



# AABA Newsletter

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JANUARY 2008

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**AABA thanks the following sustaining members of 2007!**

- |                     |                |
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**President's Column**

Edwin Prather, AABA President

**Happy New Year! Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2008.**

**AABA's New Operations Director**

Most members know that AABA is not only the first ever Asian American bar association, but through the hard work and perseverance of our lawyers, AABA has grown to become the largest local Asian American bar association in the nation. There comes at point, however, when an organization outgrows its structure. We have gained in influence and relevance and our organization does more, and is about more, than ever before. As such, our volunteer structure is insufficient to support our further growth and we need to do more to continue our support of the thousands of Asian American lawyers in the Bay Area. We need to do more. AABA's officers and Board share a vision to help see AABA into the next 30 years. And to do that, the organization has hired an Operations Director. She will assist as AABA continues to encourage and promote the professional growth of our members, serve the public interest through legal clinics and other pro bono programs, foster the exchange of ideas surrounding the defense of civil rights and fight for the issues important to all of us today, including the retention of Asian American associates and increasing Asian American leadership in law firms and the number of Asian American jurists. As the oldest and largest in the nation, AABA has led the charge on many issues and continues to do so. I believe we are the first local Asian American bar association in the nation to hire a director.

On January 1, 2008, Rhean Fajardo became AABA's Operations Director. Rhean is an attorney with her own immigration law practice located at the

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**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN** *continued from page 1*

famed 22 Battery Law Offices. A USF Law School graduate and a longtime supporter of AABA (as well as the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California), Rhean has made substantial contributions to the local Asian American legal community. She will further her contributions, but in a different, more direct role.

The Officers and Board have no doubt that in 2008 AABA will continue to grow into heightened relevance and influence for Bay Area lawyers. Our Operations Director will be a big part of that.

**2008 Elections**

I'd like to congratulate our new slate of officers starting in March 2008. They are: President **Celia Lee**; Vice-President/President-Elect **Garner Weng**; Treasurer **Billy Chan**; and Secretary **Malcolm Yeung**. We are truly lucky to have such fantastic leaders in the pipeline.

Elections are underway to fill four seats on the Board of Directors. Five very qualified and capable candidates have submitted themselves for your consideration. Incumbent **Eugene Pak** has been involved with AABA for several years and was instrumental in bringing AABA to the internet age through our website. **Juna Kim**, is a member of our Civil Rights Committee and a key contributor to our first ever civil rights conference that was jointly hosted by local minority bar associations. **David Sohn** is a former Mentorship and a current Employment Committee member having aided law students and young lawyers in getting a foothold in their legal careers for several years now. **Jason Lee** and **Ted Ting** are both members of the Judiciary Committee having made substantial contributions towards encouraging and promoting Asian Americans for judgeships. More detailed information about each candidate is available at [www.aaba-bay.com](http://www.aaba-bay.com), but as you can see, all of the candidates will make important contributions and bring needed perspectives to the AABA Board. Ballots have already been distributed and must be postmarked no later than January 18, 2008, to be counted.

**President's Profiles**

The holidays are a slow time for AABA so there's not much else to report except for our annual holiday party held on December 5, 2007. Our Competition de Gastronome was one of the top three most amazing events in AABA's history (AABA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2007 and the Dale Minami Roast/

Fundraiser in 2003 being the other two). Such a fantastic event deserves its own write-up, so we'll have a special "cooking" edition of the AABA newsletter in January highlighting the event and featuring more information about our competing chefs.

In the meantime, I've selected three additional AABA members to profile this month. The first is our new Operations Director, **Rhean Fajardo**. Next, is **Victor Hwang**, a former AABA President (2004-05) who was honored by NAPABA this year as its 2007 Trailblazer for Northern California. The Trailblazer Award recognizes the outstanding achievements, commitment and leadership of Asian American lawyers who have paved the way for the advancement of other Asian Pacific American attorneys. Also featured is **Garner Weng**, our soon-to-be Vice President, who was honored by NAPABA as one of the top lawyers under 40. NAPABA makes this award each year to honor lawyers who have gained prominence in their respective legal endeavors but also who have exhibited steadfast commitment and service to the Asian Pacific American community.

