



AABA *Newsletter*

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President's Column **Billy Chan**

We have been working hard with our fellow Bay Area NAPABA affiliates (SABA, VABANC, APBA SV, KABANC, and FBANC), with some great results. On the heels of the NAPABA regional conference here in San Francisco, the United States Senate on Monday, June 7, confirmed the Honorable Lucy H. Koh to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Judge Koh, an AABA member and long-time AABA supporter, is the first Asian Pacific American federal district court judge in the Northern District of California's 160-year history.

AABA has encouraged Judge Koh's confirmation since President Obama nominated her earlier this year. We have coordinated our efforts with those of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Asian Pacific Bar of California, and the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley, often relying on those parties to provide progress updates and to convey our encouragement to the Senate. We plan to continue our efforts in urging the confirmations of nominees U.S. Magistrate Judge Ed Chen and Professor Goodwin Liu.

The NAPABA regional conference was spearheaded by the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California, with participation by all local NAPABA affiliates. The conference featured a kickoff judges' reception, with remarks by William Neukom, San Francisco Giants Managing General Partner, a full day of CLE programs featuring our community's finest attorneys, and a lunch keynote by James Potter, Del Monte General Counsel.

We look forward to our ongoing collaboration with other bar associations and community organizations. The events of the past week show that by working together, we can accomplish good things.

AABA THANKS THE FOLLOWING SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF 2010!

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TRAVEL – Get out there!

By Soyeun D. Choi, AABA Newsletter Co-Chair

In honor of this concept called “**vacation**” the following series of three articles are dedicated to help fellow AABA members adequately prepare for this other phenomenon called “**travel**” – **Get out there!**

Traveling Notes: The Metric System

Okay Asian America, let’s just suck it up and learn the metric system.

Used to be, all we had to do was wear Reeboks and carry a walkman to impress our cousins in Asia.

Those days are done. Now, by the time the tires hit the tarmac at Incheon, all I hear about is how Korean dramas have taken over the world, how backward our cell phone technologies are and, oh yeah, how my Korean sucks.

Whatever, so what: we have ipods and who invented break dancing anyway, huh? But then they point out, “You don’t use the metric system,” and there’s no comeback to rescue me from appearing totally stoned. And, unless you are making plans to travel to Burma (aka Myanmar) or Liberia, the other two countries that have not converted to metrics, you too will lose this international battle.

The good news is no one passed the bar without some quality cramming so you can master this in the time it’ll take your visa to issue!

There are conversion tables, formulas, etc. but let’s face it: we went to law school. Numbers have relative, not absolute value for us. So the first step is to let yourself off the hook: You just want to know how far you’ll be walking to watch that sun set, not measuring the electromagnetic radiation involved.

The second step is to pay attention. Americans are at a huge disadvantage because our country is vast and all measured in miles. Californians have it even tougher because we set our own standards. How far Palo Alto is from San Francisco? “30 minutes.” How much wine is in a bottle? “Enough/not enough for us.” The centimeter occupies the “B” side on our 12-inch, one foot rulers. Who remembers the B sides?

We do. The information is all around us. Start paying attention to your dashboard, packaging information and all other scales. The fine print isn’t even fine.

The last step is to develop a frame of reference. When your cousins say they are 1.8 meters tall or that it’s 30 degrees outside, you might think, “Is that it?” not comprehending

that they are taller than you or it’s beach weather. Multiplying centigrade by 9, dividing by 5 and then adding 32 is not going to help—but remembering melting gelato on a 30° C day during that 5 km walk? Unforgettable!

This last step involves personal experience and that’s where this article ends. It’s up to you to make memories metric. Fortunately, it’s also the most fun because it is all about paying attention to experiencing the physical aspect of life. The world is filled with tactile, measurable spaces so keep trying. And be comforted in the knowledge that the international language is still English!

Some tips to get you started:

1 meter approximates the distance from the doorknob to the floor.

Bay to Breakers is 12 km!

2 liters is the size of that plastic bottle of cola you contributed to the potluck.

100 grams is the European chocolate bar you shared over lunch. 1 gram is the jelly bean you kept for yourself.

54 kilograms is within the healthy weight range for a 1.5 meter tall woman. So enjoy that gelato!



AABA Happy Hour at Infusion Lounge

By Benjamin Uy, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

On May 12, 2010, AABA kicked off the summer with an exciting happy hour at the swanky Infusion Lounge in the heart of Union Square. Over 50 guests were in attendance, including in-house counsel from both private and public corporations, attorneys from international and solo practitioner law firms, and Bay Area law students seeking a reprieve from finals!

With good beats and great company all evening long, some AABA members arrived early, and the last guests trailed off well after dark. Throughout the night, a steady flow of guests moved back and forth between the elevated VIP section reserved just for AABA guests and the well-stocked bar, which offered happy hour specials all evening long. AABA guests caught up with old friends and connected with new ones at the happy hour.

The next AABA happy hour will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2010 and promises to be another fun one. So mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details! If you have any questions or suggestions regarding AABA happy hour events, please contact Benjamin Uy at benjamin.uy@pillsburylaw.com.



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@padania.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.



THE ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
OF THE GREATER BAY AREA
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE
**AABA 23RD ANNUAL
SUMMER LAW CLERK RECEPTION**

RECOGNIZING SUMMER ASSOCIATES AND LAW CLERKS
IN THE S.F. BAY AREA AND HONORING
AABA's 2010 SUMMER GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR THEIR
DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CLIENT ADVOCACY.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2010
5:30 – 8:00 PM
YANK SING RESTAURANT

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

RINCON CENTER LOCATION
101 SPEAR STREET AT MISSION STREET
SAN FRANCISCO

MIRIAM KIM
MIRIAM.KIM@MTO.COM

OLIVIA LEE
OLEE@MINAMITAMAKI.COM



Calendar of Upcoming Events

JUNE

AABA Law Firm Partners Lunch. **Jun. 15.** 12:00 - 1:30 pm. Lunch Provided. Trucker Huss, 100 Montgomery St., 23rd Floor, San Francisco

AABA's 23rd Annual Summer Law Clerk Reception. **June 23,** 5:30 - 8:00 pm. Yank Sing Restaurant. One Rincon Center, 101 Spear Street, San Francisco

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.

SEPTEMBER

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

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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RENEW YOUR AABA MEMBERSHIP NOW!