



AABA Newsletter

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Catching Up With Trailblazer Holly J. Fujie

By Alice Chin, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair

Now that the 2009 year has come to a close, AABA reflects back over the past year about milestones achieved in the Asian American community at large and how AABA has played a role in that history. AABA applauds those involved who have made a difference. Among those included is **Holly J. Fujie**.

September marked the end of Holly Fujie's term as State Bar President. She was elected as the 84th president of the State Bar by the Board of Governors to the 216,000-member organization (now 222,000 as of November 2009) and was sworn in on September 25, 2008 at the State Bar Annual Meeting held in Monterey.

She was the first Asian American and the third woman to be elected president. Margaret Morrow, now a federal judge in Los Angeles, was elected in 1993 and Karen Nobumoto, a Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney, was elected in 2001. More than a dozen women have run unsuccessful campaigns for the presidency since 1989.

Earlier this year, she was named chair of Senator Dianne Feinstein's judicial advisory committee to President Obama to screen nominees for the positions of U.S. District Court Judge and United States Attorney in the Central District of California. She has advised the California Senators and the White House on federal judicial and U.S. Attorney nominations since 1992.

As the administrative arm to the state Supreme Court, the State Bar of California was founded in 1927 by the state legislature as the regulatory agency for the state's lawyers, charged with admitting and disciplining attorneys.

Prior to her service as the state bar president, she served on the Board of Governors for two years and as Vice President of the State Bar for one year. During her year as Vice President, she served as chair of the board's Regulation, Admissions and Discipline committee.

In 2003, Holly was the recipient of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Distinguished Service Award, and she has since received the Public Service Award of the Japanese American Bar Association of Los Angeles, the Distinguished Advocate for Diversity Award of the Philippine American

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HOLLY FUJIE *continued from page 1*

Bar Association of Los Angeles, the Alumna of the Year Award for 2008-2009 of the California Law Review, the National Association of Women Lawyers' M. Ashley Dickerson Diversity Award, the "Spirit of CEB Award" by California Continuing Education of the Bar, the California Bench-Bar Coalition's 2009 Leadership Award, the "Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award" of the Leadership Academy for Women of Color Attorneys, and the ABA General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division's "Difference Makers' Award."

Achieving excellence has always been a motivating factor in her life. Although she is quite modest about it, one can say that she is an overachiever. Holly was a child wonder. Growing up in the Bay Area, she skipped two grades by the age of nine, graduated high school at age 16 and completed college in three years with a double major. She attended the University of California, at Berkeley and graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science (Highest Honors) and Economics (Honors). Subsequent to that she attended Boalt Hall, serving on the California Law Review, and graduated in 1978.

In 1978, she joined a 70-attorney law firm as a litigator, became partner in two subsequent firms, and is currently a shareholder at Buchalter Nemer in Los Angeles, a business law firm of 175 attorneys, where she

has practiced for the past 19 years, specializing in financial institutions and insurance and surety industry related complex litigation.

Over the past year, Holly has been quite a presence in the Bay Area. On October 13, 2008, she spoke at the Minority Bar Coalition Unity Reception. On November 10, 2008, the Bay Area Asian Pacific Islander bar associations including AABA held a reception welcoming and honoring her (see December 2008 newsletter) as the State Bar President. Additionally, she has visited the Bay Area on numerous occasions during her term to attend local bar functions including the Alameda County Bar Association Installation Dinner in January 2009 as a guest (see February 2009 newsletter), and to speak at events such as ACBA's Volunteer Legal Services dinner last spring, U.C. Berkeley's Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice's symposium on legal services, Boalt Hall's Symposium on the California Supreme Court, the speaker series of the Greenlining Institute in Berkeley, the Charles Houston Bar Association's Installation dinner, the State Bar's Solo and Small Firm Summit in January and the Advancing Diversity Fair hosted by Oakland firm Burnham Brown and co-sponsored by AABA last September. Of course, she was in attendance at the State Bar reception in San Francisco when the California State Bar Diversity Awards were presented, including one to AABA (see June 2009 newsletter)!

She is also active in the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles and is the co-author of several CEB publications.

She lives in Los Angeles with her husband of over 30 years, Lee Cotugno, a Beverly Hills attorney practicing employment law. They have two children-- Sabrina, 19, who is studying Character Animation at the California Institute of the Arts and Thomas, 13. Holly's hobby is collecting antiques and she loves to travel – she took her family to Italy last summer as a "thank you" for their support during her year as State Bar President.

I recently interviewed this homegrown legal powerhouse. She has been a trailblazer her entire life and she doesn't plan to stop there. AABA is very proud of our native leader.

What motivated you to run for State Bar President?

From being on the Board of Governors, I could see how the State Bar President could do so much good by creating important programs for lawyers and also by speaking out on critical issues such as diversity and access to justice. As an APA woman, in particular, I wanted to give a voice and serve as an example to minorities and women in the profession.