Besides Victor and Garner, AABA has had its share of Trailblazer and Best Under 40 awardees. In case you're wondering, here's a quick recap.

**TRAILBLAZERS**

- 2006 Joan Haratani
- 2005 Bill Tamayo
- 2004 Jeff Adachi
- 2003 Don Tamaki
- 2002 Honorable Erica Yew
- 2001 Honorable Edward Chen
- 2000 Manuela Albuquerque
- 1999 Honorable Ming Chin
- 1998 Ray Ocampo, Jr.
- 1997 Honorable Wallace Tashima
- 1995 Honorable Ken Kawaichi
- 1994 Dale Minami/Honorable Harry Low

**BEST UNDER 40**

- 2006 Victor Hwang and Jacklyn Park
- 2005 Eugene Pak, Edwin Prather and Michael Wang
- 2004 David Chiu, A. Marisa Chun, Priya Sanger and Jayashri Srikantia
- 2002 Jennifer Liu

Enjoy the beginning of the year and start making your plans to join us at our Annual Dinner on March 7, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero. Until next month . .

## PRESIDENT'S PROFILES . . .



RHEAN FAJARDO is AABA's new Operations Director. She is a sole practitioner in immigration law and, perhaps most importantly, is expecting a baby girl in March 2008!! Rhean has been involved with AABA's Newsletter and Website Committees and has also been Vice President of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California.

**You've always been involved in AABA activities. Why become the AABA Operations Director?** Serving AABA as the Operations Director provides me an important opportunity to participate more on the back end than being on committees alone would allow me. I'm looking forward to working with the Officers, Board, and Committees in building an even stronger organization in the coming years.

**What do you see as some of AABA's challenges in the near future?** AABA has built a reputation as a national leader on matters of importance to Asian American attorneys, serving as a collective voice for the unified expression of opinions and positions. Nothing happened overnight, and certainly not without the participation of its members. Maintaining and building on the momentum of our past will be a challenge, but one that can be easily tackled by an active and committed membership.

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VICTOR HWANG is a longtime supporter of AABA and the Asian American legal community. He served as AABA's President for the 2004-05 term after making substantial contributions through the Civil Rights and Community Services Committees. Victor's career has made many stops including the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office, Asian Law Caucus and Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach. He is currently a Deputy District Attorney here in San Francisco. Victor was named "Local Hero" by both the San Francisco Bay Guardian and Chinese World Journal and received AABA's Joe Morozumi Exceptional Legal Advocacy award.

**What was your favorite class in law school?** I externed for Federal Judge Robert Takasugi in L.A. and worked exclusively on a federal prosecution of LAPD officers for falsifying/planting evidence. I learned more during those six months than in three years of law school.

**In law school, did you sit in the front of the room or the back?** In my first year, I sat in the front row of every class and raised my hand until the professors got tired of calling of me. Then I kicked back for the rest of the year.

**What do you wish you knew in law school that you know now?** I wish that I had delayed going to law school

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GARNER WENG is a Partner at Hanson Bridgett where his practice focuses on intellectual property and technology issues. Unlike Victor, Garner's been able to keep one job throughout his legal career having joined the law firm after graduating from Boalt. Garner is AABA's incoming Vice-President/President-Elect having served as a Director and Community Services Co-Chair for several years.

**What was your favorite class in law school?** Anything taught by Marge Shultz—last class with her was Race as a Perspective on Current Legal Doctrine.

**In law school, did you sit in the front of the room or the back?** Back.

**What do you wish you knew in law school that you know now?** How hard it is to build a book of business.

**What skill should every lawyer have?** Listening. Who cares how good you are if you don't understand—fully and deeply—what your client wants?

