



AABA Newsletter

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President's Column

Garner Weng, AABA President

In 1976, the Cincinnati Reds won the World Series in the last year of the "Big Red Machine"; Jimmy Carter was elected President; and Silly Love Songs, by Paul McCartney and the Wings, finished the year atop the Billboard charts. And AABA was founded.

That's nearly 33 years of history.

In 1976, I was barely clear of diapers; your Vice President and President-Elect Billy Chan was most definitely still in diapers (though still managed to declare himself, "Baby of the Year," in a gurgly sort of way); and many of our current membership had not yet been conceived.

At least, I think I was clear of diapers. If pressed, I would have to admit my memory of this time is sketchy.

Nevertheless, for me, part of leading an organization is learning and understanding its history—and how its present relates to its past. Theoretically, at least. Pragmatically, there is enough going on with AABA that I never sit down with my AABA to-do list and think, okay, now is the time that I can or should devote some specific time to going further and deeper into AABA history.

Unless, of course, some members of the Board decide that this would be a good year to nominate AABA for one of the California State Bar Diversity Awards.

If you're not familiar with those, they were established by the State Bar in 2002 and are awarded annually to the person or entity in each of a few categories to recognize outstanding efforts to promote diversity in the legal profession. The nomination form asks for very specific information on "sustained, long-term efforts." Well, hey—"sustained" and "long-term" are AABA's middle names! Right between "Association" and "of" and the rest of the words that don't make it into the acronym.



So our hard-working crew of Directors Daisy Hung, Jason P. Lee (not to be confused with former Director Jason E. Lee), and I—under the leadership of Director Eugene "Pac-Man" Pak—went to work, going far and deep in reconstructing 30-odd years of AABA history. We pored through ancient AABA newsletters, interviewed past AABA presidents and other leaders, and in the wee hours debated the relative merits of Jolt Cola and 5-hour Energy. We even uncovered carefully hidden photographic evidence of certain individuals' late '70s and early 80s hairstyles. (These will be the subject of a special double-issue AABA newsletter at some point in the future.)

continued on next page

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *continued from page 1*

Photo credits: Daisy J. Hung, AABA Director



AABA Secretary Emi Gusukuma, AABA President Garner Weng and AABA Director Daisy J. Hung

For me, it was paradoxically unsurprising on the one hand yet amazing and inspiring on the other hand to see just how “sustained” and “long-term” AABA’s work has been.

Legal advocacy in diversity impact cases through amicus briefs as recent as 2007 (In re Marriage Cases) and going back to 1977 (Regents of the University of California v. Bakke). Advocacy for judicial candidates going back to the late 1970s. Judges receptions since 1991. Law-student scholarships since 1987. Law-student summer grants since about 1999 or earlier. Law-student mentoring programs since the 1970s. Summer-associate receptions going back to about 1987. Career Day (or similar law-student employment programs) since at least as early as 1992.

If you’re working on an AABA committee this year (or would like to), it’s interesting to think about newer recurring AABA programs and events—like the in-house counsel/law-firm networking event started in 2006 and the attorney mentorship program launched also in 2006—and wonder whether you may be starting something that will be here 30 years from now.

As you might have heard me say at the Summer Associates Reception, this continuity of effort, passion, and commitment—year in and year out—is one of the things that I think makes AABA special.

It’s each of us that makes this continuity. If you were at the Summer Associates Reception, you might have looked around and noticed who continues to lead the way in this. You might have seen how many judges, rainmaker big shots, and community leaders still come out to AABA events—and how much time they still spend with law students and junior associates. If they can keep doing it, the rest of us can too.

Okay, okay, okay. I’ll see if I can come up with something a little less preachy next month.

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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 THANKS THE FOLLOWING SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF 2008!

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Narinder Banait
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Cedric Chao
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Attendees Enjoy the Mixer

Photos credits: Janet Li, Membership Committee Co-Chair

Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program Kick Off a Success

By Marina Sarmiento Feehan

The Employment Committee held its kick-off for the Lawyer-to-Lawyer (L2L) mentoring program with a mixer on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. The L2L mentoring program allows new attorneys to form relationships and gain insight into legal careers from more experienced attorneys. While many participating mentors and mentees have been matched, the L2L Mixer provided an opportunity for unmatched mentors and mentees to meet and socialize. Approximately 25 attorneys gathered at the event, generously hosted by Qualcomm, Incorporated.