How did your experience growing up in the Bay Area prepare you for the State Bar Presidency?

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HOLLY FUJIE *continued from previous page*

I grew up in a predominantly African American community in West Oakland, with many friends of all races. Coming from this background, I learned to get along with everyone and to listen to everyone's concerns. In the activist atmosphere of the '60's and '70's in the Bay Area, I also learned the importance of speaking out and of taking action – lessons that stood me in good stead as State Bar President.

How did your past experiences shape your vision as president of the State Bar?

I have been a lawyer in private practice for over 30 years, but my parents and grandparents were interned during World War II. So I have always been acutely aware of the need to address injustice in the world and to do all I can to increase access to the judicial system to all. So I have great concern for all lawyers trying to make a living in the profession, while always keeping in mind the sacred trust that we as lawyers have to ensure equal justice for all. It was my privilege as President of the State Bar to address issues of access to justice and to act to protect the interests of the public as well as of the profession.

Did you take a sabbatical leave from your law firm as a shareholder to attend to your state bar obligations? If not, how successful would you say you were with multi-tasking?

I was extremely fortunate to be part of a law firm, Buchalter Nemer, which values public service and is willing to make

financial sacrifices to support the service of its members. Therefore, although I was not on sabbatical, the Firm treated my service as State Bar President as if it were paying work, and I was able to do the best job possible in that role without worrying about billable hours.

What personal sacrifices did you make in order to serve?

I spent an average of 5 days out of each week on the road – sometimes flying back and forth between the coasts and within the State 3 or four times in one week. I spoke over 200 times last year and tried to make each speech unique. It was an exhausting schedule, and I missed my family terribly, but in other respects it was exhilarating and satisfying. I knew that I had one year to make an impact, and I like to think that I gave it all I had.

How did it feel to return to the Bay Area to attend to your duties as state bar president?

It was great to come back to the Bay Area as State Bar President. I was up in the City (you can tell I'm from the Bay Area from my use of the term...) or in the East or South Bays at least once and sometimes twice a week all year. It was so good to be able to reconnect with so many old friends and to make new ones.

What was it like for you to travel throughout the state for bar business?

Exhausting but wonderful. Through the end of the calendar year I spent most of my time in California (with the notable

exception of a wonderful trip to Seattle for the NAPABA convention, where I spoke at two plenary sessions and where the California delegation gave me a lovely reception). From January on, though, I spent a lot of time on the East Coast speaking, though I still kept up quite a crowded calendar of speaking engagements in California. Luckily, I love to give speeches and to meet new people.

Where were the legal service programs most underserved in the state and how did you carry out the efforts to improve the level of service?

There are so many areas where access to justice needs to be improved in the State – rural areas, those with English language proficiency issues, the disabled, the elderly and the working poor. As State Bar President, I worked with organizations like the Public Interest Clearinghouse to address some of these issues, and I continue to work as Chair-Elect of Bet Tzedek, a wonderful legal aid organization here in Los Angeles, and as a member of the Board of the California Bar Foundation, which distributes grants to amazing legal aid projects all over the state.

Prior to the start of your term, you had expressed concerns about the need for the legal profession to commit to pro bono activities, the need to increase access to justice, the need for diversity in the legal profession, the need

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HOLLY FUJIE *continued from previous page*

to resolve the bar's financial problems, the need to improve the relationship between the state legislature and state bar, the need to ratify the 10 year plan to keep up with technology, the role of public members of the state bar in the proceedings of the Board of Governors, the need to increase participation of young lawyers in the state bar and the affordability of professional liability insurance. How did you prioritize these concerns and what efforts were made to resolve them?

It was an ambitious agenda, wasn't it? We worked with the public interest entities throughout the State to coordinate their need for pro bono help with furloughed and laid off attorneys; we helped to coordinate assistance on foreclosure matters to all Californians; I spoke all over the country on diversity issues and tried to assist young minorities and women to reach their goals in the profession; we worked to reduce the deficit in the State Bar's budget; we worked closely with the legislature and got a bar dues passed (though not signed!); we started the process of updating the State Bar's technology system; we used the public members in a myriad of ways to employ their talents for the benefit of the Bar; I helped CYLA set up a mentoring resource on the website and encouraged young lawyers to apply for State Bar committees; and we conducted a survey on insurance affordability and availability to determine the scope

of the problem. All in all, we did manage to address many of these issues and I am proud of what the Board of Governors was able to accomplish in my year as President.

What three controversial issues impressed upon you as you were making the rounds in the state?

The issue that took up a lot of my time was the opposition to the location of the 2009 State Bar Annual Meeting at the San Diego Hyatt Manchester. There was also the embezzlement by a State Bar employee, which was revealed to me on the day I took office. Third was the foreclosure crisis and the need to mobilize pro bono assistance for homeowners, and to protect the public from those who would exploit them.

During your tenure, there were many national legal issues that became the focus of debate. What impacts to the public did they have on a state level? What impacts were there to the legal community in the state?