**What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?** My boys — Tyler and Ryan.

**What do you consider to be your second greatest achievement?** Getting my wife to marry me.

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At the November 17 luncheon of this year's NAPABA Annual Convention, AABA member Stan Young received an award for outstanding leadership and service to NAPABA and the Asian American community. Stan and his colleagues at Heller Ehrman represented NAPABA as amicus curiae in urging the U.S. Supreme Court to review whether a State may require that members of the state bar be citizens or permanent resident aliens. NAPABA recognized Heller Ehrman and Stan (a former NAPABA vice president) for their pro bono service in this important constitutional case. The award was presented by Kevin M. Fong, co-chair of NAPABA's amicus brief committee and a past-president of AABA.

## NAPABA Annual Convention

By Billy Chan, AABA Secretary

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) held its Annual Convention from November 15 through 18. The Convention was held in the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa and was well-attended by AABA's executive committee, board members, and many attorney and law student members.

The Convention featured a plethora of events, enough for even the most voracious bar junkie to get her fix. While NAPABA board members held their board meeting and bar leaders attended NAPABA's bar leadership institute on Thursday, other attendees were able to participate in the golf tournament at the Badlands Golf Club or the tennis round robin at the local tennis center.

NAPABA committees hosted cocktail receptions in the evening, and Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman officially welcomed attendees at the opening reception.

Afterwards, attendees could choose from a dinner with judges, a dinner hosted by NAPABA's international committee, the NAPALSA reception, a cocktail reception hosted by the Filipino bar associations of California, the Las Vegas show "La Reve", bowling with NAPALSA, or any other entertainment Vegas had to offer.

Friday and Saturday were chock-full of CLE seminars and presentations, and the Thomas Tang Moot Court competition. Lunch on those days featured the Honorable Ming Chin and California Controller John Chiang. On Friday night,

NAPABA honored its Trailblazer awardees, including our own Victor Hwang, past AABA president. The Installation Dinner on Saturday night featured keynote speaker Amul R. Thapar — who was recently confirmed as a federal district court judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky on December 13, 2007. Mr. Thapar becomes the first South Asian American Article III judge in the history of the United States. On Saturday night, NAPABA also honored its Best Under 40 awardees, which included local celebrity Garner Weng.

NAPABA is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students. NAPABA represents the interests of over 40,000 attorneys and approximately 50 local Asian Pacific American bar associations. Its members represent solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government. NAPABA continues to be a leader in addressing civil rights issues confronting Asian Pacific American communities. Through its national network of committees and affiliates, NAPABA provides a strong voice for increased diversity of federal and state judiciaries, advocates for equal opportunity in the workplace, works to eliminate hate crimes and anti-immigrant sentiment, and promotes professional development of minorities in the legal profession.

Billy Chan is NAPABA's Regional Governor for Northern California.



**Dale Minami '71**  
Partner, Minami  
Tamaki LLP

### First Annual Dale Minami Boalt Alumni Fellowship Dinner

Friday, January 25, 2008 ~ 6:00 pm Cocktails / 7:00 pm Dinner  
Empress of China, 838 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108

**About the fellowship . . .** Boalt Hall's Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) is proud to announce its first annual alumni and public interest fellowship dinner. Boalt Hall's APALSA is the largest APALSA in the nation. This year, we are expanding our fundraising efforts to achieve the goals of endowing our fellowship, which will support outstanding Asian American students who commit to working in the public interest sector upon graduation.

**About Dale Minami . . .** We have re-named our fellowship after Dale Minami '71, a prominent San Francisco-based attorney and a recipient of the American Bar Association's 2003 Thurgood Marshall Award. Mr. Minami is well-regarded for his civil rights work on *Korematsu v. United States* and co-founded the Asian Law Caucus as well as the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area.

**About the dinner . . .** We are planning on having a Chinese banquet in San Francisco with entertainment, speakers, including Dale Minami, and well over 150 current students, professors, and alumni.

**Why you should attend . . .** We invite you to support this important endeavor by attending our dinner and/or by becoming a sponsor. The dinner offers a great opportunity for Boalt alumni to reconnect with former classmates. It is also the ideal venue for law firms to meet current and past Boalt students.

