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ASSOCIATION

Fulfilling A Dream: The Honorable Kiyō A. Matsumoto (E.D.N.Y.)

by John C. Yang

The Honorable Kiyō A. Matsumoto knew she wanted to become a lawyer at an early age, joking that her parents suggested it because “I argued so much as a kid.” More seriously, she says that she was inspired to become a lawyer because of the injustices faced by her parents and learning how lawyers could make a difference. Her decision to seek appointment to the bench was based on a desire to ensure equal justice under law. Judge Matsumoto is now in that position. On July 17, 2008, she was confirmed as a district court judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. In doing so, she became only the second Asian Pacific American female Article III jurist, and the eighth Asian Pacific American federal district court judge currently active out of approximately 850 federal judges nationwide.



Judge Kiyō A. Matsumoto is the second Asian Pacific American female Article III Jurist.

The Legacy of Japanese American Internment

There is no question that Judge Matsumoto’s parents – George and Kimi Matsumoto – strongly influenced her life. During World War II, her parents – American citizens by birth – were among the group of over 120,000 United States residents of Japanese ancestry who were forced into internment camps. Their families’ bank accounts were frozen, businesses and homes were lost and they kept only the necessities that

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Affiliate Profile:

Tennessee Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Background

To get an idea of where the Tennessee Asian Pacific American Bar Association (TAPABA) is in its development, and what it is like being an Asian Pacific American (APA) lawyer in Tennessee, consider these numbers.

- Tennessee has roughly 6 million residents, which makes it the 16th largest state in the country population-wise. For sake of comparison, the 3 most populated states are California (36 million), Texas (24 million), and New York (20 million).

- There are approximately 15,000 lawyers in the state of Tennessee. Of these, approximately 50-60 are APAs. Put another way, probably 4 of every 1,000 lawyers in Tennessee is an APA.
- Of the 50-60 APA lawyers in Tennessee, maybe 6 have been in practice more than 10 years. The large majority of APA lawyers in Tennessee have been in practice less than 5 years.

Birth of TAPABA

TAPABA formed as a direct result of the 2006 NAPABA Annual Convention in

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Philadelphia. That meeting helped bring our 3 founders (Teresa Chan, Kaz Kikkawa, and Jon Stanley) together for the first time. Sad to say, none of us knew each other before the Convention. Nevertheless, having witnessed the benefits of an Asian American bar association, we returned to Nashville inspired to work together to start one of our own.

We began by searching through bar association member directories and law firm websites to find other local APA lawyers. We then contacted those persons to see if they were interested in helping

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President's Message

Helen B. Kim



Dear NAPABA Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe that nearly a full year has passed since the NAPABA Convention was held in Las Vegas.

In the past eleven months, NAPABA has accomplished a number of the goals from its new strategic plan and it has made significant progress on many others. For example, we have significantly increased the number (47 to 57) and diversity of our affiliates, and we have welcomed our first two South Asian affiliates, the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California and the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California.

With respect to NAPABA's goal of increasing the number of Asian Pacific Americans on the federal judiciary, during this past year, the number of APA judges

increased by 25% — from six APA active Article III judges to eight. With the hard work and assistance of the NAPABA Judiciary Committee, both Amul Thapar (E.D.Ky.) and Kiyo Matsumoto (E.D.N.Y.) were confirmed by the United States Senate this past year.

NAPABA, along with the NAPABA Law Foundation, also hosted two diversity symposia focusing on the disproportionately low number of APA partners in large law firms, as compared to the number of associates. Many thanks to the Minority Corporate Counsel Association for giving us a grant that made the symposia possible, and to O'Melveny & Myers LLP and White & Case LLP, which hosted the two symposia.

NAPABA also worked with its affiliates to bring CLE and networking opportunities to you. In addition to our annual regional conferences in the Northeast, Southeast and California this year, we introduced, for the first time, an annual regional conference in our Central Region, hosted by NAPABA-Minnesota Chapter.

NAPABA also completed its first survey of its national membership to learn how we can better serve you. Thank you to the many members who completed our membership survey.

