



AABA Newsletter

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Darrell Thompson, Patrick Callahan & James Higa

Photo credit: Dennis Chin

A Night Of Celebration For Diversity And The Law

By Michelle D. Jew, Newsletter Committee Co-Chair

Diversity in the law profession was celebrated by over a hundred guests who mingled at the Advancing Diversity Fair, hosted by Burnham Brown and co-sponsored with AABA, FBANC, LaRaza, and the Charles Houston Bar Associations on September 17, 2009.

California State Bar President Holly Fujie discussed the role of the Bar and of lawyers in promoting diversity in the profession to a packed room.

"Burnham Brown's Advancing Diversity event was even more successful this year than last because we had a larger turn out and we also had a special address by recent past president of the California State Bar, Holly Fujie," said Susana Gonzales, attorney for Burnham Brown and Deputy Regional President for Region 17 of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). "Ms. Fujie made some excellent points about the value of a diverse workforce in the legal profession. It was great to hear these words of wisdom from someone of Ms. Fujie's stature because I think we all need to be reminded of the multiple reasons why diversity is critical to success in the legal field."

continued on next page



Mitchell Chyette, Greg Brown & Judge Leo Dorado

Judge Winifred Smith & Dennis Chin

DIVERSITY AND THE LAW *continued from page 1*

The event featured an ethnic buffet of tasty treats and a hosted bar of lively spirits for guests to enjoy as they met up with old friends, made new friends, or for those who have been recently laid off, an opportunity to network for job leads.

The event was attended by representatives in the business community, minority bar associations, lawyers, judges, and law students. Some of the guests seen mingling at the Diversity Fair included Honorable David Krashna, Honorable Winifred Smith and Honorable Leo Dorado of the Alameda Superior Court.

"The Diversity Fair at Burnham Brown took me by surprise. Right off the elevator, I was warmly greeted and welcomed by complete strangers. I was very impressed by the friendly atmosphere at Burnham Brown and the large turnout by other minority lawyers," said Suzette Torres, AABA member and attorney for Bardellini, Straw, Cavin & Bupp LLP. "It is refreshing to see a firm take the forefront to recognize minorities in the legal community. I walked away with a sense of pride and a handful of business cards."

Mark Morodomi & Dave Waters

John Verber, Jimmie Williams & Allyson Cook





Walt Rundin, Rohit Sabnis & Ki Yun Hwang



Natalie Seid, Fateh Sahota & Christy Hunsberger



Gregory Brown, Holly Fujie & Clark Burnham



Judge David Krashna & his wife Gina Krashna



Ronnie Gipson, Hung Chang and Daisy Hung



Jim Blake & Alex Nguyen

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The Social Committee Proudly Presents the Return of



October 29 | 6:00 to 9:00 pm

By Danny Wang, Social Committee Member

Please come join us for another melodious evening of karaoke and witness your fellow AABA members channel their inner Kelly Clarkson or Ruben Studdard (or perhaps even William Hung). The event will be held at Playground at 1705 Buchanan Street in San Francisco's Japan Town.

The price of admission is a mere \$5, and in return, we will be feeding you seven different appetizers and a never-ending supply of drinks including soju, soju cocktails, and beer. We are currently soliciting singers, but contestants may also sign up the day of the event. The top performers will be awarded prizes. Please contact Danny Wang at mrdannywang@gmail.com if you are interested in performing or have any questions.

The Asian American Bar Association's 2009 Career Day

By Ivana Fedor, AABA Employment
Committee Co-Chair

A record breaking number of law students and attorneys gathered at USF School of Law for the 2009 Asian American Bar Association's Career Day on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Approximately one hundred junior attorneys and law students participated in the program which included mock-interviews whereby both junior attorney and law student interviewees received one-on-one feedback from volunteer attorney interviewers.

The event showcased an all-star panel moderated by Employment Committee member Marina Sarmiento Feehan discussing job search strategies and career planning for their respective sectors. The speakers featured Stephanie Chen from the Greenling Institute, recent San Francisco County Superior Court appointee the Honorable Andrew Cheng, Lawrence Chew, in house counsel from Verigy and Clarissa Kang from Trucker Huss.

Priya Mercado from Update Legal and new Employment Committee member Betty Chia held small break out sessions for ad-hoc resume review. A networking lunch capped off the day.

A big thanks to USF School of Law APALSA student volunteers: Katherine Chu, Natalie Chu, Hannah Chung, Bonnie Fong, Allison Low, Michael Marcelo, Maria Villafuerte, Alexandra Wong and APALSA President, Carlo Miranda.

The event would not be possible without the generosity of volunteer attorney mock interviews: Deok Keun Matthew Ahn, Billy Chan, Scott Chan, Isabel Choi, Emi Gusukuma, Mo Hill, Ben Hur, Clarissa Kang, Hanesther Kim, Jason Lee, Melissa Lor, Damien Morozumi, Jennifer Oh, Saswati Paul, Selina Shek, Irene Shin, David Sohn, and Ayumi Urabe.