*President's Note: AABA Board Member Isabel Choi temporarily relocated to Paris and has been sharing her humorous and informative stories. This is the last of her articles as she is scheduled to return to the United States in January 2008.*

## A 12-Minute Ride Draws Our Adventure to a Close

By Isabel Choi, AABA Board Member

I was too terrified to appreciate the commanding view of the Bay of Naples around me. My feet dangling 100 feet in the air, I had just been whisked into a chairlift to take me up 1,900 feet to the summit of Mount Solare on the island of Capri. At the ticket booth, my husband and I read the "12-Minute Ride Each Way" sign and decided to try this recommendation innocuously suggested by our Italy guidebook.

The guidebook, however, failed to explain how the conductor in the span of two seconds jerks you by the elbow to a painted square on the ground, shoves you backwards into a moving chair, lowers a loose latch bar across your lap, and crosses his chest as you are creaked up the mountain. (Yes, you are correct, I do not ski.) My unanswered calls to my husband confirmed that he also was alarmed.

Perhaps if the ground below were not so disturbingly far away, where I could see the tops of several Capri residents with cigarettes in their mouths lovingly tending to their gardens, my body-gripping anxiety would have eased. Perhaps if the chairlift moved at a quicker pace, I would not have been so keenly sensitive to every screech and shudder. Definitely I would have preferred that the danger signs on all support poles be written in Italian and shelter me in ignorance. Rather, I was welcomed with a pictogram presenting the possibility of three chairlift riders crashing into each other. While the bookend riders were colored white, the middle one was in red to emphasize that this rider would suffer the most distress. (My husband later told me that the picture simply warned that the chair could rock back and forth precariously—an equally comforting revelation on that windy December 23rd.)

At the end of what turned to be an 18-minute ride, we were happy and unduly proud of ourselves for surviving the experience. Enduring the highs and lows of this ride was not unlike our decision to live as expats in Paris for nine months, where we had a skeletal vision of what it would be like, but of course, little could have primed us for the actual adventures we encountered.

The 10-day strike was one. Combatting the obligatory Parisian response to a request for customer service, "*ce n'est pas possible*," was another. For example, as we were completing an ATM transaction, the bank experienced a temporary power outage that prevented us from collecting our \$850. Even before I finished



asking for confirmation of the transaction, the bank personnel repeated there was nothing they could do. After bearing our broken but insistent French for 30 minutes, they admitted that it was *très possible* and quite easy to retrieve their ATM computer records.

This duality and struggle are part and parcel of living here, which are intensifying as the French grapple in abandoning some of their entrenched habits and ideals. By the time you read this, Paris' commercial establishments will be strictly non-smoking zones. Local mayors throughout the country cannot reconcile satisfying Sarkozy's demand that 25,000 illegal immigrants be deported by the end of 2007, with observing the Republic's motto *Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité*. Sarkozy's proposed reform in divorce law would largely cut out French lawyers and the judiciary from handling mutual consent divorce cases, which would be routed to public notaries. Revenues for many of the 36,000 lawyers would decrease significantly and a number of the 7,000 judges in France would find their courtrooms obsolete. Of course they held a strike.

I will remain an onlooker of this country through the end of the year before I rejoin the AABA community in San Francisco. I hope that your 2007 was eventful and hopeful as well. To the inevitable question that will come my way, "So, how was France?", I may just start off with, "Well, let me tell you about this chairlift ride . . ."

## AABA Election Update

by Reichi Lee, AABA Board Member

For the 2008-09 election, applications for the following positions were submitted: Vice-President (President-Elect), Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors at Large positions. The Officer positions are uncontested and will not be subject to vote. Under **Celia Lee** as AABA's President-Elect, **Garner Weng** will serve as Vice-President, **Billy Chan** will serve as Treasurer, and **Malcolm Yeung** will serve as Secretary.

Four (4) Directors at Large positions are available in this election cycle – the top three (3) candidates with the most votes will receive Board seats with three-year terms; the fourth highest vote getter will serve out a remaining one-year Board term.