Employment committee co-chair, Phillip Lee and committee member Marina Sarmiento Feehan began the event with member introductions. In addition to introductions, attendees shared one interesting fact about themselves. We learned that Carin Fujisaki, staff attorney at the Supreme Court of California, holds a world re-



Employment Committee member Marina Feehan and Employment Committee Co-Chair, Phillip Lee

cord in bench press (167 lbs.) and Jason E. Lee, in-house counsel at Macy's, Inc. is one of eight Jason Lee's licensed by the State Bar of California. Additionally, Rocky Tsai, co-chair of the Mentorship committee and an associate at Orrick, introduced AABA's Law Student mentorship program with upcoming events slated for the fall.

For attorneys interested in joining the L2L program, please contact Phillip Lee at phillip.lee43@yahoo.com. We are in special need of more mentors. The Employment Committee is using a "Free Market" mentorship matching system whereby mentees can select their mentors with a limit of three mentees per mentor. Additionally, with events such as the L2L mixer, the Employment Committee hopes that mentors and mentees will find each other organically, based on personality and interests, which would increase the chances of a long-term mentorship relationship.

Annual Banquet Dinner at USF School of Law

By Alexandra Wong, USF 2L student



Pictured L-R: Michael Cagampan, Angela Kim, & Kevin Chung

On April 24, USF School of Law's APALSA had its annual banquet dinner. It was a celebration of another successful year and a send off for the many 3Ls who have been an integral part of the organization for the past three years. Students, faculty, and alumni all ate and drank happily at Koh Samui and The Monkey in downtown San Francisco. It was an evening filled with great company including that of our guest speaker, Minette Kwok.

Ms. Kwok, an alumna of USF School of Law, is a partner at Minami Tamaki LLP and is a specialist in Immigration and Nationality Law. She has also been named one of Northern California's Super Lawyers for several years now. Drawing on her own rich experiences, Ms. Kwok left everyone with words of wisdom on how to make the most of our legal education and how to prepare for a successful career.



Minette Kwok



Sang Nguyen and Sean Thompson

After Ms. Kwok's inspiring speech, we followed in USF APALSA tradition and gave speeches and tokens of appreciation to our graduating members. Also in keeping with custom, our outgoing president, Sang Nguyen presenting our incoming president, Sean Thompson with a Japanese daruma. The daruma is a symbol of overcoming obstacles and persevering through hardships since it will always self-upright whenever knocked over. We will certainly miss our 3Ls and wish them all luck as they study for the bar.

We expect many more great things to happen in the 2009-2010 school year with the installation of our new board. We have many great ideas on how to further provide effective outreach to Asian American law students and networking in the greater Asian American legal community. We look forward to doing what APALSA does best, be a support and resource for those students.



L-R: Allison Young, Sachi Clements, Alexandra Wong, & Allison Low.

Photo credits: Stephen Hew



Photo credits:
David Sohn, AABA Director and
Janet Li, Membership Committee Co-Chair



AABA's 22nd Annual Summer Law Clerk Reception

By Ivana Fedor, Employment Committee Co-Chair

The Employment Committee organized AABA's 22nd Annual Summer Law Clerk Reception, which was held on June 18th, 2009 at Yank Sing Restaurant in San Francisco. Over 200 attorneys, students and judges enjoyed the conversation and dim sum making the event a great success.

The Community Service Committee also announced the 2009 AABA Law Student Summer Grant recipient - George Kawamoto from UC Hastings. George gave a rousing acceptance speech where he thanked the community at large for inspiring his dedication to public service. George is currently a summer law clerk at the Asian Law Caucus. He also supports the AABA-APILO Legal Clinic at Hastings, the BASF VLSP Federal I Legal Assistance and Pro Bono Project, and the San Francisco Superior Court's ACCESS Legal Self-Help Center. Next year, George will work as Hastings APALSA Political and Community Chair and Hastings Japanese

Law Society Treasurer. He will also study at the Hastings Civil Justice Clinic's Individual Representation Clinic. Congratulations to George!

The event would not have been possible without the generous support from the API partner community. Over 60 partners personally contributed to the event this year. As always, Kevin Fong was instrumental in our fundraising efforts. Our corporate sponsor this year was Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP and Cheryl Calderon from Morrison & Foerster LLP helped create the event marketing materials. Finally, we'd like to thank the student volunteers - Amy Endo, George Kawamoto, the scholarship recipient himself, David Yoshida, all from UC Hastings.

AABA's Employment Committee, Ivana Fedor, Marina Sarmiento Feehan, Miriam Kim, Phil Lee and Elizabeth Loh thank all of you for supporting the event!

AABA Seeks Mentors and Mentees for its Judicial Mentorship Program

The AABA Judiciary/Public Appointments Committee is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of the Judicial Mentorship Program. The Program's goal is to prepare experienced AABA attorneys to successfully seek judgeships by pairing them with Asian American judges in the Bay Area. It will build upon AABA's strong connection with Asian American judges, who can provide invaluable insights into the application process and the experience of being a judge. By fostering these mentoring relationships, AABA hopes to further one of its main missions: promoting diversity in the judiciary.

