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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
*of the Greater Bay Area*

## AABA Newsletter - November 2018

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If you are interested in contributing to a future newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs Kathy Aoki ([Kathyaok@aol.com](mailto:Kathyaok@aol.com)) and Candice Shih ([cshih@hansonbridgett.com](mailto:cshih@hansonbridgett.com)).

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### President's Message

Hello AABA Family!

I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving and that you and your loved ones were safe from the devastating fires. I am very thankful that I was able to spend a quiet and safe Thanksgiving with my family locally here in the Bay. Over the holiday, I was also able to reflect on what I am thankful for, which includes AABA and our members.

AABA is a family with diverse individuals with the common goal to help the next generation of APA lawyers and law students. I am very thankful for the over 500 AABA members and past members who are serving or have previously served as mentors. Without you, we



would not be able to celebrate our APA local, state and national legislators, the distinguished APA judges we have on the bench (and most recently appointed), the 100 APA GCs in the Bay Area, the highest number of APA law firm partners in any U.S. metropolitan area, and the largest numbers of APA law students and junior attorneys we've ever seen in AABA's history. Thank you.

We certainly have made significant strides, and I am hopeful that we—as a family—can continue to improve the lives and opportunities for all minorities. As the December holidays arrive, I hope we all can take the time to be thankful for what we have achieved and also find a way to give back to our community—whether it be helping the fire victims, volunteering at a food bank or a homeless shelter, or giving to charitable organizations, including the [AABA Law Foundation](#).

In this edition of the AABA Newsletter, we hear from our inspiring AABA role models, Joan Haratani and Dale Minami. We share highlights from AABA's significant presence at the NAPABA Convention in Chicago. We feature AABA members, Orrick Partner Cathy Lui and Salesforce VP and AGC Wei Chen. And we celebrate the appointment of APA Judges: Judge Tracie Brown and Carin Fujisaki (First District Court of Appeals), and Linda Lye (Contra Costa County Superior Court).

We are Better Together, Stronger United! The AABA Board and Officers look forward to seeing you at our [Holiday party on Nov. 29th](#) and/or the [Partner/In-House Counsel Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 7th](#).

In Solidarity,

David Tsai  
AABA President

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## **A Conversation with Joan Haratani and Dale Minami: Early AABA Members**

By Kathy Aoki

Co-Chair of AABA's Newsletter Committee

AABA recognizes and gives thanks to long-time AABA members Joan Haratani and Dale Minami. Both Joan and Dale have been instrumental in AABA's growth and success. They both have given a lot not only to AABA but contributed greatly in the legal community and beyond.



Joan Haratani is not only a top litigator at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, but has broken barriers along the way. She served as the first woman of color as president of the Bar Association of San Francisco, and is a former AABA president and former regional governor for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA). Her law practice includes defending clients in class actions, product liability litigation, complex licensing agreements and trade secret indemnity issues. Among her numerous honors is being named by the San Francisco Business Times this year as one of the most influential women in the Bay Area. Joan served on the boards of many philanthropic organizations including The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Northern California.

Although Dale Minami is a well known civil rights attorney who was the lead attorney in overturning *Korematsu v. United States*, he is also a highly regarded personal injury attorney at his nationally known law firm, Minami Tamaki LLP. Dale is one of the co-founders of AABA and the Asian Law Caucus. Among his many honors includes the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award and National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's (NAPABA) Trailblazer Award. A mentor and friend to many inside and outside of the legal community, Dale is passionate not only in his work but also keeps working hard to make our world a better place for everyone.



Joan and Dale participated in a conversation responding to questions about AABA.

### **How did you get involved with AABA?**

**Joan Haratani (JH):** I got involved with AABA when I was a young associate in the '80s. I was looking for role models, mentors, and networking opportunities with other Asian American attorneys. AABA was the only local organization to fit the bill!