The following candidates are running for Directors at Large positions: **Eugene Pak** (incumbent), **Juna Kim**, **Jason Lee**, **David Sohn**, and **Ted Ting**. Their personal statements are below and will be included on the ballot. Active attorney members will be mailed ballots by December 21, 2007.

These members may vote for up to three of the five candidates for the Directors at Large positions. To be counted, your ballot must be postmarked **no later than January 18, 2008**. Candidates will be informed of the election results by the end of January and the election results will be posted in the February 2008 newsletter and on the AABA website.

An Election Committee has been created to administer this process. If you have any questions, please contact Reichi Lee at [reichilee@yahoo.com](mailto:reichilee@yahoo.com).

### Director at Large Statements



**EUGENE PAK** (Incumbent) - I have been active in AABA since I graduated from law school from Boalt Hall. I was a member of the Community Services Committee and volunteered regularly at AABA's legal clinic at the Asian Law Caucus. I eventually become co-chair of the committee, responsible for organizing the clinic and the summer grant for law students. I was also a member

of the Newsletter Committee and headed up the re-design of the AABA website. I have served as the Webmaster since that time. For the past three years, I have been a Director on the AABA Board. I have also served as past president of the Korean American Bar Association.

AABA has a long tradition of serving its members and the community, and in the past several years its presence and its work within the legal community and the larger Bay Area has grown considerably. Internally, AABA has also become more organized and cohesive. I'd like to see that work continue and grow. In particular, I'd work to ensure that AABA continues its efforts to: 1) work with other bar associations, both majority bar associations and other minority bar associations on common issues; 2) outreach to more attorneys and incorporate them into our work; and 3) advocate for more diversity in the judiciary and in the profession generally. I personally think that AABA and the folks behind it have done a tremendous job in the past several years on many fronts, and I'm hoping to continue that work as a board member again.



**JUNA KIM** - I am an Associate in the San Francisco office of Van De Poel & Levy, a small Bay Area litigation law firm. Since 2004 I have co-chaired the Civil Rights Committee of AABA, working with others to provide support and continuing education for AABA members on 'hot' issues such as civil rights, immigration, and employment law. This year, the Civil Rights Committee was a co-host along with Bay Area minority bar associations of a free half-day conference and MCLE event focusing on public interest topics such as voting rights, race and the media.

I was also recently elected to represent young attorneys in San Francisco and Marin counties on the California Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors. If given the opportunity to participate as a Director for AABA, I would continue to promote and reinforce AABA's relationship with the State Bar. I would also like to integrate CYLA's commitment to support California's foster

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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR  
ASSOCIATION  
OF THE GREATER BAY AREA

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January 4, 2008

Re: AABA's Call to Community Service 2007 - 2008

Dear AABA Member:

While AABA, the first and largest local Asian American bar association in the nation, has come to serve thousands of lawyers on a variety of national and local issues, we must always be mindful of our history and our origins as a civil rights organization. We have deep roots in the Asian American community and were founded over three decades ago on Asian lawyers' commitment to public service. It's an understatement to say that today's AABA attorney is committed to pro bono and community service work. Our attorneys are engaged in more service work than any other group of attorneys I know. Scores of AABA attorneys not only each work thousands of hours every year, but also provide hundreds of additional hours on pro bono and community matters.

It is time that AABA recognized these community heroes. For this purpose, we have launched a new program entitled: AABA's Call to Community Service. We are asking our members to tell us about their pro bono, community service, bar association or other work on behalf of the Asian American community (forms are also available at [www.aaba-bay.com](http://www.aaba-bay.com)). We will present a limited edition gift for members who complete at least 50 hours of service in 2007 and/or 2008. And once our goal of 10,000 hours is reached, AABA will recognize these contributions through publishing a roster of our heroes (and their employers) to let the entire legal community know that AABA has, and always will, answer the call to community service. We encourage you to submit your form to AABA as soon as possible to help us reach our goal.

Please indicate how many hours of AABA, pro bono, community service or other volunteer work you completed (or expect to complete) on behalf of the Asian American community in 2007 and 2008.

