the Public" to the "Jack Berman Award" in honor of Mr. Berman.

The Jack Berman Award is presented every year to a young lawyer who has demonstrated outstanding service to the profession and the public, dedication to issues of concern to the profession, service to the community, access to justice & legal services and/or a commitment to pro bono work.

This award will be presented at the 2010 State Bar Annual Meeting in Monterey on September 25, 2010 during the Awards Reception.

If you know of a young lawyer who would be worthy of this award, I encourage you to submit a nomination. Please also forward this information to your colleagues who may be interested in nominating a young lawyer.

The nominating petition and information about the award is accessible through the attached link below. All nominations are due by March 15, 2010.

Here is the link to information about the Jack Berman Award and all forms necessary to nominate an individual: <http://calbar.ca.gov/calbar/pdfs/awards/Jack-Berman-Nomination>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly or send an email to cyla@calbar.ca.gov.

You're Invited

INTERNATIONAL LAW RECEPTION

Thursday, February 11, 2010 | 5:30 — 7:00 pm

Morrison & Foerster | 425 Market Street | San Francisco, CA | 94105

PRESENTATIONS BY:

Suresh Divyanathan, Director of Drew & Napier LLC and host committee member of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association's 2010 Annual Meeting in Singapore. Suresh will discuss the IPBA's exciting programs and future plans.

Daniel Zimmermann, Chair, California State Bar Litigation Section

Phillip Shinn, Co-Chair, International Law Committee, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Wine and appetizers will be served.

RSVP to intlarb@mofocom

For questions about the program, contact Cedric Chao at (415) 268-7061 or cchao@mofocom.



MORRISON | FOERSTER

The AABA Newsletter Needs You!

If you are one of those brave attorneys who kicked off 2010 by leaving your firm to start your own practice, we want to hear from you. We will run a short press release regarding your firm and a small photo or logo.

Please submit your submissions via e-mail to newsletter@aaba-bay.com to the AABA Newsletter Committee.

AABA - LARC Law Day Feb. 13, 2010

By Hung Chang, Community Service Committee Co-Chair

The Community Service Committee will host the Second Annual Law Day on February 13, 2010 and is looking for volunteers! This year, the Community Service Committee is working with VLSP's Legal Advice and Referral Clinic to ensure a more expansive reach to the community. The AABA – LARC Law Day would take place on Saturday morning at UC Hastings. The Saturday clinic would provide free legal services and valuable advices to low-income individuals in the community, similar to the committee's monthly AABA – API Legal Outreach clinic in San Francisco and Oakland.

Specifically, the AABA – LARC Law Day needs for volunteers who are bilingual (especially in English and either Spanish, Mandarin, or Cantonese). The AABA – LARC Law Day is also looking for attorneys with at least three years of experience in any of the following areas of law: bankruptcy, business, contract, civil, collection defense, criminal, employment, labor, family, consumer, immigration, landlord tenant, personal injury, probate, real estate, SSI, workers compensation, and other miscellaneous areas.

Please contact Hung Chang at hung@playfirst.com or Robert Uy at ruy@apilegaloutreach.org if you are interested in participating or have more questions.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

Third Annual Dale Minami Boalt Alumni Fellowship Dinner. **Feb. 11.** 6:00 pm Cocktails, 7:00 pm Dinner. Canton Restaurant, 655 Folsom Street, SF

International Law Reception. **Feb. 11.** 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Morrison & Foerster, 425 Market Street, SF. RSVP to intlarb@mofa.com.

4th Annual In-House Counsel / Law Firm Networking Event. **Feb. 18.** 6-8:30pm. Il Fornaio. 327 Lorton Avenue, Burlingame.

MARCH

33rd Annual AABA Dinner. **Mar. 19.** 6:00 pm. New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave., SF. For sponsorship or ticket info: aabadinner@gmail.com

AABA Law Firm Partners Lunch. Mar. 31. 12:00 - 1:30 pm. Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, 55 Second Street, 24th Floor, SF.



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