I was President at the time that Barack Obama was elected President, an historic time for the entire country. It focused the public on many issues involving social justice and equity, and that focus brought the issue of access to justice to the forefront in California. In addition, the economic crisis affected lawyers in a way I have not seen before in my 31 years in practice, and we had

to deal with that at the State Bar.

What have you learned from your experience as state bar president?

I learned that there is so much that lawyers, and especially California lawyers, do to make this country a better place. They give so much time, energy and money to increase access to justice, and they care so deeply about this country. I also learned that there is so much left to do, and that we all must strive every day to improve our legal system and to make our country's judicial process more fair for all.

What advice do you have for attorneys who want to become more active in the State Bar?

I applaud anyone who wants to become more involved in the State Bar. I would advise them to check out the State Bar's website for the committees and task forces that are looking for volunteers and to apply. Getting involved in the State Bar is not only good for your career, it is good for your self-esteem. Caring about the profession and doing what you can to make it better makes you a happier lawyer, and a happier lawyer is a happier human being!

How do you compare your experience as the bar president to your other activities outside of work?

Being State Bar President was the most intense activity I have ever done, and the most fun.

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HOLLY FUJIE *continued from previous page*

The opportunity to use my “bully pulpit” to talk about those issues which are closest to my heart – equal access to justice, diversity and the advancement of women – was absolutely priceless and I feel I am the luckiest person on earth to have been given that opportunity.

As an Asian American, do you think that your stature improved relations between the public and Asian American attorneys? How?

I think that my being the first APA State Bar President helped in two ways – first, it allowed the public to see an APA woman in a leadership role as President of the largest mandatory bar in the country, which I believe changed the perception of many; and second, it allowed APAs to see one of their own in a position of authority, which many told me empowered them to seek high positions themselves.

During the past year, what three events did you enjoy the most while serving as State Bar President and why?

That’s a tough one! First would have to be my swearing in. Nothing will impress a 12-year-old boy more than seeing his mom sworn in as State Bar President by the Chief Justice of the State of California. Second is probably the NAPABA Convention in Seattle, where I got to speak to two huge APA audiences. And third, well, I am going to cheat and say the three receptions that the Northern

California, Los Angeles and San Diego APA and minority bars gave for me over the year. I was so proud to be honored in this way by the APA communities of California.

What changes do you foresee with the State Bar in the next five years?

I think technology will change the way that the State Bar does business – making it easier to communicate with lawyers and to spread information.

What is the debate over the state bar dues all about?

There are a number of issues that the Governor raised in his veto message, but I believe that his concerns with the alleged leak of the judicial rating by JNE were the primary cause of the veto. That is being investigated, and I believe that the Governor and the Board will resolve all issues soon so that the Bar can send out its dues bill.

Looking back on your experience as state bar president, what if anything was there that you encountered that surprised you?

I was surprised at the number of opportunities I had to speak. I think as a woman and as a minority, there were many groups that wanted to hear what I had to say on diversity and women’s issues, and I was delighted to have the chance to speak out.

What is next on the horizon for you?

I would like to say “a nice long vacation!” but I am back in practice full time and still speaking around the country on issues that mean a lot to me. Plus I am happily back involved with a number of wonderful organizations. I am chairing the Boalt Hall Fund, which is in the middle of an extremely ambitious fundraising effort for the Berkeley Law School, and I am President Elect of the Boalt Hall Alumni Association. I am Chair-Elect of Bet Tzedek, a wonderful legal aid organization based in Los Angeles, which assists over 10,000 of the Los Angeles poor with free legal representation. I also sit on the Boards of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, the Federal Bar Association of Los Angeles, the California Bar Foundation (check off that box on your dues bill when it does come out!) and VIP Mentors. I serve on the Advisory Board of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles and on various task forces and advisory groups, and as Chair of Senator Feinstein’s Judicial Advisory Board for the Central District of California, which recommended the nomination of Jacqueline Nguyen, now the first Vietnamese American Article III judge in the United States. I am, however, home much more than I was last year, spending time with my husband, and our son and our daughter, when she is home from college. In other words, I am having a wonderful time and enjoying life!

AABA THANKS THE FOLLOWING SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF 2009!

Monty Agarwal
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President's Column

Garner Weng, AABA President

New Beginnings

I just received an American Bar Association newsletter that says that big law firms laid off more than 12,000 people in 2009—calling it “the worst year ever.” That number doesn’t include the many law students and recent graduates who haven’t been able to get jobs in the first place. So I think it’s fair to say that it’s been a rough year for lots of folks in our greater communities (and most everywhere)—and a rough end to 2009. Just ask Yao Ming, who’s had to watch the NBA season start and pass him by with him stuck on the shelf, and Tiger Woods, who’s, um, “on the shelf” too.

But there are lots of reasons to think that 2010 will be different than 2009.