It is a pleasure to recognize and honor the contributions of our members to the Asian American community. I am equally proud that as AABA, we remain true to our roots and persist in our dedication to the community.

Very truly yours,

Edwin K. Prather  
AABA President

# 2008 AABA Law Foundation Scholarship Awards

By Vilaska P. Nguyen, Scholarship  
Committee Co-Chair

AABA recognizes the importance of fostering the growth of law students to improve the future development of the Asian Pacific American Bar. At the Annual AABA Installation Dinner, AABA will recognize and award scholarships to deserving law students who are committed to advocating and improving their communities.

The AABA Law Foundation is a nonprofit entity dedicated to serving the community and law students through its annual Law Foundation Scholarship awards. This upcoming year, the Foundation is offering the Raymond L. Ocampo Jr. President's Scholarship, the Joe Morizumi Scholarship; the AABA Law Foundation Scholarship; and, the brand new Asian American Judges Scholarship, developed to recognize and honor the past and present API judges of the Bay Area.

The scholarship committee caught up with 2007 award recipient Kavita Narayan who said, "I was able to spend my summer interning at the ACLU, where I contributed to impact litigation cases on behalf of immigrants detained in unacceptable conditions and for unreasonable lengths of time. The AABA scholarship allowed me to gain experience in a field to which I plan to devote my career."

Please check the [aaba-bay.com](http://aaba-bay.com) website and click on the Scholarship Application page for more information and application materials. The deadline to submit applications is February 1, 2008 by email to Annette K. Mathai-Jackson at: [amathai-jackson@hansonbridgett.com](mailto:amathai-jackson@hansonbridgett.com). Interviews will be held on February 23, 2008 and scholarships will be awarded at the AABA Installation Dinner on March 7, 2008.

## 2008 AABA Scholarship Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Law School: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors and Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate School: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors and Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_ Fluency: \_\_\_\_\_

Education Level of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Education Level of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Please submit a completed Application Form, a resume, and a personal statement of no more than three pages, double spaced, describing the following topics:

- (1) What do you see as a pressing issue or concern facing the Asian American community, and what role do you see yourself playing in advocating for or engaging in such an issue; and/or,
- (2) Your experience in overcoming economic or other discriminatory barriers.

Please submit all applications by Friday, February 1, 2008 via e-mail to Annette K. Mathai-Jackson at [amathai-jackson@hansonbridgett.com](mailto:amathai-jackson@hansonbridgett.com).

Finalists will be notified if they are selected for an interview by February 15, 2008. Interviews are scheduled to be held on Saturday, February 23, 2008.

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

**Jan 18, 2008** - Deadline to submit Ballots for AABA Directors-At-Large

First Annual Dale Minami Boalt Alumni Fellowship Dinner.  
**Friday, January 25, 2008.**  
Empress of China, 838 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108

### FEBRUARY

The Asian American Law Journal at Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley is hosting a symposium on **February 22, 2008** at Booth Auditorium entitled "Majority-Minority State: Turning Power in Numbers to Power at the Polls in 2008."

### MARCH

**SAVE THE DATE:** AABA ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER **Friday, March 7, 2008**, Hyatt Regency, Embarcadero Center

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

**PRESIDENT'S PROFILE RHEAN FAJARDO** *continued from page 3*

**What do you hope to accomplish as the AABA Operations Director?** Coordinating work on issues of concern with other minority and community-based groups, bar associations, and local law student organizations. I also hope to streamline the day-to-day operations and procedures of AABA to ensure that our committee members and volunteers who give so graciously of their time can focus their talents where they are most needed.

**Any message to pass on to our AABA members?** Get involved and stay involved! AABA provides so many opportunities to meet amazing people, and share your skills and talents through volunteer and mentorship events.

**What is the most important lesson you've learned after law school?** That not everything turns out the way you plan, but surprises and changes aren't all bad, and are all manageable.

**What is your most treasured possession?** A mint condition Rolling Stone magazine from May 16, 1996 featuring X-Files stars David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson in bed, and autographed by show creator Chris Carter. So geek.