Working with our Solo and Small Firm Committee, NAPABA also compiled its first national database of APA-owned law firms, many of which are solo and small firms. This database is available on-line at www.napaba.org and should be a valuable resource to clients and to our membership.

In our continuing effort to promote justice, equity and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans, NAPABA recently voted to support passage of Amendment #1, a ballot initiative in Florida that would finally remove the last of this Nation's antiquated and unconstitutional Alien Land Laws, historically discriminatory measures adopted in the early 1900s that

prohibited non-U.S. born people of color from owning land. NAPABA also voted to oppose Proposition 8, a ballot initiative in California which would eliminate the right to same-sex marriage in California despite the California Supreme Court's ruling that same-sex couples cannot be denied the fundamental right to marry.

This year, our Board also spent much time and effort searching for and hiring our new Executive Director, Tina Matsuoka. We now have five full-time staff members and one Americorps VISTA volunteer of the highest caliber running our national office in Washington, D.C. Details of our numerous accomplishments this year are included in NAPABA's Year-In-Review 2007-2008 that will appear in the Annual Convention Program Book. For more information, contact the NAPABA office at 202-775-9555 or visit our website at www.napaba.org.

You are more than welcome to join us in our efforts. Please join us and see what NAPABA has to offer. NAPABA maintains over 30 standing committees that serve the interests of its members. We should have something for everybody and, if we don't, we are more than happy to form a committee that will serve you.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve you as NAPABA's President this year, and I thank you for allowing me this opportunity. Meeting NAPABA members and community leaders throughout the country was certainly one of the best parts of the job. I hope to see you all in Seattle at NAPABA's 20th Annual Convention.

With warmest regards,

Helen B. Kim

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Profiling APA General Counsels

In 2006, NAPABA launched the 10 x 10 Initiative, with the goal of having 10 Asian Pacific American General Counsels of Fortune 500 companies by 2010. At that time, only six General Counsel of Fortune 500 companies were APA. By Fall 2007 there were 12 APA General Counsels of Fortune 500 companies. To celebrate crossing the historic milestone of over 10 APA General Counsels, NAPABA featured several of the 12 General Counsels. In our Election 2008 NAPABA Lawyer, NAPABA highlighted several more of these General Counsels and in this edition we are happy to present the profile for the remaining APA General Counsels, which completes our coverage of all the current Asian American General Counsels for Fortune 500 companies.

JVADE CHAUDRI

Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Sempra Energy

Mr. Chaudhri is Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Environmental Officer for Sempra Energy, a San Diego-based Fortune 200 energy-services company whose subsidiaries provide electricity, natural gas and value-added products and services. Sempra Energy's global business operations include two major utility companies in California, Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company, as well as natural gas infrastructure operations worldwide.

Mr. Chaudhri is a member of the company's six-person Management Committee and is responsible for legal, corporate governance and compliance matters for Sempra Energy. He manages a department of over 70 lawyers. He also serves as the company's chief environmental officer, in which capacity he coordinates environmental policies and the company's expansive role in local, state and international climate change activities.

Prior to joining Sempra Energy in 2003, he served as senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Gateway Inc., the computer company. Until early 1999, Mr. Chaudhri was a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Winston & Strawn, where he co-managed the international and technology practice groups. Prior to that, until 1993, Mr. Chaudhri was a partner at the law firm of Jones Day, based in Washington, D.C.

Law is Mr. Chaudhri's second career. He received a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and worked as a scientist in this area. He then decided to become a lawyer because he concluded that he could best affect change, including in the third world, as a lawyer involved in international transactions.

When asked whether or not he found ethnicity to be a benefit and/or burden to his professional career, Mr. Chaudhri confidently stated that he has always found his ethnic heritage to be an advantage. He explained that "speaking another language is like having another soul" – and so too are the benefits of multiculturalism. Mr. Chaudhri further stated that as Asian Americans we are uniquely privileged in that regard.