**Dale Minami (DM):** In 1975, several members and alumni of the Asian Law Caucus - Mike Lee, Ken Kawaichi, Garrick Lew, I and a few others whom I forgot, began discussing the idea of an API ethnic bar association, like the Charles Houston Bar Association whose members we were familiar with. After the ALC was organized and on its feet, we felt the next step was to organize API attorneys to promote civil rights, diversity on the bench and respond to issues of concern to the API community. We learned of some API attorneys in San Francisco were interested in forming such an API Bar as well, although mostly directed toward business development for API attorneys. They included William Jack Chow (who became the First President of AABA), Clarence Moy (deceased), Paul Li, Ron Wong, Norman Lew, again, among others.

We decided to work together and form one Bay Area API group – AABA. I borrowed the by-laws from Southern California API bar associations like SCALA and JABA and drafted the By-Laws. Together the two groups formed AABA.

### **How would you describe AABA? (i.e. a civil rights organization?)**

**JH:** AABA plays an important role in the Greater Bay Area and certainly wears many hats. It does important community work, as evidenced by the Judiciary Committee, and also provides a chance for members to mingle, support each other and have fun, such as with the recent successful AABA Idol event or the famous holiday party. Yet we must remember that AABA's fundamental purpose and mission are the pursuit of fairness, equality and justice. We must remember our civil rights roots. The work Dale, Don and others did on *Korematsu*, the voice and weight we as a group of powerful and influential lawyers have and can leverage on issues of importance, to me is the essence of AABA. We stand together as advocates for justice for the API community.

**DM:** AABA is an API Bar Association which embraces many roles – Representing our API communities' interests in both legal and political issues, an organization dedicated to helping its members succeed, promoting the advancement and appointment of API's to the bench and other positions, a social organization, and at core, a civil rights organization fighting to make this country progress toward equality.

## **What can AABA do to make an impact on issues including the nomination of Supreme Court Justices?**

**JH:** Continue to dialogue with Sacramento, to weigh in on judicial candidates, to publish opinion pieces and to get out the vote. To make constructive and reasoned “noise” so that our views are heard. Press releases, town hall meetings, webinars, email campaigns, social media — there are numerous and positive ways to be heard.

**DM:** 1. Stand up; 2. Speak out; 3. Lobby legislators; 4. Join with API, other minority and non-minority organizations to disseminate public positions on issues; 5. Educate our own API communities about legal issues which will affect them; 6. Infiltrate non-API institutions with power – CJNE, ABA, State Bar Board of Trustees – to present a perspective from the API experience. A good example would be to support the campaign started by Don Tamaki and others, Stop Repeating History, which seeks to stop civil rights assaults and attacks on API’s, other people of color and immigrants by connecting our API history of Exclusion Acts, mass incarcerations with indefinite confinement, and challenges to our birthright citizenship with the experiences of other marginalized groups.

## **How can AABA increase their membership?**

**JH:** Form relationships with firms, government, agencies and corporations to facilitate introducing their new Attorneys to AABA. Throw a reception welcoming new attorneys, along the lines of the summer associate reception.

**DM:** Create a recruiting team, find every API attorney in the area, contact each one who is not a member and make a pitch over lunch which you should pay for. Also, publicly open the doors to non-API’s who can join and participate.

## **What changes would you like to see AABA make to continue to be successful?**

**JH:** I would like to see AABA weigh in more vocally on political candidates and issues that affect our community. I would like AABA to study and help improve the hiring, retention and promotion of API lawyers in their places of employment. Career advice to the younger lawyers is also critical as well as reminding them of our history of struggle.

**DM:** I think the idea of establishing a Mission Statement is the first step. It is the touchstone for ALL future activities. Understanding AABA’s history and the reasons for its formations should be part of the mythology presented to every AABA members is important. Demand a culture of inclusivity, collegiality, mutual support, and dare I say it, love and respect for each other. Have a lot of parties.

## **What has been your most significant contribution to AABA?**

**JH:** I suppose that my most significant contribution has been the gifts of my time and passion. Throughout the years, whether it is as member, Board or section member (I was one of the founders of the diversity and inclusion section), President or now, Past President, I have stayed active in AABA by being a panelist, presenting awards or speaking to the new section chairs. I think past AABA leadership needs to stay visible and involved. We’ve made tremendous progress yet there remains much work to do!! Together we can accomplish anything!!

**DM:** Probably helping to establish it, helping to mold the initial progressive direction (with Mike Lee), paying dues and sticking with it for over 40 years.

