



AABA *Newsletter*

WWW.AABA-BAY.COM | JULY 2010



President's Column **Billy Chan**

On Tuesday, July 6, AABA members gathered at the Veterans Equity Center to remember and celebrate the life of Kevin Pimentel, a young AABA member whom we recently lost.

As an immigrants rights and domestic violence attorney at API Legal Outreach, Kevin helped countless clients on everything from family petitions to deportation proceedings. Kevin helped unite families and gave survivors of domestic violence the ability to remain in this country. In his work as a domestic violence attorney, Kevin partnered with advocates from Donaldina Cameron House and Asian Women's Shelter to protect victims from further abuse. He helped survivors escape their situations, stabilize their legal status, obtain custody of their children, divorce their abusive spouses, and begin new lives. As an advocate at the San Francisco District Attorney's victim witness unit, Kevin counseled survivors of abuse about their legal and social service options. His work in the field of immigrants rights and domestic violence made a positive impact on hundreds of families throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Kevin worked closely with the Veterans Equity Center to fight for the rights of Filipino veterans. At least twice a month, Kevin would meet with Filipino veterans and their widows and give them free legal advice. In addition, he ran clinics in Daly City and Vallejo, where he gave free legal advice to Filipinos who could not afford representation.

At the memorial, we heard heartwarming stories of Kevin's quirky sense of humor, his loyalty, and his passion for justice. Please take a moment to honor Kevin's life and let's all make a commitment to continue, or support those who continue, Kevin's important work.

Condolences may be sent to: Fe Pimentel and Family, 612 Big Creek Lane, Walnut, CA 91789.

AABA THANKS THE FOLLOWING SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF 2010!

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Above Left: AABA President Billy Chan flanked by *Hanson Bridgett* Attorneys Arman Javid and Marcus Wu **Above Right:** Summer Law Clerk Grant Recipient Stephanie Kang & Community Services Co-Chair Robert Uy

Summer Law Clerk Reception

By Jessie Ho, Employment Committee Member

AABA's 23rd Annual Summer Law Clerk Reception took place on June 23, 2010 at Yank Sing Restaurant in San Francisco, where over 150 attorneys, students and judges enjoyed the evening as well as delicious dim sum. The annual event was created in 1988 at the initiative of Bay Area Asian Pacific Islander (API) partners in order to connect law students with the AABA community. Originally organized by the Bay Area API partners themselves, the AABA Employment Committee now organizes this annual event.

Employment Committee Co-Chairs Olivia Lee and Miriam Kim welcomed everyone to the reception. AABA President Billy Chan thanked the sponsors and shared his memory of attending the Summer

Law Clerk Reception as a law student. Robert Uy, Co-Chair of the Community Services Committee, announced the recipients of the AABA Law Student Summer Grants – Stephanie Kang and Gina Szeto. AABA was impressed by both Stephanie's and Gina's dedication to public interest work and the Asian Pacific American Community.

Stephanie Kang, a rising 2L at UC Hastings School of Law, is currently a law clerk with Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (APILO). Her work at APILO involves representing and advocating for survivors of violence; advancing the independence and dignity of older persons by securing legal rights, protections and entitlements; and providing immigration legal services for human trafficking and domestic violence survivors. She has also volunteered with the Asian Law Caucus's Immigration Clinics in San Francisco, and attended



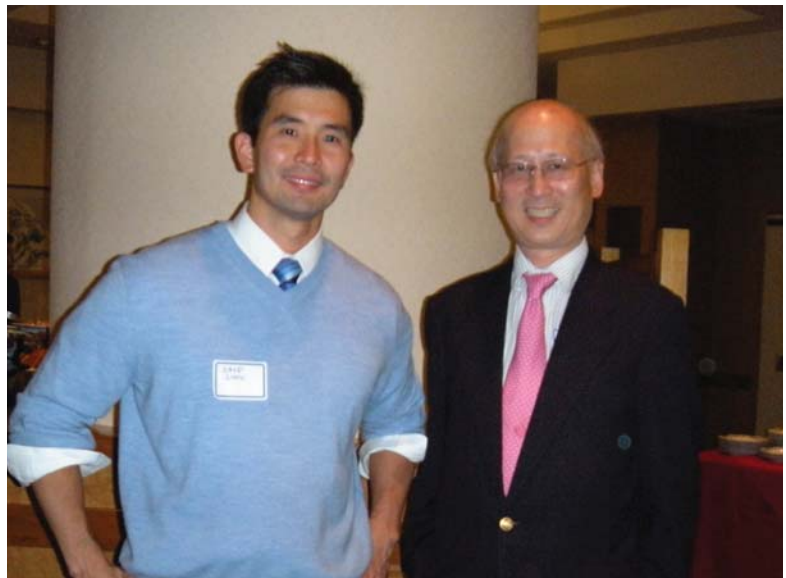
Past President Phil Shinn, *Fox Rothschild* and Charles Jung, *Nassari and Jung*