Mr. Chaudhri acknowledges that he was privileged to have the role models and mentors in the legal community that he had. He had intellectual and moral giants as his professional role models when he first began practicing law in 1980 at Surrey & Morse in Washington, D.C. These role models were the named partners Walter Sterling Surrey and David Morse, both of whom were great men whose lives intertwined with major events of the mid-20th century and each of whom inspired him.

As a General Counsel for Gateway Inc., which was a Fortune 200 company, Mr. Chaudhri gained interesting and insightful perspectives on whether he has noticed any changes in the corporate culture that may have paved the way for greater diversity. He believes that change, including in the corporate setting, is slow in coming. It has to be driven top down and also from the bottom up. Companies that do not embrace diversity are doomed to fail. He was proud to say that "Sempra Energy is a national leader in promoting diversity. It is part of our DNA."

One piece of advice that Mr. Chaudhri would like to share is that, in his experience, there is no substitute for excellence and hard work. If one produces the best work and works hard, then he will have positioned himself for success. Everything else, positive or negative, is secondary. However, although there are no substitutes for hard work and excellence, he also emphasizes that one must keep a sense of proportion and sense of humor

as he goes about his professional life.

Mr. Chaudhri holds a bachelor's degree from Yale College, a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and a juris doctor degree from Georgetown University. He was born and grew up in Nairobi, Kenya and received his high school education at Strathmore College in Nairobi.

SANDRA LEUNG

Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary for Bristol-Myers Squibb

Ms. Leung, as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) serves as legal advisor to the Board of Directors and company executives, and is responsible for shaping the company's legal strategy, both currently and prospectively. Ms. Leung joined BMS in 1992 as a staff attorney in the litigation department. After four years she became assistant counsel and one year later, was named associate counsel. In 1999, Ms. Leung was named acting general counsel in addition to her other duties and in 2007, she was named to her current position as senior vice president and general counsel.

Before joining the company, Ms. Leung spent eight years as a prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorney's office and was one of New York City's first Asian American female prosecutors. During her time there, she was part of the original special victims unit.

Ms. Leung, a child of immigrant parents, grew up acutely aware of the inequities her parents, relatives and their friends endured because they did not speak English well. As she listened to their everyday stories of frustration and sometimes, anger, she promised herself that she would, one day, speak for those who could not speak for themselves for whatever reason. The stereotype that Asian women were passive and soft-spoken drove Ms. Leung to become a

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litigator. Her first job out of law school as a prosecutor allowed her to “speak” for crime victims and defy stereotypes of Asian women.

When asked whether she has found her ethnicity to be a benefit or a burden to her professional career, Ms. Leung stated that it has served as both, depending on the circumstance. She has never, however, allowed others to define what she is capable of based on her ethnicity.

One thing that Ms. Leung stresses is the importance of mentors. She finds that the best mentors are often the informal ones. These people who have invested in her and her career not because they were paired together in a formal program, but because they had a good productive professional relationship.

When asked what advice she would like to share with NAPABA members Ms. Leung responded that she believes in surrounding herself with people smarter than she but also to treat all people with respect without regard to job title or position. Nothing rankles her more than an attorney that takes out his bad day on his administrative assistant. Additionally, to those who aspire to be in management positions, she advises that you be willing to do the hard work and bring good judgment and expertise to the table. Most importantly, have great personal integrity and be someone people can trust.

Ms. Leung earned her J.D. from Boston College of Law and her bachelor’s degree from Tufts University.

SIMON YEE SHING LEUNG

General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for SYNEX Corporation

Mr. Leung, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for SYNEX Corporation, a global business process services company traded on the New York Stock Exchange, is responsible for oversight of all domestic and international legal functions. This includes advertising, antitrust, corporate compliance, securities, risk management, litigation, management of outside counsel, commercial contracts and licensing, M & A, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, intellectual property, real estate, employment & labor, and general corporate governance and Board of Directors matters. He joined SYNEX in 2000 and has been there since. Prior to joining SYNEX, Mr. Leung was a Senior

Associate at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP working on general business and legal counseling on a wide range of privately and publicly owned companies.