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## Photos from NAPABA 2018



[Click here to see more photos](#)

Photos courtesy of John B. Lough Jr.

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## **NAPABA LGBTQ Network Hosted Panels on Transgender People in the Military and LGBTQ Asian American Partners**

By Raymond Rollan

AABA LGBTQ Committee Vice Chair

During the recent NAPABA conference in Chicago, the NAPABA LGBTQ Network held several exciting events:

Despite the snowfall, the LGBTQ Network welcomed the 2018 NAPABA Conference by breaking bread for breakfast. Co-chairs Joanne Badua, Angela Lim, and Ray Rollan (AABA LGBTQ Committee Vice Chair) were joined by network members and allies, as well as immediate past co-chair Justin Ruaysamran (President of the Thai America Bar Association), Daniel Sakaguchi (President of NAPABA), David Tsai (President of the Asian American Bar Association), and Judi O'Kelley (Chief Program Officer of the National LGBT Bar Association).

### **Panels:**

#### **“Stories from the Front Lines: Military Policies Regarding Openly Transgender Americans”**

This panel examined the policies regarding the service of transgender people in the military and how those policies have changed via tweets and formal policy change. It also included two transgender Americans, one currently serving, and one to be deployed within a year, and their experience given the many changes of the policy.

**Speakers:** Kage Adams, U. S. Army; Kara Ingelhart, Law Fellow, Lambda Legal, Brynn Tannehill, Senior Defense Analyst, RAND Corporation

**Moderator:** Rachel See, Board President, National Center for Transgender Equality

#### **“Is That a Unicorn I See? A Conversation with LGBTQ Asian American Partners”**

This panel involved a frank discussion with partners of big, medium, and small law firms about visibility, mentorship, role models, diversity programs and unique questions and experiences that come with being LGBTQ in a law firm.

**Speakers:** Jacob Y. Chen, Partner, Dai Associates, P.C.; Trung D. Tu, Senior Counsel, Tyson & Mendes; Concepcion Montoya, Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; David Tsai, Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw





Pittman LLP

**Moderator:** Sabrina S. McKenna, Associate Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court

We would like to specially recognize AABA President David Tsai for serving on this panel.

Finally, the LGBTQ Network convened a successful roundtable meeting where the co-chairs and network members and allies discussed a collective desire for increased visibility and representation in future NAPABA programming. AABA LGBTQ Committee Co-Chair

Francis Yang was among the attendees.

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## Tracie L. Brown Appointed Associate Justice, Division Four of the First District Court of Appeal

AABA congratulates Tracie L. Brown, 47, of San Francisco, on being appointed associate justice, Division Four of the First District Court of Appeal. Brown has served as a judge at the San Francisco County Superior Court since 2013. She served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California from 2002 to 2013 and was an associate at Cooley Godward Kronish LLP from 1997 to 2002. Brown served as a law clerk for the Honorable M. Margaret McKeown at the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit from 1998 to 1999 and was an associate at Morrison and Foerster LLP from 1996 to 1997. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Timothy A. Reardon. This position requires confirmation by the Commission on Judicial Appointments. The Commission consists of Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Senior Presiding Justice J. Anthony Kline. Brown is a Democrat.



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## November 2018 Election Results of Asian American Candidates in California State and Congressional Races

By Kathy Aoki

Co-Chair of AABA's Newsletter Committee

The November 2018 midterm elections saw many Asian Americans from California re-elected in their respective races.

Betty Yee was elected as California's controller and former California assemblywoman and San Francisco Supervisor Fiona Ma became our state treasurer. AABA congratulates former AABA President David Chiu on his re-election to the California State Assembly. Although California Senator Kamala Harris was not up for re-election, she is the only Asian American senator.