The ‘10,’ for instance. The ‘10’ in 2010 is a different number than the number ‘9’. And it will be the Year of the Tiger, and the Tiger is of course a totally different sort of creature than the Ox.

Plus, the psychic hotline advises that there’s nothing but good news ahead.

Okay, so I admit, I’ve never bought that much into New Year’s. I like celebrating it and wishing a happy one to folks just fine—but internally, I’ve always thought it just an arbitrary line. There’s not enough difference between December 31 and January 1 for me to “close the book” on 2009. I’m still feeling too many effects of 2009 today. I didn’t make any New Year’s Resolutions, and I haven’t for a long time. I do okay with personal goals—not terribly, not great—and my personal goals on January 1 were the same as they were on December 31.

But today as I write this, just barely over a week into 2010, I’ve been noticing that, coincidence or not, arbitrary line or not, I’ve been receiving a lot of good news since the New Year began—and some of it does seem timed as fresh starts to the New Year. So maybe New Year’s is an arbitrary construct—but if it spurs people on, who cares?

As of the New Year, our former AABA President Edwin Prather officially opened his own practice, the Law Offices of Edwin Prather. Exciting stuff!

As of the New Year, AABA member John Cu

became a partner at my firm, adding one more to the number of APA partners in the Bay Area. (See a profile of John in this issue.)

In the first weekend of the New Year, two friends of mine—one an AABA member and former committee co-chair—got engaged. If you knew either of them, let alone both, it would warm your heart to get this news—as it did for me. (And at least one of them is very lucky to have the other.)

In the first full week of the New Year, President Barack Obama moved quickly to declare that he would re-nominate Honorable Edward Chen to the United States District Court of the Northern District of California when the Senate reconvenes.

This morning, in a feeble attempt to play basketball, I found myself guarding a 20-something who’s roughly three times faster and ten times more athletic than I am. I didn’t do too well, but I managed not to break my ankles when he’d juke me; and a few hours later, my legs ache, but I can still walk. And that is good news.

It’s my wife’s birthday today, I’ve managed not to forget, and it marks another year of my managing to convince her to stick with me. And that, my friend, is good news to start off 2010 indeed.

Maybe there’s something to this psychic hotline after all.

Happy New Year, everyone!

Garner Weng is AABA's 33rd President. He is a partner at Hanson Bridgett LLP, where his law practice concentrates on technology and intellectual property. Please contact him to get more involved with AABA, give your ideas about AABA, or otherwise provide comments, suggestions, flattery, or complaints: gweng@hansonbridgett.com

AABA SPONSOR ATTORNEY PROFILES



John T. Cu
Hanson Bridgett LLP

John is a partner at Hanson Bridgett LLP, where his main area of practice is litigation. John has tried over 20 jury trials to verdict. Prior to joining Hanson Bridgett, he worked as a deputy district attorney for the County of Contra Costa, in charge of the Felony Preliminary

Hearing Unit of the Office's Western Division/Branch. John currently represents corporations and businesses in the following industries: financial; consumer; software/technology; retail; and fashion.

Did you always aspire to be an attorney?

Yes, upon realizing that it would be highly unlikely that I would be the 4th Asian to ever play professional hockey.

If you were not an attorney, what would you be?

If being realistic is not a requirement in answering this question, a professional hockey player.

What are some of your favorite non-work, non-AABA activities?

Ice hockey, boxing (I currently teach boxing at an SF gym), cycling.

Who are your heroes?

My parents
Nelson Mandela
(not necessarily in that order)

If you could change one thing about yourself it would be...?

My bank account...

I am a huge fan of...

Ninoy Aquino
The current (and outgoing) AABA President
Manny Pacquiao
(not necessarily in that order)

What one experience do you want to have before you die?

Hike Patagonia.

How do you make your favorite drink?

1. Open a bottle of bold and full bodied Cabernet
2. Get a wine glass
3. Pour said Cabernet into wine glass (necessarily in this order)

Who are your favorite writers, musicians, artists...?

Charles Dickens
Sun Tzu
Leonardo de Vinci

Describe one of the happiest, proudest, or most exciting moments of your life.

Birth of my niece, Serina (exciting).

What do you wish you knew in law school or as a new lawyer that you know now?

1. The practice of law as a business, client relationships, business development (an ongoing learning process).
2. That one does not actually need to read *Pennoyer v. Neff* to understand the import of its ruling.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job?

Be true to yourself.

What was the first AABA event you attended?
I believe it was the 2005 AABA Holiday Party.

What was the most memorable AABA event you have attended to date?

2008 Annual Dinner.

Pick two or three words that you believe your clients would use to describe you.

"likeable enough . . ."

Pick two or three words that you believe your colleagues would use to describe you.

Hockey? Seriously??

