



# AABA Newsletter

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AUGUST 2007

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Edwin Prather, AABA President

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**What a great summer . . .**

What a great summer, we've had so far.

This edition of our newsletter reflects the number of impressive events that our committee has been able to offer this summer. Please enjoy the articles about AABA's body of work and commitment to our lawyers, law students and to our community. We will certainly endeavor to carry this energy through the fall.

In early August, for the first time, AABA's Strategic Planning Committee will meet to discuss and plan the future of our organization. After 30 years of maintaining the course, its important to take stock of where we've been, where we're at and where we're headed. If you have particular suggestions that should be considered by the Committee, please e-mail them to me at [eprather@clarencedyer.com](mailto:eprather@clarencedyer.com).

This edition, I'd like to start a practice of profiling AABA members so that our membership can get to know one another on a more personal level. (Special thanks to mom-to-be Theresa Lee from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP for her assistance on this). This month, I've selected **Joan Haratani** and **Khurshid Khoja**, two of my AABA heroes.

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**PRESIDENT'S PROFILES . . .**



**KHURSHID KHOJA** is an associate in Thelen Reid Brown Raysman & Steiner's Business and Finance Department focusing on insurance regulation, mergers and acquisitions, renewable energy

development and general corporate matters. Besides being very active within AABA, Khurshid is also active in committees with the Asian Law Caucus and the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California.

What historical figure do you most identify with?  
**Nelson Mandela—I was an anti-apartheid activist throughout high school.**

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?  
**My marriage.**

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job?  
**Patience, with myself and others.**

What was your favorite class in law school?  
**Contracts. Boring, but true.**

What is your most treasured possession?  
**The hard drive containing my music library.**

What is your most marked characteristic?  
**Eccentricity.**

What is the last great movie that you saw?  
**The Simpsons Movie, of course.**

What do you like to do when you're not working?  
**Traveling, hiking, tree-hugging.**

Who are your heroes in real life?  
**The staff and attorneys at the Asian Law Caucus.**

What is your favorite vacation destination?  
**London, so far.**

Most AABA members probably don't know that... **I have an irrational fear of karaoke.**

In one word, AABA is... **empowering.**



**JOAN HARATANI** is a partner at Morgan Lewis & Bockius's litigation practice with a particular emphasis on products liability and complex commercial disputes. Joan has served as the President of both AABA and the Bar Association of San Francisco.

She has been identified as one of the top 100 litigators in California and has received numerous awards including: NAPABA's Trailblazer Award, the Minority Bar Coalition's Champion of Justice Award and AABA's Joe Morozumi Award for Exceptional Legal Advocacy.

Which living person do you most admire? **My parents — I can't imagine living through the depression, and for my mother, through the Japanese American concentration camp experience.**

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? **Fabulous, satisfying and challenging relationships.**

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? **Patience, striving for excellence and a smile always pay off.**

What was your favorite class in law school? **Oddly enough, given my practice, property law.**

What is your most treasured possession? **I try to not be too tied to material objects. I learned that from watching my friends live through losing all of their possessions in the Oakland Hills firestorm.**

What is your most marked characteristic? **My positive energy!**

If you could change one thing about yourself, it would be...? **My height! I would love to be a little taller!**

Who are your favorite writers? **Are you kidding? EVERYONE'S favorite author should be Gail Tsukiyama!!!**

What is your favorite vacation destination? **Any place with no cell coverage.**

What is your favorite cuisine? **Ethiopian**

Most AABA members probably don't know that... **I'm superstitious.**

AABA is... **a great social activist organization with fabulous leadership, past and present board members and presidents.**

President's Column *continued from page 1*

Joan has been a champion of AABA causes for many years and promotes diversity every chance she gets. Khurshid has played an important role in the planning and fundraising for the Asian Law Caucus' Annual Dinner. Enjoy their profiles in this newsletter and I'll present additional members for you to meet next month.

I'd like to conclude by applauding the efforts of one of AABA's own, Juna Kim, who was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the California Young Lawyers Association (CYLA) of the State Bar of California.



**Juna Kim**, an associate at Van De Poel and Levy in San Francisco and a chairperson of AABA's Civil Rights Committee, through her hat in the ring and won a contested election to represent CYLA's District 4, including Marin and San Francisco counties. The CYLA is the nation's largest association of young lawyers as all California lawyers who have been in practice for one to five years or is 36 years old or younger are considered members. Juna will serve a three-year term to begin at the conclusion of the state bar's 2007 annual meeting.

