



AABA Newsletter

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President's Column

This summer, I've attended some impressive events produced by our AABA committees and our bar association partners. You can read about our annual Summer Associate Event in the article in this issue. In addition, the Social Committee kicked off our first mixer of the year on June 25 at the Ambassador Bar, where a wide cross-section of AABA members, officers, board members, and committee chairs mingled with some students and new AABA members. At both events, I was struck (and pleased) by the number of people I met who were attending their first AABA event.

While summer is in full swing, I'm already looking ahead to the fall season, and election time – and I have two significant announcements in that regard, on both the local and statewide levels:

- **AABA ENDORSES DAVID CHIU FOR DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR.** District 3 in San Francisco, which includes Chinatown, has one of the largest concentrations of Asian American residents in the city. All members of AABA were invited via email in the month of May to comment on the qualifications of District 3 supervisorial candidates who requested consideration by AABA for endorsement for the upcoming November election. Candidates' statements were posted on the AABA website. Upon consideration of member comments and the merits of the candidates, the Board voted to endorse David Chiu for Supervisor in District 3.

David is familiar to all AABA members – he has been active in AABA for over 10 years, and led our organization as AABA's President two years ago, in 2006-2007. Member comments were overwhelmingly in favor of endorsing David. You can read more about David's candidacy at www.votedavidchiu.org.

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PRESIDENT'S PROFILES

This month, I'm pleased to present the profile of one of AABA's earliest leaders and its first female President: **TERESA TAN**, who served as AABA's President from 1980-1981. Teresa is currently a Deputy City Attorney in San Francisco practicing construction litigation. Her long history of public and community service includes stints on the State Commission on Judicial Nominees and Evaluation (JNE) and the Board of Asian Community Mental Health Services. She is a graduate of Smith College, UC Berkeley (where she received a masters' degree in East Asian Studies) and Boalt Hall School of Law.



What was the first AABA event that you attended? The first AABA "event" I attended was the first AABA dinner (with maybe 30-35 participants).

What was the most memorable AABA event you have attended to date? Probably the first AABA dinner, because we were so happy that we could get the organization started.

Who are your heroes in real life? My mother and other immigrants of her generation who left war-torn China in the late 1940's to start a new life in a strange country.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? Hard work and common sense are critical to being a good lawyer.

What is the most valuable thing a lawyer can do in terms of managing his or her time? Balance work and a personal life, because without a solid personal life of friends and family, one becomes stale at work and therefore less productive even though a lot of hours might be spent on a work project.

What was your favorite class in law school? I did not particularly enjoy law school, so no class stands out in my mind. While I was at Boalt, certainly there were some excellent professors such as Richard Buxbaum.

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

If you were not an attorney, what would you be? Possibly working in some type of public policy position.

What is your most treasured possession? While I have some very nice "things," I am not particularly attached to any object.

What is your most marked characteristic? Integrity and hard work.

If you could change one thing about yourself, it would be...? I would like to learn to sing on-key.

What's the last book you enjoyed? Serious work: *Ottoman Centuries* by Lord Kinross (because I was enchanted with Istanbul on a recent trip. I also finally got a little insight into the mess in Central Europe between Christians and Moslems). Recreational reading: *Glassblowers of Murano* – it's the most recent mystery I have read, because I read tons of them for fun.

What skill should every lawyer have? The ability to write clearly.

What's the worst physical pain you have ever experienced? A compound fracture on my right leg.

What is your favorite meal? Any good home-style Chinese food, particularly with a fresh steamed fish.

How do you make your favorite drink? Steep high quality tea leaves and drink.

Do you have a scar that tells a story? Yes. See response above regarding my right leg. I was river rafting with an office group years ago and broke my leg during the trip. It was a bit of an adventure to get me out of the Sierras to home base and a hospital.

Any recurring dreams? Sad to say, the typical dream of an A-type personality – that I have forgotten a meeting....

What one experience do you want to have before you die? Visit the Galapagos.