Before joining Paul Hastings, Mr. Leung served as an associate at Fotenos & Suttle, a smaller firm with large clients. He was at the firm from 1995 until it dismantled in 1999. Mr. Leung began his legal career in house at Allstate Insurance Company working as a staff attorney on civil fraud litigation with their Special Investigation Unit.

When asked about whether he ever found ethnicity to be a benefit and/or burden to his professional career, Mr. Leung replied “Both. A lot of doors have been opened to him based upon being Asian. But there are also a lot of doors closed. On a macro level, everyone claims to be interested in increasing the number of minorities at large law firms. However, on a micro level, in the ordinary course of work from day to day, being Asian prevented me from being included in certain things. I believe this has more to do with naturally gravitating towards those you feel are like you more than actively excluding those that are not.”

Mr. Leung acknowledged that the corporate culture has changed over the years due to diversity. Since he has been in practice, the doors have opened up much wider for all minorities. He observed that in the past, minority attorneys needed to work extra hard to be noticed and get places. But more and more he sees that in addition to working hard, nowadays minority attorneys are more vocal about their career and where they want to be and have a “go get it” type attitude.

Mr. Leung embraces this new approach and advises all young Asian American professionals to do so as well. He firmly believes that no one hands anyone anything in life and that one must be vocal and affirmative in managing one’s own career. Even after his many accomplishments and successes, he still creates a list of things he wants to accomplish at the beginning of each year and works hard to make sure he accomplishes each of those goals.

Mr. Leung holds J.D. from University of Minnesota Law School and a B.A. degree University of California, Davis.

NAPABA Welcomes Sidney Kanazawa as NAPABA’s New General Counsel



Sidney Kanazawa, Partner at McGuire Woods LLC and new NAPABA General Counsel

NAPABA is honored to welcome Sidney Kanazawa as NAPABA’s new general counsel. Mr. Kanazawa is a partner at McGuire Woods LLP in Los Angeles. He has extensive experience maximizing the opportunities and minimizing the dangers of products liability, environmental, intellectual property (including patents), regulatory, white collar crime, construction, commercial, class actions, employment, banking, and other disputes. Prior to joining McGuire Woods, Mr. Kanazawa was a partner at Van Etten Suzumoto & Becket LLP, Pillsbury Winthrop LLP and Lillick McHose LLP. Given his experience as a partner of many law firms in many practice areas, Mr. Kanazawa will provide guidance to NAPABA on a range of legal matters, including tax, corporate governance, employment, contracts, and potential liability.

In 2007, Mr. Kanazawa was selected by the publishers of Los Angeles Magazine as one of Southern California’s “Super Lawyers.” He is also an active member of the American Law Institute and Japanese American Bar Association. Recently, he spoke at the Inter-Pacific Bar Association on a panel titled, “Representing Asian Clients in High Stakes U.S. Jury Trials.”

Mr. Kanazawa received his Juris Doctor from University of South California Gould School of Law and his Bachelors of Education from University of Hawaii. He is admitted into both the California and Hawaii Bar.

they could carry with them to the internment camps. After World War II, finding that the West Coast was still somewhat hostile to Japanese Americans, George Matsumoto helped establish the School of Architecture at North Carolina State University, and married Kimi, where four of their five children – four girls and one boy – were born, with Judge Matsumoto being the second eldest.

Although Judge Matsumoto generally has pleasant memories of her North Carolina childhood, she also remembers that segregation was still a fact of life there. She recalled one particular instance when her family and an African American family went to the beach together. A police officer at the beach told them that they were not welcome, and asked them to leave the beach immediately. She also remembered that her younger sister was once roughed up after being taunted with racial slurs. Her parents cautioned against bitterness but encouraged their children to be conscious of prejudice and injustice. Indeed, Judge Matsumoto remarked that her family had it much easier than others.

The family eventually returned to California, where Judge Matsumoto's father taught at the University of California, Berkeley and then started his own architecture firm. Even in California, her family faced discrimination when trying to buy a house, occasionally being told that they were not allowed in certain neighborhoods.