Each year, we recognize our Platinum and higher-level sponsors of our Annual Dinner by featuring profiles of their attorneys. Please join us in thanking these attorneys and their organizations for their support of AABA. The answers in the profile are provided directly by the attorneys based on questions originally developed by Past President Edwin Prather and since built upon by Annie Tsai and Garner Weng. This is believed to be the first month in which Da Vinci is mentioned in two separate parts of the AABA Newsletter (see the other attorney profile in this issue).

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**Megan MeYoung Chung
Townsend and Townsend
and Crew LLP**

Megan is an associate at Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP, where her main area of practice is litigation. She specializes in antitrust, patent, and trademark matters. Megan

has had the honor of representing big companies as well as small inventors in interesting IP cases—such as Apple in *Apple Inc. v. Psystar Corp.*, where she and her client recently received summary judgment and permanent injunction in their favor, and Mr. Ken Huddleston, a pioneer in fishing lures, in *Wedgetail v. Huddleston Deluxe, Inc.* Megan is also currently a member of AABA's Judiciary/Public Appointments Committee.

Did you always aspire to be an attorney?

Growing up, I actually aspired to be a painter or a scientist or both like Da Vinci. After studying and trying both avenues, I decided I would prefer more social interaction.

What are some of your favorite non-work, non-AABA activities?

I love simply hanging out with my family. I also volunteer and mentor teenagers, who may be, for one reason or another, facing challenges in their lives. They are a joy, even during the melodramatic and angst-ridden moments.

Who are your heroes?

There are so many; definitely my mother, who overcame social and family constraints and dared to dream to become a violinist and raise children as a single mother. Marie Curie and Leonardo Da Vinci are couple others.

Describe one of the happiest, proudest, or most exciting moments of your life.

My happiest moment is a close tie between when

my husband proposed and when I became a Christian. My proudest and exciting moments occurred when opposing counsel congratulated me after I argued my first claim construction hearing, followed quickly in succession by the court's order in my client's favor and plaintiff's dismissal with prejudice the case.

What do you wish you knew in law school or as a new lawyer that you know now?

Bar courses are great for the bar, but clinics and practical courses are what really helps you as a litigator. If I had to do law school all over again, I would replace a few of my bar courses with more practical, hands-on experience.

I always advise new associates to ask partners and senior associates to lunch and get to know them. I found out that they really appreciate it and working on a team with them becomes easier as you know your colleagues better.

What was the first AABA event you attended?

While I was starting my second year in law school, I attended an interviewing practicum where an AABA member critiqued my interviewing skills. It was really helpful.

What was the most memorable AABA event you have attended to date?

The Christmas parties are so much fun that it is always memorable to me.

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Billy Chan, Rene Acosta, and Rose Zimmerman

Eumi Lee, Celia Lee and Garner Weng

AABA Holiday Party

By Janet Li, Membership Committee Co-Chair

The AABA holiday party was a huge success, as it has always been in the past. I enjoyed catching up with old friends and making new ones in the legal community. Thank you Social for organizing this festive event! In case we missed you, please join us at our upcoming AABA events!

Photo credits: Janet Li, Membership Committee Co-Chair



Daisy Hung and Eugene Pak

Soo Jin Lyuh and Neill Tseng

Janet Li and Soo Jin Lyuh

Robert Uy, Wayne Chi and Charles Jung

Emi Gusukuma, Justin Nishioka, Jenny Huang and Clifford Yin



Photo credit: Nancy Jacot-Bell

Professor Eumi K. Lee (center), an Associate Clinical Professor of Law at the Civil Justice Clinic and present board member of AABA, accepted the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach ("APILO") Legal Impact Award on behalf of the Hastings Civil Justice Clinic. The award was presented by APILO Board member Shaamini Babu (left), an attorney with Saltzman & Johnson Law Corporation, and Khanh Nguyen (right), APILO staff member.

The Hastings Civil Justice Clinic

By George Kawamoto, Hastings 2L

Last month, the Hastings Civil Justice Clinic received the 2009 Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach ("APILO") Legal Impact Award at APILO's 34th anniversary celebration, "Lu'au by the Bay." The Civil Justice Clinic was selected for its work in promoting community service and civil justice with its students and the broader legal profession, as well as its support of the free monthly clinic that was co-founded by Eumi K. Lee, an Associate Clinical Professor of Law at the Civil Justice Clinic and present board member of AABA; staff attorneys at APILO; and AABA's Community Service Committee. This free clinic is sponsored by APILO and AABA, and staffed by attorneys from both organizations.

The Civil Justice Clinic gives students lead responsibility for handling real cases under the supervision of full-time faculty. Faculty members are experienced attorneys who value the importance of tailoring teaching and scholarship to meet the needs of clients and students. Although the projects undertaken principally affect low-income individuals and communities, students interested in all areas of practice benefit from the experience. The educational objectives of the clinic emphasize client-centered lawyering, skills training, and self-reflection so that students can learn from real practice, develop confidence in performing skills, and articulate their own visions of effective lawyering.