Asian American politicians from California are making their mark not only on the state level but also in Congress. Here are all the California state elections with Asian American candidates. Winners are bolded. Incumbents are marked with (I):

### **California State Election Winners**

California Controller – Betty Yee (Democrat) v Konstantinos Roditis (Republican)

California Treasurer – Fiona Ma (Democrat) v. Craig Conlon (Republican)

### **California Congressional Races**

District 6 – **Doris Matsui** (I) Democrat v. Jim Jefferson (Republican)

District 17 – **Rho Khanna** (I) (Democrat) v. Ron Cohen (Republican)

District 27 – **Judy Chu** (I) Democrat v. Bryan Witt (Republican)

District 33 – **Ted Lieu** (I) Democrat v. Kenneth Wright (Republican)

District 39 – Young Kim (Republican) v. **Gil Cisneros** (Democrat)

District 41 – **Mark Takano** (I) Democrat v. Ajah Smith (Republican)

### **California State Assembly Races**

District 9 – Henry He v **Jim Cooper** (I) (Both Democrats)

District 17 – **David Chiu** (I) v Alejandro Fernandez (Both Democrats)

District 19 – **Phil Ting** (I) Democrat v Keith Bogdon (Republican)

District 25 – **Kansen Chu** (I) Democrat v Bob Brunton (Republican)

District 28 – **Evan Low** (I) Democrat v Michael Synder (Republican)

District 34 – **Vince Fong** (I) Republican v Nick Nicita (Democrat)

District 49 – **Edwin Chau** (I) Democrat v Burton Brink (Republican)

District 53 – Kevin Hee Young Jang v **Miguel Santiago** (Both Democrats)

District 55 – **Philip Chen** (I) Republican v Greg Fritchie (Democrat)

District 66 – **Al Muratsuchi** (I) Democrat v Frank Scotto (Republican)

District 68 – **Steven S. Choi** (I) Republican v Michelle Durman

### **California State Senatorial Races – November 2018**

District 4 – Philip Kim (Democrat) v **Jim Nielsen** (I) Republican

District 6 – **Richard Pan** (I) (Democrat) v Eric Frame (Independent)

District 22 – Mike Eng v **Susan Rubio** (Both Democrats)

District 24 – Peter Choi v **Marian Elena Durazo** (Both Democrats)

If anyone knows anyone who won but is not the listed, please contact the Newsletter Committee with the information which will be published in an upcoming newsletter.

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## Annie Chuang Elected to Shook, Hardy & Bacon Executive Committee

Shook, Hardy & Bacon Partner Annie Chuang has been elected to the firm's Executive Committee effective January 1, 2019. For more than 20 years, Annie has served clients at Shook in a variety of industries including health, science and technology. She is an active member of AABA and has provided legal advice to low-income Asians as a volunteer at the Asian Legal Clinic. She will be the firm's first Asian American partner elected to the Executive Committee.



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## New Partner Corner: Catherine Lui

By AABA Staff



AABA is pleased to recognize new partners. This month, we highlight Catherine Lui, a partner with Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Ms. Lui's practice focuses on trade secrets litigation handling cases for both plaintiffs and defendants in tech, financial services and retail industries. She currently serves as the hiring partner in Orrick's San Francisco office. Ms. Lui is currently one of the co-chairs of AABA's Judiciary Committee and active in the California Minority Counsel Program.

We asked Ms. Lui what AABA meant to her: "AABA is a close-knit and supportive mentoring family. With AABA, you have hit the mentoring jackpot. AABA has been a huge help throughout my career as many AABA members have really gone of their way to provide me with support and great advice. In turn, I hope to do the same by mentoring the next generation of Asian American lawyers and leaders of our community."

We are always looking for recent partners for this feature. Do you know a recent partner AABA should profile?  
[Let us know.](#)

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## AABA Membership Spotlight: Wei Chen

Wei Chen is a VP and Associate General Counsel at salesforce.com, leading the legal functions for mergers & acquisitions, strategic investment, real estate, and data center. During her 9-year tenure at Salesforce, Salesforce has become the largest corporate tenant in San Francisco and a leader in cloud computing. Wei is the recipient of “The Recorder In-House Impact Award” in 2015 and “The Recorder Deals and Acquisitions Award” in 2014. Wei started her legal career at Skadden Arps and then at Cooley. Prior to joining Salesforce, Wei served as the Assistant General Counsel at Sun Microsystems, responsible for all of its M&A activities. Wei is the mother of three daughters, a sub-4-hour marathoner, and an active volunteer in her community and local schools. When she is not busy doing deals, Wei loves coaching kids with their public speaking and communication skills.