We are extremely proud of Juna as well as of Pamela Kong, another AABA member and current CYLA Director for District 3, including Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

In accepting her new position, Juna laid out her goals for her directorship. Juna aspires to "make CYLA a visible presence within student organizations at law schools around the Bay Area, thus establishing and strengthening relationships with the next generation of attorneys." She also seeks to promote mentorship and networking programs, career counseling seminars and "101 refresher" law seminars on civil procedure, discovery, client intake and fee agreement for young lawyers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Juna or access the CYLA website at [http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar\\_generic.jsp?cid=10105](http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_generic.jsp?cid=10105). Good luck Juna.

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

### AUGUST

2007 Asian American Summer Picnic. **Sunday, August 5, 2007**. Held at Rengstorff Park, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue in Mountain View from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

Annual Career Day. **Saturday, September 8, 2007**. USF Law School.

### OCTOBER

The Inaugural Minority Bar Coalition Conference co-sponsored by AABA. **Friday, October 19, 2007**. "And Justice For All: Building Bridges Within The Legal Community." Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco.

Please check for details on our website: [www.aaba-bay.com](http://www.aaba-bay.com)

## AABA In-House Committee Mixer A Wild Success

*By Orlena Fong and Ja Moon, AABA In-House Committee Co-Chairs*

On June 21, 2007, the AABA In-House Committee hosted our 2007 Annual AABA In-House/Private Law Firm Mixer at the recently opened Butterfly Bistro in San Bruno. The successful event was attended by close to 100 API in-house counsel and API private law firm attorneys from around the Bay Area. This year's sponsors were: Axiom Legal; Holmes Roberts & Owen; Shook Hardy & Bacon; and Wendel Rosen Black & Dean. Over delicious appetizers and drinks, in-house counsel and private law firm attorneys had the opportunity to meet and network. Specifically, the private law firm attorneys discussed their individual practices and capabilities. Thanks to all of our sponsors, the AABA Board, and to Edwin Prather for their support in making our first event of the year such a success. This was the AABA In-House Committee's kick-off event of the year. Stay tuned for details about the next AABA In-House event.



## AABA's 7th Annual Night at AT&T Park Hits a Home Run

By Sinclair Hwang, Social Committee Co-Chair

**On Friday, July 13**, Perkins Coie, LLP hosted the 7th annual AABA Baseball Night at Acme Chophouse, right inside of AT&T Park. Prior to cheering on the Giants against the Dodgers, AABA members filled the "Say Hey" room at Acme Chophouse, and feasted on hors d'oeuvres such as chicken skewers and mini burgers along with



Organizers of the event: AABA Social Committee member Azalea Park and Perkins Coie contact Patty Nolan

free flowing wine and beer, all courtesy of Perkins Coie.

Special thanks to David Biderman and Patty Nolan of Perkins Coie for hosting us and for their continued steadfast support of AABA, and to Azalea Park of the Social Committee for all her hard work in organizing this thoroughly enjoyable event.



AABA vice president Celia Lee and board member Malcolm Yeung



Pre-game reception held at the Acme Chophouse



AABA Membership Committee member Janet Li and Social Committee member Azalea Park



AABA members listen to vice president Celia Lee and Social Committee member Azalea Park



## Bonjour, Laziness

*By Isabel Choi, AABA Board Member*

Paris is starting to quiet down. The weeks of relentless, pounding rain have finally ceased, but swarms of people are not out and about to take pleasure in the summer heat. After providing his weekly training session at the National Library of France, my husband was greeted with cheerful waves, "See you in September!" As it was only July 18<sup>th</sup>, he started counting his fingers trying to figure out how August disappeared. Alas, Parisians are preparing to embark on their annual outing called ...

### **Five weeks of vacation every year. Guaranteed by law.**

Dear Lawyers, I realize this hurts to read and I do apologize, but when I learned of this anomaly, I had to share. While we were sipping on jasmine tea and nibbling on rose-flavored macaroons at Mariage Frères, a tea salon established in 1854 that is pretty close to heaven in my book, a friend who has lived and worked in Paris since college dropped a detail that I thought you may appreciate. She manages a union representing orchestras.

"And when you come back and check your email," she continued, "there are only 10 new messages, because well, everyone has been away."

I sputtered out my tea and started coughing in earnest. How did this path elude me? Who knew that majoring in French literature would have been useful?