Employment Committee Leslie Huang, Olivia Lee (Co-Chair), Miriam Kim (Co-Chair), Jessie Ho and George Kawamoto

the California API Policy Summit in 2008. Gina is currently a summer legal intern at the Asian American Legal Defense Education (AALDEF) in New York City. Gina's work with AALDEF's Anti-Trafficking initiative involves the provision of free legal representation to trafficked and exploited women and youth workers. As a rising 2L at UC Berkeley School of Law, Gina will serve as the Director of the Workers' Rights Clinic, Executive Editor of the Asian American Law Journal, as well as Diversity Chair of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. Congratulations to both Stephanie and Gina!

As always, this event would not have been possible without the generous support of the API partner community. Over 60 partners personally contributed to this year's event. As a result of the overwhelming support of the partner community, AABA was able to cover the costs of the reception and allocate additional funding to each of the summer grant recipients. Special thanks are owed to Kevin Fong, who was instrumental in the fundraising efforts, as well as to Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP for being the corporate sponsor of the event. Morrison & Forester LLP also contributed in kind by creating the marketing materials.



AABA Secretary David Sohn and Past President Kevin Fong, Pillsbury Winthrop

Miriam Kim, Olivia Lee, Reema Patel, Jessie Ho, George Kawamoto, and Leslie Huang of AABA's Employment Committee would like to thank everyone for attending and supporting the event.

Tasty Cultural Experience or E-Coli on a Stick?

By Soyeun Choi, AABA Newsletter Co-Chair

The strangest food I'd ever eaten is deep fried garden sparrow in a Beijing alleyway.

Okay, okay, okay. Technically, the strangest foods I'd ever eaten are roasted silkworm, live (still squirming) octopus, cow tongue and cockscomb. But isn't the sparrow the most daring because it was in a Chinese alleyway while I was on vacation? CHINA! Those other foods were just consumed at restaurants in, respectively: Seoul, Incheon, Boston and New York City. Boring. I lived in Korea and grew up back East. Big deal.

Any food cart story from a foreign trip makes the experience seem much more authentic and reveals your culturally sensitive, adventurous side. Plus, it's delicious. Sometimes though, the story ends as a cautionary tale where illness ruined your vacation. When you only have six days to unearth the mysteries of a foreign land, two days of food poisoning is not worth the risk.

But how do you decide?

The CDC's (Center of Disease Control) answer is: "Don't do it." The advice on their website is to avoid street food altogether. It is sound advice, especially when preceded by a list of food borne diseases: Hepatitis A & B, Typhoid, ciguatera poisoning and cholera, to name a few. The best inoculation against the

temptation to eat street food is to visit their website.*

However, multiple AABA members scoffed and without hesitation stated that they always eat street food no matter the destination.

Research reveals that the medical community and the legal community (not including those mentioned above) are united in a more temperate perspective: It depends. In the interests of keeping our members healthy and happy, and therefore more likely to submit vacation photos to the Newsletter, we offer some factors to consider. Remember though: we're not doctors so do your own research before you travel. Oh, and if you do get sick while abroad, skip that story and tell everyone the one about how a state health program provided free medical care and you recovered fully to enjoy the remainder of your trip!

For your consideration: Drink carbonated bottled water or make sure the water was boiled for at least one minute. Consider ice: unless the water in the ice was boiled or from bottled water, it may be contaminated.

Do not eat raw food, including vegetables, fruit or nuts unless

you can peel them yourself (after washing with soap).

Cooked foods should be steaming hot.

The destination: some vendors have access to clean water or operate under a licensing system to ensure quality.