Judge Matsumoto gives much credit to her parents for instilling in her the importance of equality, justice and the need for community involvement. Unlike many Japanese Americans of that period, her parents talked to their children about the internment, hoping that by discussing the topic they could help prevent future mistakes. Around the dinner table, her parents would talk about the "free speech" movement on college campuses, fair housing, the civil rights movement and other social issues of the day. Although Judge Matsumoto admits that some of these issues did not resonate with her because she was still so young, she clearly grasped that her parents wanted to create a better and more just society.

College and Law School

The decision for college was a simple one: Judge Matsumoto's father and

paternal grandfather both went to UC Berkeley, and it was almost unquestioned that she and her siblings would do the same. At UC Berkeley, Judge Matsumoto studied journalism. Knowing that she wanted to go to law school, she saw journalism as an excellent way to hone her skills in fact-finding, writing, and maintaining the objectivity necessary to be an advocate. After graduation, she worked as a paralegal before attending Georgetown University Law Center. Judge Matsumoto decided on Washington, D.C. because her parents urged her to go to graduate school outside of California to gain a broader experience. During law school, Judge Matsumoto worked her first summer at the D.C. law firm of Covington & Burling and continued to work there part-time during her second and third years. During her second summer and for two years after law school, Judge Matsumoto worked at the Seattle law firm of MacDonald, Hoague and Bayless. She chose Seattle because Judge Matsumoto expected to return to the West Coast, and she thought that the Seattle environment would be an excellent place to live and start her career.

Moving to the Big Apple

After two years in Seattle, Judge Matsumoto was looking for an opportunity for hands-on litigation and trial experience. With many of her friends from law school in New York, she learned of a job opening in the United States Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York. She interviewed, and, somewhat to her surprise, received an offer a few months later.

Judge Matsumoto expected to be in New York only for three years, and then return to the West Coast, but enjoyed her experiences at the U.S. Attorney's Office so much that she decided to stay. She worked her way up the U.S. Attorney's Office hierarchy, becoming Deputy Chief, Chief of the Financial Litigation Unit, First Deputy Chief and then Chief of the Civil Division.

It was during this time that Judge Matsumoto met Judge Denny Chin (S.D.N.Y.) and Magistrate Judge Marilyn Go (E.D.N.Y.). Judge Matsumoto and Judge Chin were fellow Assistant U.S. Attorneys (though in different districts). Judge Go had left the U.S. Attorney's Office for private practice, and was representing co-ops, including the one where Judge Matsumoto lived. Judge Matsumoto also joined the

Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY), where she volunteered for mock interview workshops, and participated on panels and as a judge for the Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition.

Applying for the Bench

Judge Matsumoto had a strong reputation in the U.S. Attorney's Office. So when a vacancy arose for a federal magistrate judge in the Eastern District of New York, Judge Matsumoto was encouraged to apply. Although she applied, she was not selected.

Judge Matsumoto was not surprised. She knew that most applicants do not succeed on their first try. When another opportunity arose, Judge Matsumoto decided to apply again. She gives a lot of credit to Judges Go and Chin for encouraging her. "Their advice and guidance were invaluable." This time, Judge Matsumoto succeeded and was appointed as a Magistrate Judge in 2004.

Thereafter, a vacancy on the Eastern District bench arose when a district judge took senior status. At first, Judge Matsumoto had no intention of applying, but one morning, she received a call from a sitting judge on the Court, summoning her to his chambers. Judge Matsumoto "was very nervous going to see him; I thought that I had done something wrong." Quite to the contrary, the judge encouraged her to apply for the vacancy. Judge Go and Judge Chin likewise encouraged her to apply, but she was enjoying her work as a Magistrate Judge.