Thank you to Kirkland & Ellis LLP for their generous sponsorship of this event and USF School of Law for providing the event venue.

Finally, a big thanks to the all-star employment committee that organized the event: Betty Chia, co-chair Ivana Fedor from the California Secretary of State, Marina Sarmiento Feehan from the USF School of Law, co-chair Elizabeth Loh from Trucker Huss and Miriam Kim from Munger Tolles & Olson LLP. We hope to see you next year!

Save The Date

Second Annual AABA In-House Committee General Counsel Round Table

October 27, 2009

A panel of distinguished Asian Pacific American general counsel will be speaking to AABA on how the current economic crisis has impacted their in-house legal departments, adjustments their own departments are making during the down-turn, and practical tips for in-house attorneys to deal with (survive) the down turn and positioning for the upturn. You won't want to miss this evening of networking with other in-house attorneys and the opportunity to hear the panelists draw upon their personal experience as APA GCs, with best practice tips. You'll learn how critical it is to build alliances and to increase visibility within the in-house environment. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the panel.

Date: Tuesday, October 27th, 2009

Time: 6:00 to 7:30pm (Reception starts at 6:00 and GC Panel begins at 6:30)

Host: Lewis & Roca (<http://www.lrlaw.com/>)

Place: Visa Inc. – 900 Metro Center Boulevard, Foster City, California 94404

RSVP: Required to enter the security gate in the Visa parking garage.
Please RSVP by Oct. 20th to larrymchew@yahoo.com

Networking Opportunity!

Attorneys are cordially invited to join
bankers, CPAs and other financial professionals
at the CalCPA San Francisco Chapter's annual mixer

Thursday, Oct.22, 5-7 p.m.
City Club, 155 Sansome St, 10th floor, San Francisco

Beverages and hors d'oeuvres are included.
Bring your business cards: door prizes will be drawn.

\$50/person

Register at: www.calcpa.org/SF or contact Jane Dunbar at (650) 802-2465;
jane.dunbar@calcpa.org.

PUTTING FOR THE PIPELINE

Charity Golf Tournament to Benefit BASF's Diversity Programs

Please join BASF and Bay Area attorneys from law firms, corporations, and government offices for golf, networking, and business development - all while supporting BASF's Diversity Pipeline Programs.

We already have attorneys from Allianz/Fireman's Fund, Clorox, Google, Wells Fargo, Visa, Intel, VMware, Inc. and a California Court of Appeal Justice committed to attend. It is our goal to organize each law firm team to include at least one in-house counsel or judge.

There are many sponsorship and donation opportunities available for this event. For more information about these opportunities and golf participation, please contact **Daisy J. Hung** at dhung@sfbar.org or **415-782-9000 x8705**.

Register now at www.sfbar.org/calendar.

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:
\$300
WHEN YOU
REGISTER
BY AUGUST 1**

SAVE THE DATE!
October 30, 2009
Harding Park Golf Course
San Francisco
11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Network and Build a Better Profession - It's a Hole-in-One!

The Midnight Masquerade Benefit

Dress up for Halloween and dance the night away while supporting a great cause!

Tickets are \$10 for SABA members, \$15 for all others in advance, and \$20 the day of the event and at the door. SABA members buy tickets at <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=190774#>. Non-members buy tickets at <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=190769>.

Date: October 30th, 2009, 9pm - 2am

Location: The Gravity Room

Address: 3251 Scott Street, San Francisco

Proceeds go to SABA Foundation Public Interest Fellowships and Narika, a dv helpline.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

ALC Annual Caucus Classic Golf Tournament. **Oct. 3**, Metropolitan Links Golf Course, 10051 Doolittle Dr. Oakland

BAAML Presents: Empowering the Community to Preserve the American Dream. **Oct. 11**, 6:00-10:00 pm, New Delhi Restaurant, 160 Ellis Street, SF, CA

AABA Mentorship Brunch. **Oct. 18**, GGU School of Law. 536 Mission St., SF

Networking Opportunity. Thursday, **Oct. 22**. 5-7pm. City Club, 155 Sansome St., 10th Floor, San Francisco.

Minority Bar Coalition Unity Conference and Reception. **Oct. 23**, GGU School of Law, 536 Mission St., SF

AABA In-House Committee General Counsel Round Table (Hosted by Lewis & Roca). **Oct. 27**, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Visa Inc., 900 Metro Center Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404

AABA Idol Karaoke. **Oct. 29**, 5:00 - 9:30 pm. Playground, 1705 Buchanan St., SF, CA 94115

BASF Charity Golf Tournament. **October 30**. 11am - 8pm. Harding Park Golf Course, San Francisco.

The Midnight Masquerade Benefit. **October 30**. 9pm - 2am. The Gravity Room, 3251 Scott Street, San Francisco.



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