The five weeks of vacation traditionally begin in late July and extends into August, which coincides with the peak of the tourist season. Opportunity for profit, non? Apparently this is not a priority. While the Eiffel Tower and museums remain open, many ice cream shops, restaurants, and boutiques are closed. Although most Parisians flock to the countryside and seaside, the City decided to bring the resort home for those unable to and for tourists as well, by building "Paris A La Plage," or Paris at the Beach. Every July, more than 2,000 tons of sand are imported and planted with some palm trees along the Right Bank of the Seine River, complete with free deck chairs. Because the Seine

is about as clean as the Hudson River, people complained that there was no place to cool off; ergo, two pools and sprinkle showers have been constructed. In addition to enjoying the café-bars and concerts on docked boats, people can rent kayaks and paddleboats. City Hall also laid aside its imposing demeanor and installed two enormous beach lots in its square for the public to engage in beach-rugby and volleyball games. The message is clear: Relax, Mesdames et Messieurs! It's August!

Consider that the five weeks of vacation can be extended into an even longer period, if you worked more than 35 hours in the week. Outside of senior management executives, the following statutory protections are available to employees if asked to work more:

- One day of rest, preferably Sunday;
- Minimum of 11 hours' consecutive rest per day;
- Limit of 48 work hours per week. Even in exceptional circumstances, working time may not exceed 60 hours per week. Additionally, working time may not exceed an average of 44 hours per week for a period of 12 consecutive weeks.

Compensation for these extra hours? More days off or extra pay. The pay rate for overtime work hours is left to collective bargaining, but has to exceed the regular pay rate by at least 10%. An employee may not work more than 180 extra hours per year absent a collective bargaining agreement. In addition, at-will contracts do not exist in France.

*continued on page 10*

*. . . in the news Around Town*



## AABA MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

### Zarate Appointed to School Board in Daly City

*By Michelle Jew, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair*

AABA Member Katherine Zarate was appointed on May 8, 2007 to fill the Jefferson Union High School District Board vacancy left by Rachel Juliana, who resigned in March to move to the East Coast with her family.

The Jefferson Union High School District Board, located in Daly City, voted unanimously to approve Zarate, 31, over Roberto Marques, both Daly City residents, after interviewing the two candidates during a Board session.

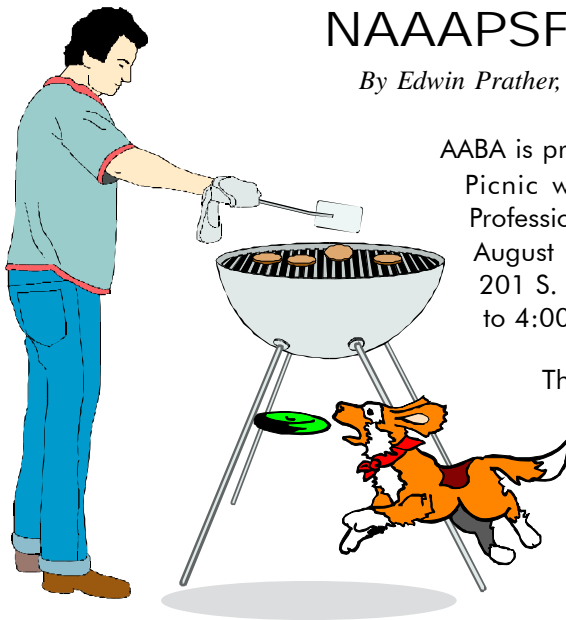
"I'm excited to be a part of this community and be a part of these students' education," Zarate told the San Francisco Examiner. She touted a commitment to inspire the students and expand their resources to higher education during her interview.

Zarate said Juliana was her mentor in the legal profession and inspired her to become involved outside of her job as a litigator for the San Francisco-based law firm Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass.

Board member David Mineta cited the energy and commitment to the district Zarate will bring as his reasons for voting for her, adding that her Filipina background would add to the diversity of a board that governs a 5,400-student, multicultural district. "A whole new chapter just started in her life," he told the San Francisco Examiner.

Zarate will have to run in November 2008 to retain her spot.

San Francisco Examiner contributed to this news report.



## NAAAPSF Picnic - August 5, 2007

By Edwin Prather, AABA President

AABA is proud to co-sponsor the 2007 Asian American Summer Picnic with the National Association of Asian American Professionals - San Francisco Chapter (NAAAPSF) on Sunday, August 5, 2007. The picnic will be held at Rengstorff Park, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue in Mountain View from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of the picnic is to raise funds for a local Asian American non-profit organization (Community Educational Services of San Francisco) while allowing diverse Asian American professionals to network with one another. The picnic's various sponsors including Pepsi, Safeway and Kaiser Permanente have donated food and beverage to the cause.