Focus on the ingredients and not the familiarity of the food: a hamburger might have contaminated lettuce while the exotic meal was thoroughly cooked.

Whether the vendor is well established or has a line of healthy customers . . .

But also whether the customers are healthy because they developed an immunity to local contagion.

Sources: CDC, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, various message boards, input from AABA members, my parents.

**The inoculation to the inoculation is to visit Wikipedia's compendium on street food or talk to your parents, whose stomachs were made of much stronger stuff in the old country.*

AABA-SABA Joint Voter Registration Drives

AABA's Civil Rights Committee, in conjunction with the South Asian Bar Association, will be organizing several voter registration drives throughout the summer. This is a great opportunity for all AABA members interested in serving the community to join our team and help register Asian Americans to vote in the upcoming November 2010 election. Strong voter turnout is critical for our community's political leverage. The drives are non-partisan. Right or left, our sole interest is in giving our communities a political voice.

The drives will consist of setting up booths at popular Asian and South Asian events, such as street festivals, concerts and cultural events. You don't need to have any experience with voter registration - we'll give you all the training and materials you need. This is also a great opportunity to network with other politically aware AABA and SABA members while empowering your community!

Please help your fellow community members exercise their right to vote. Contact Asha Padania via e-mail at asha@padanialaw.com if you are interested in volunteering at upcoming registration drives.

The Asian American Bar Association (AABA)
invites you to come have a drink and catch up
with fellow AABA friends at
5A5 Steak Lounge on
Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 6pm.

5A5 Steak Lounge is located at 244 Jackson Street (between Battery and Front) next to Kokkari Estiatorio. We have reserved the lounge area for our organization. AABA will provide some free appetizers. There will be happy hour drink specials on well cocktails, house wines, and beer until 7:30pm.

5A5 is San Francisco's first "steak lounge" - a modern take on the traditional steakhouse, blending the ambience of a contemporary restaurant with that of a vibrant cocktail lounge. More information about this venue can be found on their website at www.5a5stk.com.

For more information about this event, please contact
Ben Uy at benjamin.uy@pillsburylaw.com or (415) 341-3471.



AABA CAREER DAY
FOR STUDENTS AND ATTORNEYS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010

8:30 A.M. through lunch

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

536 Mission Street, San Francisco

Underwritten by Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Career Day provides law students and junior and mid-level attorneys a great opportunity to have a one-on-one mock interview session with a senior attorney who will provide feedback on the interview and resume. Don't miss this free opportunity to learn valuable tips before the recruiting season begins! In addition to mock interviews, there will be a panel discussion featuring attorneys in a variety of practices areas, a drop-in resume review workshop, and a networking lunch where you can meet other attorneys and students.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR LAW STUDENTS AND JUNIOR TO MID-LEVEL ATTORNEYS

There is no cost to attend. To sign up for a mock interview session, please submit your resume to AABACareerDay@gmail.com by Friday, July 30, 2010. In your email, please indicate whether you are interested in the private or public sector and we will try to match you with an interviewer who has experience in that area.

SEEKING ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer attorneys are needed to conduct mock interviews. Your participation would involve only about two hours, followed by a networking lunch. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Miriam Kim at miriam.kim@mto.com.

For more information, go to www.aaba-bay.com or email AABACareerDay@gmail.com.

AABA thanks Kirkland & Ellis LLP for sponsoring this event.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JULY

AABA invites you to come have a drink and catch up with fellow AABA friends at 5A5 Steak Lounge. San Francisco. Thursday, **July 22** at 6pm. 244 Jackson St., San Francisco

BASF Barrister's Second Annual Diversity Reception Honoring Mike Moye and Jennifer Shoda. Jul. 21. 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. BASF Conference Center, 301 Battery Street, Third Floor, San Francisco

Welcome Reception for Frank H. Wu, Chancellor/Dean of UC Hastings. Jul. 29. 6:00 - 8:00 pm. TBD

AUGUST

AABA Career Day For Students and Attorneys. **August 14.** 8:30am through lunch. Golden Gate University, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco.

AABA Karaoke Night, TBD

SEPTEMBER

AABA SF Giants Baseball Night. **September 29.**

NOVEMBER

NAPABA Annual Convention. Nov. 17-21. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel & JW Marriott Hotel, Los Angeles, CA

DECEMBER 2010

AABA Holiday Party. TBD

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.

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