Summer Law Clerk Reception

By Ting-Mao Chao, Employment Committee Co-Chair

On June 19, 2008, over 150 attorneys and law clerks attended AABA's 21st Annual Summer Law Clerk Reception at Yank Sing Restaurant in San Francisco, hosted by Employment Committee co-chairs **Ting-Mao Chao, Elizabeth Loh, Phillip Lee, and Ivana Fedor**. This year, a tremendous amount of donations — over \$6,000! — 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-Chairs **Elizabeth Loh** explaining the committee's efforts and achievements in building a strong community among Asian American attorneys and law students in the bay area, and **Phillip Lee** announcing the committee's upcoming events, the Resume Review Workshop and Attorney Mentorship Program. This was followed by President **Celia Lee'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 Recipients, **Stella Kang** and **Dyanna Quizon**.



Employment Committee Co-Chair Phil Lee, Employment Committee Co-Chair Liz Loh, Employment Committee Co-Chair Ting-Mao Chao, President Celia Lee, Grant Recipient Dyanna Quizon, Grant Recipient Stella Kang, and Community Services Committee Co-Chair Robert Uy.



Reception Greeters Mike Adachi, David Yoshida and Pamela Ng

Employment Committee Co-Chair Phil Lee and Membership Committee Co-Chair Janet Li check out the attendees list



Phil Lee

J. Tao (Jones, Day), Rose Chan (USF Law Student), David and Jee Young You



l to r: Rowena Seto, Alison Yew, Irene Takahashi, Sabrina Lew, Karlo Nebres, Candice Hamant, Jimmy Ly and Oscar Jimenez



Dyanna Quizon
Boalt Hall School of Law

AABA Summer Grant 2008 Recipients
Stella Kang and Dyanna Quizon

Robert Uy



AABA Vice-President Garner Weng, Judge Garrett Wong and AABA President Celia Lee

Stella Kang
Boalt Hall School of Law



Attendees enjoy the evening



SAVE THE DATE!



API Legal Outreach's
33rd Anniversary, Lu'au by the Bay
Saturday, September 13th, 2008

at 3:30pm

Google World Headquarters
Mountain View

5th Annual Choy of Golf
with Donaldina Cameron House

Friday, September 12th
Summitpointe Golf Club, Milpitas



The Unfinished Business of Redress & Reparations: Justice Delayed is Justice Denied

By Emi Gusukuma, AABA Board Member

In 1992, the Japanese American community commemorated the 50th Year Remembrance of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the incarceration of approximately 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. As a senior at UCLA at the time, I helped to organize a pilgrimage to Manzanar—one of ten internment “camps” built during the war—the first ever sponsored and funded by the university. Though my parents were not interned (my mother was in Japan, my father was in Maui), I became a student of the internment experience, and immersed myself in Asian American Studies.

But even I didn't know the story of the Japanese Latin Americans kidnapped during World War II by the U.S. government.

Many Americans are now aware of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II; few, however, know about our government's activities in certain non-combatant countries against people of Japanese ancestry. An estimated 2,300 Japanese Latin Americans were uprooted from their homes, forcibly transported to the United States, and held in internment camps for use in prisoner-of-war exchanges with Japan. Eight hundred people were sent across the Pacific, while the remaining Japanese Latin Americans were held in camps until after the war ended. These men, women and children were taken from nations not directly involved in the war, and without any semblance of due process. Classified as “illegal aliens” by the U.S. government, they were subject to deportation during and after the war, in violation of their most fundamental civil and human rights.

Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-31) in the House of Representatives (with Congressmembers Daniel Lungren, Mike Honda, Chris Cannon) and Senator Daniel K. Inouye (HI) in the Senate (with Senators Ted Stevens, Carl Levin, Patrick Leahy, Lisa Murkowski, Robert Bennett) have introduced a bill entitled “Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act” (H.R. 662 and S. 381), which would establish a federal commission to investigate and determine the facts surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation of Latin Americans of Japanese descent by the U.S. government during World War II, and recommend any appropriate remedies based on the commission's findings. Today, the Japanese Latin American redress effort, spearheaded by the Campaign for Justice coalition, is at a critical juncture. (See accompanying Letter from the Coram Nobis Team for Fred Korematsu et al. on pages 8-9 of this newsletter)

Further study of the events surrounding the deportation and incarceration of Japanese Latin Americans is warranted. And, while a previous commission in the 1980s studied the internment of Japanese Americans during the war, there hasn't been a comprehensive study of the U.S. wartime enemy alien program, and the civil and human rights violations suffered by Japanese Latin Americans. For more than 60 years, the victims of these crimes have been seeking redress from the U.S. government. (Because they were not U.S. citizens at the time of their internment, Japanese Latinos were not included in reparations made to Japanese Americans in 1988.) Tragically, the number of surviving internees dwindles with each passing year.