Sponsoring organizations include: AABA, AACO, AACSN, AAMA, APBASV, CES, CINA, First Thursdays, HapiHour, JAFL, KABA, KACSF, KAPS, KearnyStreet, Keizai Society, KPAA, NSC, NUSEA, Monte Jade, ORIENTED, Taiwanese Friends and many others.

Come join us. For more details and to RSVP go to NAAAPSF's website at: <http://www.naaapsf.org/Events.do?id=4867>

## Save the Dates

By Marissa Tirona, AABA Board Member

### *The Inaugural Minority Bar Coalition Conference co-sponsored by AABA*

Join the Minority Bar Coalition on **Friday, October 19, 2007** for its inaugural conference, "**And Justice For All: Building Bridges Within The Legal Community.**"

The conference, which will be held at Golden Gate University School of Law, will include 4 panels on various cutting-edge issues and a luncheon keynote speaker. The conference will conclude with the MBC's Annual Unity Awards Reception from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Information regarding registration for the conference will be available in early September. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Marissa M. Tirona, AABA Board Member, at [marissa\\_tirona@yahoo.com](mailto:marissa_tirona@yahoo.com).

By Reichi Lee, AABA Director

The Employment Committee is proud to sponsor its **annual Career Day, September 8, 2007 at USF School of Law from 8:15-2:00 p.m.** Career Day is designed to prepare law students for the on-campus interview process. It gives students the opportunity to hear panel discussions on how to land a job in the private and public sectors, as well as practice their interviewing skills with an attorney. All law students are welcome!

If you are a student who would like to participate in a mock interview, you must sign up and submit your resume. Please contact **Ivana Lee** at [lee.ivana@gmail.com](mailto:lee.ivana@gmail.com) for more information. If you are an attorney who would like to help conduct mock interviews, please contact **Reichi Lee** at [reichilee@yahoo.com](mailto:reichilee@yahoo.com).

# AABA

## *Celebrates its 20th Annual Summer Law Clerk Reception*

*By David Sohn, Employment Committee Co-Chair*

On July 19, 2007, over 150 attorneys and law clerks attended AABA's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Law Clerk Reception at Yank Sing Restaurant in San Francisco, hosted by Employment Committee co-chairs **Dave Sohn, Ting-Mao Chao, Eddy Chan and Ivana Lee.**

This year, a record amount of donations — over \$7,000! — was raised in support of the Reception. Thank you to each and every partner who donated, along with the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. The Reception would not have been a success without your generous support.

The Reception started off with introductory remarks from AABA Employment Committee Co-Chair Dave Sohn. Dave explained the history of the Reception, how it was started by **Kevin Fong** 20 years ago, and has been funded primarily by the donations of individual partners who care about developing a sense of community among Asian American attorneys and law students. This was followed by President **Edwin Prather's** remarks on AABA's mission: to support Asian American attorneys and law students in all of their community affairs. The Community Service Committee also introduced this year's Summer Law Grant Recipient, **Chio Saephanh.**



Edwin Prather, Yu-Yee Wu, Emi Gusukuma, Celia Lee



Chio Saephanh accepting the AABA Law Student Summer Grant Award



Chio Saephanh (Award Recipient), Reichi Lee, Ruth Ann Castro

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## AABA Volunteers Make A Difference in San Francisco's Chinatown

*By Dorothy Liu, Jason Lee and Ruth Ann Castro, Community Services Committee Co-Chairs*



On July 14th, the Community Services Committee was pleased to partner with the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) for a second year in a row to help beautify San Francisco's Chinatown. We donned our painters' caps once again and this time applied our skills to removing graffiti from store fronts and buildings throughout Chinatown. The project was led by CCDC's youth, through the Adopt-An-Alleyway Project, which is a youth-run and youth-led program, empowering high school students to give back to the Chinatown community and to hone their leadership skills. As a group of young leaders, their mission is to educate people about the Chinatown community by organizing and leading tours of Chinatown and speaking with groups about the history and culture of Chinatown through their own personal experiences.

The Community Services Committee extends a special thank you to everyone who volunteered. To participate in future Community Services events, please contact co-chairs Dorothy (Dot) Liu at [dliu@hansonbridgett.com](mailto:dliu@hansonbridgett.com), Jason Lee at [jason.e.lee@macys.com](mailto:jason.e.lee@macys.com), and Ruth Ann Castro at [RCastro@fbm.com](mailto:RCastro@fbm.com).