As a student of the Civil Justice Clinic's Individual Representation program, I have found the clinic experience to be the cornerstone of my legal education. Supervised by Professor Eumi Lee and coordinating with a nonprofit organization, I took lead responsibility for some tenants' claims against the landlord of a 100-unit complex. The

cases will proceed from initial interviews through counseling, fact investigation, and case planning to a negotiated settlement or final hearing. At each step of the case, Professor Lee has modeled the ability to see to the heart of issues and encouraged students to persist in overcoming them with effective strategies and hard work. In this context, I have been learning the importance of interpersonal dimensions of lawyering, careful planning and preparation in counseling and advocacy, problem-solving, and context-sensitive approaches.

In addition to providing practical and progressive skills training, the clinic experience has greatly reinforced my inner determination to serve clients and help people to pursue civil justice through the law. Due to the myriad changing dynamics of the case, I have found many opportunities to reflect on and revise my understanding of the concept of justice. Additionally, I have gained the experience of preserving and reinforcing my determination to pursue justice in the face of daunting practical challenges. As the ideal of social responsibility is easy to begrudge amid adversity, mentorship has been a crucial aspect of the clinical experience. Again, at each step of the case, Professor Lee and the entire Civil Justice Clinic faculty have modeled an unflagging devotion to support the clinic students. Overall, my deep appreciation for this mentoring and the invigoration I feel from doing something tangible to help someone has spurred me to push beyond my current capacity. I anticipate this inner realization will be one of the greatest lessons I will receive in law school and will inform my trajectory as an attorney and as a person. Thus, I echo the community in congratulating the Civil Justice Clinic for being recognized for the breadth of its legal impact.

Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

Election for Director-at-Large Seats 2010-2011

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Three (3) Director-at-Large positions are available in this election cycle. The candidates are as follows: Wayne J. Chi, Hung Chang, Kristina H. Chung, Rhean Fajardo, Khurshid Khoja, Noelle Nguyen, and Salle E. Yoo. Ballots will be mailed to attorneys who were active members as of December 1, 2009. If you are a voting member, please mail your completed ballot so that it is postmarked before and arrives no later than Friday, February 5, 2010. The candidates' statements are included below.

WAYNE J. CHI

Energy. Ideas. Passion. Responsiveness.

My commitment to AABA and its efforts began when I served as AABA's law student representative ('07-'08) while attending Santa Clara University School of Law. My role as a student representative allowed me to better connect the school and its students with the greater Bay Area legal community by directly linking students to mentors, forums, and other AABA networking benefits.

My enthusiasm for AABA continued as a lawyer when I served on AABA's Membership Committee ('08-'09) right after law school. We identified issues underlying AABA's membership structure and proposed a series of remedial action steps. These included increasing membership and its retention through a new fee structure, various marketing strategies, and implementing a best practice for the collection of membership dues.

As an AABA Director, I intend to continue working with my colleagues on not only improving AABA's efficiency with its current operations, but also innovating AABA by identifying and implementing new ideas and projects through completion. I also intend to continue improving AABA's student directed services and the efficiency in which they are delivered. My background as a solo-

practitioner right out of law school will also bring a unique perspective in helping bridge law students with reality.

Wayne received a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service in International Politics and Asian Studies from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and a Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law. He practices green business, business, and immigration law.

HUNG CHANG

I have actively served on the AABA Community Services Committee since 2007. With help from other co-chairs, we have been running the monthly AABA-API Legal Outreach clinics in San Francisco and Oakland. These clinics were formed to assist low-income individuals with their legal problems. We have also expanded our community service efforts and have included endeavors such as Chinatown clean-up. We are currently working with VLSP to coordinate the second annual Law Day (a Saturday all-day clinic covering a wide range of legal issues and serving a broad set of clients).

As a director on the AABA board, I hope to contribute to the already-well-run organization by making the organization even more valuable to its members - those in the non-profit sector and for-profit sector alike. I intend to continue assisting the Community Services Committee

continued on next page

CANDIDATE STATEMENT *continued from page 13*

with its provision of volunteering opportunities. I also hope to encourage greater networking and mentorship among AABA members. Networking and mentorship are especially important in this economic climate, and critical for the growth and career development of young attorneys. As someone who has benefitted from the support of the Asian American legal community in the Bay Area, I am convinced that we can only succeed together if we help each other and leverage off each other's strengths.

I look forward to serving AABA as a director so I can help carry out the responsibilities of those who are charged with making AABA the great organization that it is. Thank you for your consideration.

KRISTINA H. CHUNG

Hello! I have been a general member of AABA for several years but now hope to become more directly involved as a Board member. For over two years, I have actively served on AABA's Judiciary Committee. My involvement with the Committee is particularly meaningful to me because of my personal interest in encouraging diversity within the legal profession. I am proud of the Committee's efforts to increase the number of judges of Asian descent and from other minority backgrounds, and I would continue working toward that goal if elected to serve on the Board.