**What is your most marked characteristic?** Positive attitude... with an edge.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, it would be...?** My 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher said it best in my report card... talkative and tends to be bossy. Although I still think that if I was a boy, "bossy" would have translated to "excellent leadership skills." I'm still working on those.

**What skill should every lawyer have?** The ability to be open minded and not judgmental; unless you're a judge.

**What's the greatest honor you've ever received?** My very good friend Noel once said he'd hoped his little sister would grow up to be just like me. It's the nicest thing anybody's ever said to me.

**What one experience do you want to have before you die?** Walk the red carpet at the Academy Awards, skip the show, and go straight to the Vanity Fair Oscar party.

**Fill in the blank. Most AABA members probably don't know that I . . .** was born in Alaska. Oh no, wait, that's my husband Vilaska.

**Fill in the blank. AABA is . . .** an accessible and welcoming resource – participate!

**PRESIDENT'S PROFILE VICTOR HWANG** *continued from page 3*

so that I could have benefited more from the experience.

**If you were not an attorney, what would you be?** I was headed towards a career in journalism before I took the LSAT on a fluke.

**What historical figure do you most identify with?** Malcolm X. I re-read his autobiography every couple of years and am always struck by the exponential growth of his vision and transformation over his short life.

**Which living person do you most admire?** I don't know if I could name one person. I admire my parents and many of their generation who had the courage and daring to cross the seas and try life in a new hemisphere. I admire my partner who has been able to establish herself as a trailblazer in her own right while having three children in five years. I admire folks like Dale Minami and Yuri Kochiyama who have never stopped fighting for justice and shame you in their humility. I admire young activists like Jane Kim, Eddy Zheng and David Ho who continue to struggle with pure heart and passion for the community.

**What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job?** The cases you prepare will go away. The ones you dread will always go to trial.

**What's the most cherished possession you've ever lost?** Probably a journal containing all of the poetry I had written from elementary school through college. It was stolen during law school from my car... hope it had good resale value (or got a good laugh).

**What is your most marked characteristic?** I am tireless (some might say manic).

**What skill should every lawyer have?** I think every lawyer should try a jury trial in his or her career.

**How do you make your favorite drink?** Ciroc Vodka, chilled, two olives.

**What's the greatest honor you've ever received?** Meeting with a 16-year-old client after he had been sentenced to 19 to life for a second-degree murder and having him tell me that I did a great job for him at trial.

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**PRESIDENT'S PROFILE VICTOR HWANG** *continued from page 9*

**Who is your favorite writer?** I love Tom Wolfe (A Man in Full) for his character development and Chuck Palahniuk for his innovative writing style and ideas (Fight Club).

**What do you like to do when you're not working?** I play volleyball, have friends over for poker, and spend time with kids and family.

**What is your favorite restaurant?** Wherever Edwin's buying...

**Most AABA members probably don't know that I...** have no political aspirations.

**AABA is...** whatever you make of it. I started in 1997 bartending an AABA function at Empress of China and ended up as the President a couple years later. AABA has been a great social and professional network, a voice for social justice, a vehicle for serving the community and an advocate for fair representation.

**PRESIDENT'S PROFILE GARNER WENG** *continued from page 3*

**What do you consider to be your greatest achievement as a lawyer?** Being the last and worst scoring option on our firm hoops team but scoring eight points—two threes and a runner in the lane—in the last four minutes of a closely contested lawyers' league championship game.

**What do you consider to be your second greatest achievement as a lawyer?** Making partner in 5 years, though I didn't really realize it at the time.

**If you were not an attorney, what would you be?** I would be in business, maybe an entrepreneur; or I would be a writer.

**What's the worst physical pain you've ever experienced?** A long plane flight on which they were showing, "Gigli."

**What was your favorite meal?** Duck at La Tour d'Argent — but more for the company than the food.

**What is your favorite restaurant?** Gary Danko.

**Most AABA members don't know that I...** was a Junior Olympics Nationals finalist in the high hurdles.

**AABA is...** what you make it.

**ELECTION UPDATE** *continued from page 6*

care system (via well-established organizations such as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)) with AABA's objectives for 2008-2009. Thank you for your consideration.



