



AABA Newsletter

WWW.AABA - BAY.COM | JANUARY 2007

AABA thanks the following sustaining members of 2007!

- Kathy Asada
- Michael Begert
- Edward Chen
- David Chiu
- Thomas C. Chow
- Rosemary Fei
- Samuel Feng
- Kevin Fong
- Emi Gusukuma
- Joan Haratani
- Joel Hayashida
- Cindy Hwang
- Charles Jung
- Lily Mayumi Kimura
- Ralph Latza
- Bill Lann Lee
- Celia Lee
- Ivana Lee
- Garrick Lew
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- Wesley Lowe
- M. Kay Martin
- Dale Minami
- Ann Nguyen
- Christine Noma
- Scott Nonaka
- Rosemarie Oda
- Eugene Pak
- Paul Perdue
- Edwin Prather
- Raymond Sheen
- Jayashri Srikantiah
- Teresa Tan
- Alan Ting
- Garner Weng
- Darryl Woo
- Franklin Yap
- Stanley Young



David Chiu, AABA President

As we ring in 2007, I have been struck by how many AABA members have confided that their New Year's resolution is to make a job or career change. The most frequently asked question I am asked is not "how can I get involved in AABA," but "do you know someone who works in X field?"

Legal job dissatisfaction is not new. We're all familiar with surveys that show three-quarters of attorneys do not want their children to become lawyers, and studies documenting that the legal profession has the highest incidence of depression. However, for various reasons, our hallowed profession has worsened in recent years. This month's San Francisco magazine reported that law firm attrition rates are at record highs, particularly in the Bay Area. In 2005, 78 percent of fifth-year associates were no longer with their original firm (up from 60% in 2000), and many partners are wondering whether to stay put.

Fortunately, there are alternatives to achieving career satisfaction, and AABA attorneys are leading the way. Last year, former AABA president Joan Haratani made "work/life" balance the issue of her recent tenure as Bar Association of San Francisco president. San Francisco magazine profiled younger attorneys carving a new path, such as AABA member Charles Jung, who quit his large law firm job to start a plaintiffs' firm, and recent AABA sponsor Axiom Legal, a new maverick firm with no partners, billables or overhead. Our own Practice Development Committee co-chairs exemplify successful transitions from large law firm practices.

To those of you looking for new jobs or careers, I hope in 2007 that you will take advantage of our networking opportunities, AABA's online membership directory and job listings, and inspiration from AABA colleagues who have started new firms, organizations and careers.

Now, onto my 2007 New Year's Resolutions for AABA. Drum roll, please:

- 1) That every AABA member participates in one of our mentoring programs for law students and attorneys;
- 2) That at least one new APA judge is confirmed in each county that AABA serves;
- 3) That our recently-expanded pro bono clinics continue to thrive and serve our low-income and immigrant brothers and sisters;
- 4) That our AABA members continue to take the top helms in law firms, corporations, and the public and nonprofit sectors;
- 5) That our reputation as an organizational leader on civil rights and community advocacy increases throughout the Bay Area;
- 6) And that we continue to be the local bar association that throws the best parties and events.

Happy New Year!

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Enjoying the Evening



AABA President David Chiu welcomes membership



Socializing with AABA Judiciary/Public Appointments Committee Co-Chair Ted Ting and AABA VP/President-Elect Edwin Prather

AABA Holiday Party

By Alan Ting, Co-Chair of the Social Committee

On a cold, dreary Thursday evening last month, AABA's 29th annual Holiday Party was just starting to warm up. Switching gears after several years at the venerable Butterfly restaurant on Pier 33, the Party this year was held at The Public, an up and coming restaurant/lounge in San Francisco's SOMA district. The event featured a full spread of delicious holiday snacks including garlic-crust salmon, roasted tri-tip, wine and cocktails. Longtime and new AABA members mixed and mingled, and the event was also well attended by AABA's law student members, who had the opportunity to spend quality time with their mentors.