My belief in diversity also directs my focus in our law offices. As a partner at Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley, I designed (and am currently Director of) the firm's Associate Mentorship Program. If elected, I would encourage AABA's efforts to help mentor its members to break through cultural and gender biased stereotypes to reach their professional goals. I would similarly support the Judiciary Committee's proposed mentor program for experienced minority attorneys interested in becoming judges.

Finally, as Co-Chair of RMKB's Diversity Committee and working out of Redwood City, I helped initiate

the San Mateo County Bar Association's first diversity program and became the Diversity Task Force Chair in its inaugural year. The Task Force's efforts helped almost double SMCBA's new membership compared to previous years. If elected, I would like to try to work on growing membership and encouraging participation in AABA of the attorneys working outside of San Francisco.

Thank you.

RHEAN FAJARDO

I have been active with AABA since I was a law student as USF. I have served on the Newsletter Committee for the past four years and as the Operations Director for two years. As the Operations Director, I am responsible for membership management, website maintenance, email blasts to the membership, responding to general inquiries from the public, event planning, and other projects as assigned by the Board of Directors, Officers, and committees.

I am a Deputy City Attorney with the City of Daly City. My practice primarily consists of representing the city in various proceedings and hearings before official bodies and counseling department heads in establishing and recommending changes in policies and procedures to meet legal requirements.

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. I look forward to an opportunity to serve as a Director and build upon the achievements of our past leaders. Thank you for your consideration.

KHURSHID KHOJA

I'm running for the Director at Large to maintain representation of South Asian and Muslim Americans on the AABA board. I think it is critical for the Asian American legal community to continue embracing these communities and

continued on next page

CANDIDATE STATEMENT *continued from previous*

serving their needs, especially given the current political climate where the civil rights of these communities need to be vigilantly defended on behalf of all American. I currently serve on the board of the Asian Law Caucus and the Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers, and a trustee of the North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA) Foundation. I have previously served as President of the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California (SABA-NC), Vice President of the SABA-NC foundation, co-chair of a BASF subcommittee on Marriage Equality and have received a Minority Bar Coalition Unity Award. I look forward to serving AABA if I am elected. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

NOELLE NGUYEN

I have had the great privilege of being an active member of AABA since law school. Through AABA, I have met friends and mentors who have provided me with a home in the legal community. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to organize various AABA events, such as the AABA Dinner afterparty and the AABA/APBA SV Summer Mixer. Currently, I am a co-chair of the Mentorship Committee where, with others, I have been able to build on AABA's relationship with Bay Area law schools in mentoring our future attorneys. This year, I was able to work with GGU law school to host the AABA Mentorship Brunch, saving venue fees and allowing the Mentorship Committee to stretch and reallocate our limited budget.

My goal in AABA has always been to build relationships between my peers and colleagues. Since AABA has been instrumental in my growth as an attorney, I want to give back to this organization as a Director. Specifically, I want to help AABA give law students and attorneys the same opportunities that AABA provided for me.

Outside of AABA, I am an Attorney at The Law Offices of Santana & Hart where I practice insurance defense litigation as in-house counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance Corporation. I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area

and hope to one day be as great as Billy Chan. Thank you for your consideration.

SALLE E. YOO

Throughout my career, giving back to the community through involvement with AABA and other organizations has been a top priority and now, I seek the opportunity to serve on the AABA Board.

Prior Service with AABA

As a junior attorney, I volunteered at the AABA legal clinics and made friends and networked at AABA social activities. Since 2005, I have been a member of the Judiciary Committee, serving as Co-Chair since 2007. I have led the committee in organizing AABA's Meet the Judges events and Judges Dinners. In the last year, the Committee has implemented a judicial mentor/mentee program and we are currently engaged in adopting a strategic plan. I have also served as an AABA mentor.

Demonstrated Commitment to Community Service

- KABA. Prior President, Board Member, Vice President and Secretary of the Korean American Bar Association of Northern California. Served as mentor to law students through the KABA mentorship program.
- KACC. Prior President, Board Member and Secretary of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of the North Pacific Coast.
- NAPABA. Member of the organizing committee for the 2005 NAPABA California Regional Conference. Co-Chair of the NAPABA Sustainability & Climate Change Committee.

My Vision for AABA

I am committed to working with the officers and board members to make AABA a fun, relevant organization that will advocate for the advancement of the Asian American legal community through the development of Asian American attorneys and by using its visibility to advocate for issues that impact the community.

2010 AABA Law Foundation Scholarships

The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area is proud to announce its 2010 Law Foundation Scholarships. AABA recognizes the importance of fostering the growth of law students to improve the future development of the Asian Pacific American bar. AABA will 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 Morozumi Scholarship; the AABA Law Foundation Scholarship; and the Asian American Judges Scholarship, developed to recognize and honor the past and present API judges of the Bay Area.