Although there are no formal qualifications for being a mentor judge or mentee, the Program is designed for experienced AABA attorneys with at least 8 years of experience who are seriously contemplating applying for a judgeship in the next 3 to 5 years. Mentees will be paired with mentor judges who graciously have offered to spend time advising and guiding potential applicants.

This Fall, AABA will formally launch the Judicial Mentorship Program with an event that will bring mentor judges and mentees together. If you are interested in participating in the program as a mentor judge or mentee, please contact the Judiciary/Public Appointments Committee co-chairs, Avin Sharma (asharma@vblaw.com) or Salle Yoo (salleyoo@dwt.com).



AABA Baseball Night: The Return of the Traditional Tailgate

Baseball fans, it's the return of the traditional tailgate! Join AABA at AT&T Park on Friday, July 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., as the Giants take on the San Diego Padres. Come early as AABA will be host-

ing a traditional tailgate party at one of AT&T's parking lots (specific parking lot TBD) at 5:00 p.m. We are talking about hotdogs, kegs, hamburgers, hotlinks and more! Please contact Esther Chang at echang@bledsoelaw.com to reserve your Giants tickets.



Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law

Post-J.D. Research Fellowships in Native Hawaiian Law

Ka Huli Ao Post-J.D. Research Fellowship Program in Native Hawaiian Law provides stipends to recent law graduates to support research, scholarship, teaching, and/or other research-related projects that impact Native Hawaiian Law or that fill a need in the Native Hawaiian community. The goal of the Research Fellowship is to advance knowledge, scholarship, or learning in Native Hawaiian Law.

By the end of the Fellowship period, Research Fellows are required to complete an article or project of publishable quality and to present their research findings and conclusions in a public forum. Depending on available funding, up to six Research Fellowships will be awarded. Fellows will receive a stipend of \$50,000, paid out over a one-year period beginning in August 2009. Fellows are responsible for paying all taxes and health insurance.

Eligibility Criteria - Applicants must be graduates of an accredited law school who can commit to working for one year on an individual project in Ka Huli Ao's Post-J.D. Research Fellowship Program. Post-J.D. Research Fellows will be selected on the strength of their proposals (described below) and on the basis of: (1) interest in and commitment to Native Hawaiian legal issues as demonstrated in law school, through prior work, education, or other experiences; (2) a sound academic record; (3) excellent research and writing skills; and (4) outstanding personal qualities. Knowledge of the Native Hawaiian community and experience working with the Hawaiian community are not required but will be considered as positive factors. A course or certificate in Native Hawaiian law is not a prerequisite.

Application Requirements - Applicants must submit a proposal letter of no more than four single-spaced pages describing: (1) the nature of the research proposed; (2) how their research project relates to Native Hawaiian Law or fills a need in the Native Hawaiian community and how the project advances knowledge, scholarship, or learning in Native Hawaiian Law; (3) the specific work product that will result from the proposed research; (4) and a realistic, detailed timeline showing projected target dates for research, writing (including drafts) and other significant activities (public presentations, etc.).

Applications must also contain a completed application cover sheet (download cover sheet in pdf here); a résumé of no more than four pages; and a separate sheet with the names and contact information of three references (letters of recommendation are not required).

Application Deadline - Applications must be postmarked, hand-delivered, or e-mailed no later than July 6, 2009 to:

Mail and Hand Delivery: Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, William S. Richardson School of Law, Room 207, 2515 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.

E-mail: nhlawctr@hawaii.edu (with the subject line: Research Fellowship Application). If you e-mail the application, you must submit a hard copy of the cover sheet within 7 working days.

Notification - Successful applicants will be notified by July 17, 2009.

Questions? Please call or e-mail Susan K. Serrano, Director of Educational Development, at (808) 956-6432 or susanks@hawaii.edu.

AABA Practice Development Committee & GGU present a CLE Program on How To Start Your Own Law Practice

July 9, 2009

5:30 pm Registration

6:00-7:00 pm Program

Golden Gate University School of Law (Room 5310)

Please RSVP to Ayumi Urabe (aurabe@axiomlaw.com)



Calendar of Upcoming Events

JULY

AABA Practice Development Committee & GGU present a CLE Program on How To Start Your Own Law Practice. **July 9.** 5:30 Registration, 6-7pm Program. Golden Gate School of Law, 536 Mission St. Room 5310. San Francisco

AABA Baseball Night: The Return of the Traditional Tailgate. **July 10.** 5pm Tailgate, 7pm Giants vs. Padres. Parking Space TBD. AT&T Park, San Francisco

AUGUST

Employment Committee Career Workshop.
August 1. Location TBD

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