Judge Helena Gweon of the Sacramento County Superior Court was honored for her achievements and was introduced by Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Russell Hom. Rose Zimmerman, the first female and first Filipino-American City Attorney of Daly City was also honored for her achievements at the party. She was introduced to the lively gathering by AABA Director Billy Chan.

Special thanks to the Social Committee for their hard work in organizing the event, and to the Membership Committee for some great outreach efforts.



(left) AABA Director Eugene Pak and Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Helena Gweon (below) AABA diners

(below) AABA Director Emi Gusukuma and AABA member Ai Mori



(left) AABA Director Billy Chan and AABA guest



(above) AABA Treasurer Celia Lee and AABA Director Eugene Pak



(left) City Attorney of Daly City Rose Zimmerman and husband

(below) More holiday cheers



(left) A good time was had by all



(left) Mingling with Honorable Steve Owyang and AABA Judiciary/Public Appointments Committee Co-Chair Jenny Huang

(below) AABA Practice Development Co-Chair Alexis Chiu



(above) Cheers!



(left) AABA Member with BASF President Joan Haratani and AABA Director Chris Noma



(left) Introductions

(below) The Pub



(above) AABA Past President Kathy Asada and AABA Member Dennis Chin



(above) NAPABA Vice President of Membership Richard Sueyoshi, AABA member Dennis Chin and City of Oakland Deputy City Attorney Mark Morodomi



(above) Honorable Russell Hom, Honorable Helena Gweon and AABA President -Elect Edwin Prather



(above) AABA party greeters



(above) AABA Practice Development Co-Chair Wesley Lowe and Tom



(above) Party guests

Upcoming Calendar of Events

January

Community Service Committee Training (TBA)

February

AABA Winter Mentorship Program Event, February 10, 5-8 pm, Peninsula (place to be determined)

March 2007

AABA 30th Annual Dinner, March 16 (TBA)

SAVE THE DATE - Upcoming AABA Student Mentorship Program Announcement. The AABA Student Mentorship Program will present a happy hour and mixer for attorney mentors and student mentees on Saturday, February 10, 2007 in the Peninsula starting at 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free appetizers and drinks will be included! Location details and evite to follow . . .

AABA Volleyball Team Starts Slowly, Ends Strong

By Eddy Hsu

In addition to fighting for civil rights, increased APA judicial representation and other community concerns, AABA fields a volleyball team on Tuesday nights in the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's Volleyball League, which is comprised of teams from many of the local Asian American nonprofit organizations. While AABA was one of the original teams when the league was created, last season was the first time AABA fielded a team in several years.

The team had all new faces, headed by Captain Hanesther "Much Aloha" Kim who juggles leading a team and studying for law school. Following her was Teddy "Two Arm" Tsao, Horn "Hi Yah!" Low, Maki "Spikey" Arakawa, and Eddy "Recent Bar Passer" Hsu. The team started off really slowly (i.e., we didn't win a match for weeks), since none of the players had ever met before. To show that the league is not just about beer and pizza, Captain Hanesther got placed on injured reserve midseason with a broken finger just as the team was gelling. In stepped Helen "Hands-of-Gold" Lam to pick up the slack.

Going into the playoffs, the AABA team was ranked second to last place. The huge underdog, AABA came in with a team of five and stormed through two higher ranked teams. AABA was finally stopped in the semi-finals where AABA lost to the number two team in the league. While AABA did not win the League, it re-established itself as a dominant force to be reckoned with.

So if you think you got game and need to slap some leather, or just have nothing to do on Tuesday nights, come join the AABA volleyball team next season. Come to the JCCNC on Tuesday nights, starting on January 16th, or contact new team captain Eddy Hsu at risked@yahoo.com.