To learn more about the AABA scholarship application process, click on the Scholarship Application Page at www.aaba-bay.com. The deadline to submit the application will be Monday, January 11, 2010 via e-mail to Annette K. Mathai-Jackson at amathai-jackson@hansonbridgett.com.

Finalists will be notified if they are selected for an interview by January 22, 2010. Interviews will be held Saturday, February 6, 2010. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the annual AABA Installation dinner on Friday, March 19, 2010.

The AABA Law Foundation is registered under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) as a charitable organization, and is separate entity from AABA.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please submit a completed Application Form, a resume, and a personal statement of no more than three pages, double spaced, describing one or more of 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; and/or,
- (3) Who do you see as a successful leader within the Asian American community and what characteristics about him/her make this leader so successful?

*Please submit all applications by **Monday, January 11, 2010** via e-mail to Annette K. Mathai-Jackson at amathai-jackson@hansonbridgett.com.*

Finalists will be notified if they are selected for an interview by January 22, 2010.

*Interviews will be held on **Saturday, February 6, 2010**.*

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Asian American Bar Association Installation Dinner on Friday, March 19, 2010.

2010 AABA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Alternate Phone Number: _____

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: _____

*The Education Committee of the
Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, along with the California Young
Lawyers Association of the State Bar of California Presents*

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As we all know, good ethics programs are hard to find! Beat the February 2010 compliance deadline and test your knowledge of legal ethics and professional responsibility. Join us for an interactive, entertaining and lively quiz session led by ethics expert Robert Hawley, Deputy Executive Director of the State Bar of California.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

6:30 – 7:00 p.m.	MCLE Registration & Refreshments
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Program
Location:	Reed Smith San Francisco Office 101 Second Street, 18 th Floor Conference Room San Francisco CA 94105
RSVP:	To Ayumi Urabe at aurabe@axiomlaw.com

Approved MCLE Provider – 1.0 Hour Ethics MCLE Credit

AABA LAW FIRM PARTNERS LUNCH

Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Reed Smith, 101 Second Street, San Francisco

One of the traditions of years past was that APA law-firm partners in the Bay Area would get together regularly for lunch. We tried to revive some of this tradition a few years ago and are trying again now! Please join us for good food, good company, and good conversation (and no formal program!). Lunch will be provided. Many thanks to our generous location and lunch hosts, Ted Ting and Reed Smith LLP. RSVPs required by the close of business on Thursday, January 21, 2010, to Karen Ellis at kellis@reedsmith.com.

If you would be interested in hosting a future lunch, please contact Garner Weng at gweng@hansonbridgett.com.

AABA - LARC Law Day Feb. 13, 2010

By Hung Chang, Community Service Committee Co-Chair

The Community Service Committee will host the Second Annual Law Day on February 13, 2010 and is looking for volunteers! This year, the Community Service Committee is working with VLSP's Legal Advice and Referral Clinic to ensure a more expansive reach to the community. The AABA - LARC Law Day would take place on Saturday morning at UC Hastings. The Saturday clinic would provide free legal services and valuable advices to low-income individuals in the community, similar to the committee's monthly AABA - API Legal Outreach clinic in San Francisco and Oakland.

Specifically, the AABA - LARC Law Day needs for volunteers who are bilingual (especially in English and either Spanish, Mandarin, or Cantonese). The AABA - LARC Law Day is also looking for attorneys with at least three years of experience in any of the following areas of law: bankruptcy, business, contract, civil, collection defense, criminal, employment, labor, family, consumer, immigration, landlord tenant, personal injury, probate, real estate, SSI, workers compensation, and other miscellaneous areas.

Please contact Hung Chang at hung@playfirst.com or Robert Uy at ruy@apilegaloutreach.org if you are interested in participating or have more questions.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2010

MCLE: ETHICS JEOPARDY **Jan. 13** at 6:30 pm. Reed Smith, 101 Second Street, 18th Fl Conference Room, SF, CA

AABA Law Firm Partners Lunch. Tuesday, **Jan. 26**, 12:00-1:30 p.m. Reed Smith, 101 Second Street, San Francisco

10th Anniversary Bay Area APALSA Conference. **Jan. 31**. 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. Santa Clara University, School of Law, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara. Registration ends Jan. 21.

FEBRUARY 2010

Second Annual AABA - LARC Law Day. **Feb. 13**. Morning at UC Hastings.

MARCH

33rd Annual AABA Dinner. **Mar. 19**. TBA

THE PHILIP A. HARLEY MEMORIAL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION 2009 – 2010

Alameda County Mock Trial organizers seek volunteers to judge their competition for high school students.

Dates: January 12, 2010 - February 18, 2010

Time Commitment: 2.5 hours/competition; you may judge one - or several evenings of competition.

Location: Alameda County Superior Court Administration Building in Downtown Oakland

This year's case: People v. Bratton, featuring a pretrial argument on the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

If you or someone you know is Interested, contact Jenny Keystone at 510.206.7366 or Mokstone@gmail.com.

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