**JASON LEE** - Although, I was born and raised in the Bay Area, I've spent most of my legal career working for the government in Washington, D.C. Upon returning to San Francisco, I wanted to reconnect and contribute to the local Asian American community. AABA

provided that opportunity. Through AABA and Asian Law Caucus, I've done pro bono work. As a Judiciary Committee member, I've assisted in AABA's endorsement of judicial candidates and organized events geared towards getting our colleagues on the bench. As a former co-chair of the Membership Committee, I've reached out to current, former, and prospective members to keep the largest minority bar organization in the U.S. growing. I've made friends, reunited with former colleagues and classmates, and most importantly, learned a great deal. My desire to serve on the Board reflects my commitment to an organization that has given me so much.

Outside of AABA, I am the co-chair of Shartsis Friese's Securities Enforcement Defense Group. I represent public companies, officers, directors, hedge funds, brokers, and individuals before regulatory and criminal authorities. I've also published articles concerning financial fraud and hedge fund regulation and have commented on a variety of regulatory issues in national publications. Prior to joining Shartsis Friese, I was in the Division of Enforcement at the Securities & Exchange Commission. I received an LL.M. from Georgetown and a J.D. from Santa Clara. I offer a track record of leadership and commitment to the Asian American community. It would be an honor to serve.



**DAVID SOHN** - As a Director, I believe I can make AABA a more effective organization for everyone. For the past four years, I've been actively involved in AABA, most recently as a Co-Chair of the Employment Committee and previously as a

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**ELECTION UPDATE** *continued from page 10*

Co-Chair of the Mentorship Committee. I've focused my energies on providing attorneys and law students with mentorship, job and other enrichment opportunities. Helping others network and build their careers early on is something I'm very passionate about. That's how I first got involved with AABA.

As AABA has grown, so has the diversity of its needs. In order to maintain its effectiveness, AABA must address several challenges. First, AABA needs to provide a broader spectrum of enrichment programs for attorneys and law students. Common programs such as "Succeeding at a Big Firm" — although important — are no longer sufficient. AABA must also continue to coordinate its efforts with the various other minority bar associations. As a former board member of the Korean American Bar Association, I've seen how effective such coordination can be. Further, on an administrative level, AABA needs to improve its online presence and reorganize its back-end IT infrastructure to improve its outreach efforts. As a Director, I intend to advocate for these changes.

On a personal note, I've been living and working in San Francisco since 2003. I'm currently an associate at Skadden Arps practicing general commercial litigation. If you have any questions about my candidacy, please feel free to contact me at [dsohn@skadden.com](mailto:dsohn@skadden.com).



**TED TING** - I'm a commercial litigator working on mostly competitive disputes and real estate-related litigation. I'm a partner at my firm, Reed Smith, where I've practiced for ten years. I am currently an AABA Judiciary Committee co-chair

and a board member of the Alameda County Bar Association and State Bar Foundation.

I'm a local boy: born in the City, raised on the Peninsula, educated in Berkeley, practicing law in Oakland, and now residing in Moraga with my wife and two kids. I also studied and worked in Japan for two years, and went to law school in Los Angeles.

I've enjoyed being a part of AABA since passing the bar. I'd like to give something back as a board

member. I'd like to continue the progress that has been made by the past boards and officers in growing AABA's membership and reputation, which could increase its influence in matters such as judicial appointments and other issues that concern Asian Americans.

The Asian American Law Journal at Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley is hosting a symposium on **February 22nd from 9 am to 4 pm** at Booth Auditorium entitled **"Majority-Minority State: Turning Power in Numbers to Power at the Polls in 2008."**

The symposium is also sponsored by the La Raza Journal, The Berkeley Journal of African American Law & Policy, the Journal of Middle Eastern & Islamic Law, and the Warren Center for Social Justice.

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