Nominations for ABA approved Law School Site Visit Teams

AABA members are being encouraged by NAPABA to consider nominations for candidates to serve on the American Bar Association law school site visit teams. Historically, the teams have been lacking in Asian Pacific American representatives. The ABA is looking for (1) senior university administrators (e.g., president, provost, vice-provost, senior budget officer, VPs, general counsel) and (2) attorneys/judges. Candidates should have at least twenty years experience after law school and leadership positions in their practice. For the senior university administrator role, it is not required that the team member be an attorney. However, for the attorney role, the ABA prefers an attorney who is not from the academic field.

All approved law schools are required to be evaluated at least every seven years as part of ABA's accreditation process. The site evaluation team for the visit of a law school for full approval typically has seven members consisting of the chairperson, a lawyer, judge or public member; a university administrator; and several persons who are members of the faculty or staff at other law schools. Each team member will be assigned primary responsibility for certain sections of the site evaluation report that the team must write. All members of the team participate in reviewing the teaching program at the law school and in talking with faculty, staff and students during the three day site visit. The visited institution reimburses all reasonable and necessary expenses of members of site evaluation teams.

There is no firm deadline to submit nominations; however, the ABA is winding down their selection process for Spring 2007 teams and still have vacancies to fill. The ABA will soon begin the process of selecting teams for the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008.

If you or anyone you know may be interested, please send contact information and a resume to Frank Wu, Dean of Wayne State University School of Law, via e-mail at frankwu@wayne.edu.

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGAL OUTREACH

(Formerly NIHONMACHI LEGAL OUTREACH)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: Contract Attorney (6-month exempt position, may lead to permanent offer).

Background: API Legal Outreach is the largest social justice law firm serving the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities of the Greater Bay Area. Founded in 1975, our mission is to provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate legal representation to the most marginalized segments of the API community including women, seniors, recent immigrants, and youth. Our services are focused in the areas of Family Law/Domestic Violence, Immigration and Immigrant Rights, Senior Law/Elder Abuse, Social Justice and Anti-Human Trafficking.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Provide legal counseling and representation to low-income clients in the areas of family law/domestic violence (60%), immigration (20%), and senior law (20%). These work areas may change as needed. This work may include representation of clients in restraining order hearings, child custody and support matters, and in immigration court.

2. The position is based in our San Francisco office. However, the position may require travel and appearances in San Mateo, Alameda, and Contra Costa county courts.

3. Conduct community education, outreach and clinics at sites accessible to the low-income and senior communities.

4. Provide technical assistance and training to community agencies.

5. Represent the organization at community, legal, and other meetings and functions.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Demonstrated commitment to social justice and service for underserved API communities.

2. Strong advocacy and courtroom skills.

3. Experience in representing low income and monolingual API clients.

4. Must be a member in good standing of the California Bar.

5. Bilingual and bicultural skills relevant to the low-income API

communities.

6. Ability to work well in a team-oriented, multi-cultural work environment.

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Two years of litigation and/or relevant work experience.

2. Experience in working with survivors of domestic violence, elder abuse, or trafficking.

3. Experience with Time Matters, Legal Solutions, and Immigrant Pro.

4. Ability to speak Vietnamese, Cantonese, or Korean.

5. California driver's license and own vehicle.

Hours: Minimum of 40 hours per week including some weekend and evening hours.

Salary: \$36,000+ DOE (annualized basis)

Start Date: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

To apply, send a cover letter, resume with at least 3 references, attention to *Victor Hwang, Managing Attorney, 1188 Franklin Street, #202, San Francisco, CA 94109* or send via email to info@apilegaloutreach.org

POSITION: Staff Attorney

Background: API Legal Outreach is the largest social justice law firm serving the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities of the Greater Bay Area. Founded in 1975, our mission is to provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate legal representation to the most marginalized segments of the API community including women, seniors, recent immigrants, and youth. Our services are focused in the areas of Family Law/Domestic Violence, Immigration and Immigrant Rights, Senior Law/Elder Abuse, Social Justice and Anti-Human Trafficking.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Provide legal counseling and representation to low-income clients in the areas of family law/domestic violence (80%), immigration (10%), and senior law (10%). These work areas may change as needed. This work may include representation of clients in restraining order hearings, child custody and support matters, and in immigration court.