Please support the redress efforts of the Japanese Latin Americans. At its June meeting, the Board of Directors of AABA voted unanimously to endorse this effort. For further information contact Campaign for Justice at: info@campaignforjusticejla.org or visit www.campaignforjusticejla.org.

June 2008

Dear Members of the Asian Pacific American Legal Community,

We still have unfinished business to attend to, and we need your help as soon as possible.

As members of the *coram nobis* legal teams that represented Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui in their successful challenges to their convictions for defying the wartime Internment of Japanese Americans, we urge you to strongly support the current effort to secure redress from Congress for the Japanese Latin Americans the U.S. government had kidnapped and imprisoned during World War II.

Twenty years ago, through the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, this legal community was part of a broad coalition that helped secure redress from Congress for Japanese Americans forcibly taken from their homes and communities during WWII, and imprisoned in desolate "internment" camps scattered throughout the Western U.S. and Arkansas. This victory was exhilarating, but it wasn't enough. The same legislation that had found the Internment the product of race hatred, wartime hysteria and a failure of political leadership, nonetheless did not offer redress to other victims of U.S. wartime policies, the thousands of Japanese Latin Americans our nation had kidnapped from countries throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America and interned in U.S. prison camps to be used as barter for American prisoner exchanges. Our government held these innocent people indefinitely without charge, seized their property and identity, forced them into hard labor, and cruelly deported many of them as "enemy aliens" after the war. Redress and justice to the surviving JLAs for this flagrant violation of civil and human rights is long overdue.

Today, the Japanese Latin American redress effort, spearheaded by the Campaign for Justice coalition, is at a critical juncture. Companion bills to initiate this redress effort by establishing a Congressional study commission have been re-introduced in the House and Senate: H.R. 662 (Becerra, D-CA) and S. 381 (Inouye, D-HI). The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee passed the bill last year. The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties has set hearings on the bill this coming July.

To prepare for these hearings, the Campaign for Justice needs your financial support. The Campaign for Justice needs to raise *at least* \$20,000 for grassroots organizing and important legislative and educational outreach, as well as to assist former JLA internees to travel to Washington D.C. to testify at the subcommittee hearings to make the public historical record necessary to support the redress legislation.

In the 1980s, Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Min Yasui were able to vacate their wartime convictions and expose the truth about the entrenched official racism and gross abuse of power that led to the Internment only with the moral support and determination of our communities. Although we donated our legal services *pro bono*, we were able to pursue the *coram nobis* cases only because our communities made generous financial donations to pay for the costs of litigation and public education. We achieved this victory together, and not only for Japanese Americans, but for all who care about securing justice and holding the government accountable for its wrongs.

Today, this fight for justice continues for the over 2,200 people of Japanese ancestry our government had kidnapped from their homes in Latin America. **Please support the redress efforts for Japanese Latin Americans by making a donation to the Campaign for Justice today.** Time is of the essence as the more elderly internees are quickly passing away. Take other steps also as you can. For example: send a letter to your Congressional representatives supporting the bills, tell others about these important bills, get your organization to endorse these bills. It will take all of our support to make justice a reality for the Japanese Latin American internees.

Sincerely,

Dale Minami: Lead Counsel, *Korematsu v. United States*

Rod Kawakami: Lead Counsel, *Hirabayashi v. United States*

Peggy Nagae, Lead Counsel, *Yasui v. United States*

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Please mail your contribution to:

Campaign For Justice

P.O. Box 1384, El Cerrito, CA 94530

For further information contact Campaign for Justice at:

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AABA-API Legal Outreach Free Legal Clinic

By Ivy Lee

The San Francisco AABA-API Legal Outreach clinic is held every 4th Tuesday of the month from 6pm to 8pm at UC Hastings College of Law, 100 McAllister Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco. For more information, please contact your Community Service Committee or Christine Hoang at choang@apilegaloutreach.org/415.567.6255.