## AABA MCLE Trust and Estates Symposium A Success

*By Brian H. Kim, AABA Education Committee, Co-Chair*

On June 14, 2007, over 60 AABA members and members of the trusts and estates community packed the auditorium at Golden Gate University School of Law to hear a distinguished panel of probate judges and a probate commissioner give their unique insights on trends in trusts and estates practice. The panel event was jointly sponsored by AABA's Education Committee and Golden Gate's Graduate Law Programs and offered MCLE credit, an added bonus to the attendees seeking judicial insights.

San Francisco probate judge John Dearman, San Francisco probate commissioner Dorothy McMath, and Alameda County judges Carl Morris, Marshall Whitley and Keith Fudenna each described how they became members of the probate bench and discussed the areas that appeared mostly frequently in their courtroom, including conservatorships and elder abuse litigation. All of the panelists emphasized the importance of qualified specialists to meet the growing demands of a diverse population that is accessing the probate courts in the Bay Area.

After the seminar, seminar attendees and the panelists mingled at the reception that followed, making new contacts and enjoying the delicious spread of dim sum courtesy of Golden Gate's Graduate Law Programs.

Special thanks go to Jonathan Chu and Valerie Reyes of Golden Gate's Graduate Law Programs for all of their hard work in this successful event. AABA hopes to have more MCLE programs in substantive legal areas throughout the year.

### **Bonjour, Laziness** *continued from page 4*

Without going into the various types of employment contracts available and modifications that instigated student riots a few years back, a French employer in general must demonstrate that it is tanking into bankruptcy before it can justifiably dismiss an employee.

The French recognize that working an average of 300 hours less each year than other countries has at least partially caused their economic stagnation. After all, the people elected free market-loving Sarkozy to restore France's former glory. Thus, despite the title of this article, which I borrowed from Corinne Maier's book on how to

appear diligent while doing the minimum to keep your job in corporate France, I do not believe the French are lazy.

But I am curious to see how they will reconcile their work-to-live outlook with his economic reforms. Would they be willing to whittle down their cherished five-week vacation minimum? The up-to-three year long maternity leave per child? Or work on non-school Wednesdays instead of staying home with their children as they do now? Someday, will the French change how they start conversation? In our work-obsessed culture in the U.S., when we meet new

*continue on next page*

people, how many times has our first question been, "What do you do for a living?" Europeans find this odd. Accordingly, during my four months here so far, I have never been asked this question. Will this custom stay?

For the time being, we are joining the migratory Parisians, despite Paris A La Plage, and also going south, but only for two weeks. To close, I sincerely hope that you enjoy your summer vacation. At the very least, please take it.

**Summer Law Clerk** *continued from page 8*

Chio is a rising 2L from Santa Clara University Law School. This summer, Chio has been working at the Alameda County office of Bay Area Legal Aid, providing legal assistance through the housing unit to low income clients. As part of her summer project, Chio has engaged in an outreach program to the Lu Mien, an underrepresented and linguistically isolated community having a significant population in Alameda County. Her interest in working with the Lu Mien community stems from personal experience growing up in a refugee family. Congratulations Chio! We are hopeful this scholarship will help further your goals of serving the Asian American community. Please keep us apprised of your efforts!





A good time was had by all at the Reception. In addition to the wonderful dim sum from Yank Sing, attorneys and law clerks had an opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces and create new relationships. Rising 2L **Annabel Chang** from Washington University Law School in St. Louis summed up the evening aptly: "Turnout for the AABA's Reception was impressive! As an out-of-state law student, I was inspired by seeing how close-knit and supportive the Asian American legal community is in the Bay Area. Not only did the law students have the chance to talk to some of the community's heavyhitters, but also got to know fellow law students in the area for the summer. Of course, everyone also enjoyed the tasty dim sum treats while chatting with new friends and catching up with old colleagues."




As the summer draws to a close, we wish all law clerks the very best in the upcoming school year. We are counting on all of you to continue this Reception for the next 20 years. Thank you to all the attorneys who attended for contributing your time and energy to guiding this community's next generation of attorneys.

We will be hosting our popular Career Day on Saturday, September 8, 2007, at USF Law School. We are preparing some great programs for this event. We hope all of you can take advantage of this opportunity! Attorneys: to sign up as a mock interviewer (we need you!), please contact **Reichi Lee**, AABA Board member, at reichilee@yahoo.com. Students: if you would like to participate in a mock interview, sign up and submit your resume by August 24, 2007, to **Ivana** at lee.ivana@gmail.com. For general information, please contact **Dave** at dsohn@skadden.com.

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