**First job:** Teaching assistant in the Sociology Department at University of Delaware. I came here for graduate school from China at the age of 23. When my first student showed up at my office hours, I could barely understand what he was saying. My reputation of not being helpful quickly spread, and nobody showed up after that.

**What annoys you the most:** Red tape.

**Hidden talent:** Motivating 20 kids to get online every weekend to teach Chinese kids English for free for two years.

**Favorite food:** Sunflower seeds, but I rarely eat them now. They take hours to eat, and once I start, I abandon all my domestic duties. My less guilty substitute is “Huang Fei Hong”, which are spicy peanuts that come in a bag with dried chili peppers and peppercorns.

**Why did you enter law:** I had the good fortune of stumbling upon law. When I applied for college, the only two departments that recruited in my hometown were Chinese Literature and Law. I thought that the Chinese classics were boring, so I picked Law.

**Dream job if you could do anything you wanted in the world:** Founder of an initiative that I am passionate about. I co-founded Eon English with my two older daughters. Eon English is a 501(c)(3) organization mobilizing American kids to teach Chinese kids English over the internet. I also recently started an AI initiative that aims to accelerate M&A due diligence using AI.

**AABA is \_\_\_\_\_(complete the phrase):** A community where talented lawyers with similar cultural heritage and family upbringings share their unique experiences and challenges, and provide support to each other.

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**Event Photo Galleries**



October 18 - AABA Bar Review: Island Style



October 25 - AABA-KABANC-TABA Joint Mixer



November 1 - AABA Idol

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## AABA and Community Events Calendar

### November

#### **November 28 - San Francisco APILO/AABA Clinic**

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM | UC Hastings School of Law 100 McAllister Street Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94102

**Contact the co-chairs** if you are interested in volunteering.

#### **November 29 - 2018 AABA Holiday Party**

6:00 PM - China Live, 644 Broadway, San Francisco

Gather with AABA at our 2018 Holiday Party to celebrate the holiday season, catch up with friends, and meet new ones. The festivities include delicious food and drink at China Live.

For more information, check the **AABA Events calendar**.

## December

### **December 1 – Holiday Card making and Potluck Benefiting Meal on Wheels San Francisco**

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM – Goodwin Procter, 3 Embarcadero Center, 28th Floor, San Francisco

Please join the Asian American Bar Association Community Services Committee as we make holiday cards for Meals on Wheels clients in time for the holidays! Meals on Wheels SF will serve over 4,500 senior clients this holiday season. With each meal, seniors will receive a card that volunteers like you have made. In many cases, the card you make will be the only card they receive during the holidays. Tap in to your inner artist and share the love with this special part of our community!

Though this event is a natural for creative types, no experience is needed and plenty of samples will be available. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. All craft supplies will be provided. We will provide breakfast food and refreshments for everyone. In the holiday spirit, we encourage you to bring in homemade treats for all to share. Note: When signing up, please provide the names of every participant as a guest, including children.

If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Chung at [pamela.chung.law@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.chung.law@gmail.com).

**[Register here](#)**

### **December 7 – AABA Partner and Senior Counsel Holiday Lunch**

12:00 PM to 1:30 PM – Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, 4 Embarcadero Center, 22nd floor, San Francisco

Please join us for a holiday lunch with AABA Partners and Senior In House Counsel. Space is limited, so RSVP today.

**[Register here](#)**

### **December 11 – AABA In-House Committee Quarterly Lunch**

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM – Lending Club, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco

**[Register here](#)**

### **December 13 – Junior Attorneys Workshop: One Hour Legal Ethics**

4:00 PM to 7:30 PM – Hogan Lovells, 3 Embarcadero Center, #1500, San Francisco

The program is: 4:15 PM to 4:55 PM – Alternative Careers; 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM – Ethics for New Lawyers and 6:05 PM to 6:50 PM – Things I Wish I knew as a First Year Attorney.

Dinner provided. Free for AABA members; \$30 for non-members and law students can attend this event free by joining AABA for a one-time fee of \$25.

Register at <http://tiny.cc/1812aabacle>.

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