**(Upcoming dates: July 22, August 26) **

The Oakland AABA-API Legal Outreach clinic is held every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6pm to 8pm at 1212 Broadway (directly across from the Oakland City Center BART station), 5th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. For more information, please contact your Community Service Committee or Ngan Le at nle@apilegaloutreach.org/510.251.2846.

(Upcoming dates: July 16, August 20)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JULY

Resume Review Workshop: **July 19**

Oakland AABA-API Legal Outreach clinic. **July 16.** 6pm to 8pm at 1212 Broadway, 5th Floor, Oakland

San Francisco AABA-API Legal Outreach clinic. **July 22.** 6pm to 8pm at UC Hastings College of Law, 100 McAllister Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco

AUGUST

Annual AABA Baseball Night, **August 8**, AT&T Park.

National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorneys/Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California 10th Anniversary Dinner: **August 15-16**, SF

Oakland AABA-API Legal Outreach clinic. **August 20.** 6pm to 8pm at 1212 Broadway, 5th Floor, Oakland

San Francisco AABA-API Legal Outreach clinic. **August 26.** 6pm to 8pm at UC Hastings College of Law, 100 McAllister Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco

SEPTEMBER

5th Annual Choy of Golf with Donaldina Cameron House. **September 12.** Summitpointe Golf Club, Milpitas

API Legal Outreach, 33rd Anniversary, Lu'au by the Bay, **September 13.** 3:30pm. Google World Headquarters, Mountain View

OCTOBER

Second Annual Minority Bar Coalition Unity Conference, **October 11.**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *continued from page 1*

(Speaking of former AABA Presidents, I thought I'd check in with AABA's very first female President: Teresa Tan. You can read her President's Profile in this issue.)

- **VOW TO VOTE NO ON 8.** In May, the California Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional state marriage laws that discriminate against gay and lesbian couples. In June, California Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced that the initiative to pass a constitutional amendment to ban marriage for same sex couples in California has qualified for the November ballot. It has been numbered as Proposition 8. The initiative, if successful, would amend the California constitution to only recognize marriages "between a man and a woman."

This past month, I (along with Board members Emi Gusukuma and Juna Kim, and Civil Rights Committee co-chairs Steve Ngo and Maria Weydemuller) participated in the inaugural meeting of the Bar Association of San Francisco Marriage Fairness Committee – a coalition of organizations and individuals in the Bay Area legal community who are united in efforts to ensure that the initiative is defeated, and that fairness and equality prevail in November. As Asian Americans, we have a special perspective on the denial of civil rights. As members of the legal community and the Asian American community, I hope that you will join these efforts. For more information, I urge you to visit the websites for API Equality (www.apiequality.org) and Equality California (www.eqca.org).

Last but not least: while a chapter may have closed on the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II with the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, unfinished business still exists. Did you know that during World War II, over 2,000 Japanese Latin Americans were kidnapped by the U.S. government, brought to the U.S. and held in internment camps, and used as bartering chips in prisoner-of-war exchanges with Japan? I didn't, until around a month ago. To learn more about this shameful episode in U.S. history and how to support redress efforts, read Board member Emi Gusukuma's article in this issue, and visit the Campaign for Justice website at www.campaignforjusticejla.org.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

PRESIDENT'S PROFILE *continued from page 2*

If you suddenly inherited a million dollar, what would you do with the money? Divide it into three portions: 1) take care of my family; 2) donate to some of my favorite charities; and 3) travel.

What do you like to do when you're not working? Eat with friends, travel, garden, attend the theater and cultural events.

What is your favorite vacation destination? Paris





What is your favorite restaurant? I enjoy finding small, local ethnic food restaurants that have great cooking and a simple ambience.




Most AABA members probably don't know that I... love to cook and have taken many cooking courses.

AABA is... an impressive vehicle providing visibility and a voice for Asian-American attorneys in the Bay Area. It has grown from the small association of 30 or so lawyers that could fit around 3 tables at an annual dinner to hundreds of participants.

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