2. The position is based in our San

Francisco office. However, the position may require travel and appearances in San Mateo, Alameda, and Contra Costa county courts.

3. Conduct community education, outreach and clinics at sites accessible to the low-income and senior communities.

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Minimum Qualifications:

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3. Experience in representing low income and monolingual API clients.

4. Must be a member in good standing of the California Bar.

5. Bilingual and bicultural skills relevant to the low-income API communities.

6. Ability to work well in a team-oriented, multi-cultural work environment.

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Three years of litigation and/or relevant work experience.

2. Experience in working with survivors of domestic violence, elder abuse, or trafficking.

3. Experience with Time Matters, Legal Solutions, and Immigrant Pro.

4. Ability to speak Vietnamese, Cantonese, or Korean.

5. California driver's license and own vehicle.

Hours: Minimum of 40 hours per week including some weekend and evening hours.

Salary \$40,000+ DOE (annualized basis)

Start Date: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

To apply, send a cover letter, resume with at least 3 references, attention to *Victor Hwang, Managing Attorney, 1188 Franklin Street, #202, San Francisco, CA 94109* or send via email to info@apilegaloutreach.org

API Legal Outreach is an equal opportunity employer



API LEGAL OUTREACH
 (Formerly Nihonmachi Legal Outreach)
PRESENTS
THE 19TH ANNUAL NATIONAL
ASIAN AMERICAN TRIVIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

7PM SHARP
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2007

JCCNC
 1840 SUTTER STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

REGISTER EARLY FOR BEST SEATING.

ENTRY FORM, RULES, AND SPONSORSHIP
 INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
 WWW.APILEGALOUTREACH.ORG

CONTACT THERESA CHIONG OR MAIKIKO JAMES
 AT API LEGAL OUTREACH FOR MORE
 INFORMATION
 (415) 567-6255
 TCHIONG@APILEGALOUTREACH.ORG
 MJAMES@APILEGALOUTREACH.ORG

NASALSA's
9th Annual Conference
Building A Bridge To Influence
 February 16 -18, 2007
 San Francisco, CA



Established in 1997, NASALSA has been promoting education, leadership and community service amongst South Asian law students as well as expanding the general legal community's understanding and appreciation of South Asian political, legal and social issues. As an umbrella organization, NASALSA supports groups aimed at South Asian law students across the U.S. and Canada in hopes of providing those interested in South Asia and the South Asian experience a space to gather together, create support networks, and form communities that will last a lifetime. For more information visit our website (www.nasalsa.org) or email us at nsalsa@nasalsa.org.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY: WWW.NASALSA.ORG/ANNUAL.HTML

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP STILL AVAILABLE
 Please contact Shailesh Sahay: ssahay@law.harvard.edu

Join NASALSA this Presidents' Day Weekend for its 9th Annual Conference hosted by Golden Gate University School of Law and co-sponsored by University of San Francisco School of Law. The conference theme, *Building a Bridge to Influence*, focuses on ways that South Asians in the legal community can increase the influence of the larger South Asian community in North America. At this time in our community's growth, increasing our influence is essential to correct commonly held misconceptions of South Asians, as well as educate others to combat the prevalent but often subtle racism our community encounters.

The Annual Conference is designed to appeal to a broad range of students, offering numerous networking opportunities and providing a glimpse of the various possibilities that a legal career affords. It presents students with a better understanding of some of the issues facing the South Asian community and ways in which to deal with those issues. The conference is also an environment which encourages discussion of issues pertinent to the South Asian experience with peers and mentors in hopes of discovering what roles, as current students and future attorneys, students may play in addressing these issues.



N.A.S.A.L.S.A.
nsalsa@nasalsa.org
www.nasalsa.org

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