Judge Matsumoto said that a breakthrough occurred at the 2006 NAPABA Convention in Philadelphia. At that Convention, the Judiciary Committee hosted a roundtable discussion on increasing diversity in the federal judiciary. Preet Bharara, counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee member Charles Schumer (D-NY), was a guest speaker and pledged to work with NAPABA on this issue. As Judge Matsumoto recalls in discussing the New York vacancy with Judge Chin, "Denny emphasized to me that you never know when these rare opportunities will come along. Even if you are not sure the time is right, you should go for it rather than face the uncertainty of whether the opportunity will arise again." With that, Judge Matsumoto decided to apply.

Under the bipartisan arrangement between the New York Democratic

Senators and the President, the recommendation of Senator Schumer for this vacancy was critical. Judge Matsumoto interviewed with Senator Schumer's screening committee and then with the Senator and Mr. Bharara. On November 15, 2007, the Senator announced his recommendation of Judge Matsumoto (not coincidentally, during the NAPABA Convention).

Judge Matsumoto was formally nominated by the President on March 12, 2008, and was confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate on July 17, 2008. Senator Schumer showed his strong admiration for Judge Matsumoto by taking the somewhat uncommon step of speaking on the floor of the Senate about her. He stated that he "was deeply impressed by her poise, intellect, temperament, and thoughtfulness." He recognized that her confirmation was "historic," given the relative lack of women and minority judges. Senator Schumer also cited statistics provided by NAPABA regarding the number of Asian Pacific American judges, and "couldn't agree more" with the "enthusiastic support of . . . the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association."

Keeping It Real

In discussing the nomination, Judge Matsumoto is grateful for the role played by NAPABA, AABANY and their members. She praised Judges Chin and Go and John Yang, Past President of NAPABA and Co-Chair of NAPABA's Judiciary Committee, for "encouraging me to apply and providing such tremendous support and guidance." She noted that "Denny [Chin] and John [Yang] were immensely helpful. They knew the process, told me what I should expect, and were able to provide insights and information even when nothing seemed to be happening." She also has been touched by the friendliness of her fellow Asian Pacific American federal judges, many of whom have called or emailed to extend well wishes and offer assistance.

With three kids at home ranging in age from eleven to seventeen and an adult stepdaughter, one question that came to mind was how the kids were reacting to Judge Matsumoto's new role as a district court judge and role model for the Asian Pacific American community. Judge Matsumoto said that "they seemed to

NAPABA at 21: The Revolution Continues – hosted by the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts

The Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts (AALAM) cordially invites you to join us November 19-22, 2009 in Boston for the 2009 NAPABA 21st Annual Convention:

"NAPABA at 21: The Revolution Continues"

Join us in Boston, the "Cradle of Liberty", to celebrate and chart out the continuing advancement of the Asian American legal community as well as Asian American causes, and

to honor AALAM's 25th Anniversary. Nicknamed "The Walking City", Boston is home to numerous internationally renowned historic sites, cultural activities, colleges and universities, sporting events, shopping, restaurants and nightlife, all within easy reach of the convention site, The Westin Copley Place in the heart of Boston's trendy Back Bay area. We look forward to welcoming you and your families to Boston!

For further information, please contact the Convention Host Committee Co-Chairs:

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Back Bay, Boston

understand it more when we went to D.C. for the Senate confirmation hearing," but added that her position as a judge was less important to them than her maternal role. A federal marshal who once observed Judge Matsumoto one morning, urging her children to hurry and get ready for school, jokingly remarked to her husband that "she gets a lot more respect around the courthouse than she does at home!"

When Senator Schumer recommended the nomination of Judge Matsumoto, Chief Judge Raymond Dearle of the Eastern District of New York stated that "I am so tickled the Senator has taken note of the obvious and selected one of

our extraordinary magistrate judges. I tip my hat to him." He further stated that Judge Matsumoto is a "sheer delight, an enormously competent lawyer and judge, and one of the nicest and most outstanding people I've come across for a long time." NAPABA could not agree more. Congratulations to The Honorable Kiyoo Matsumoto.

John C. Yang is a past President of NAPABA and a Co-Chair of the NAPABA Judiciary Committee.



TAPABA's Mentoring Happy Hour with Vanderbilt Law School Students. Appearing left to right are: John Dong, Diqing Yu, Cherry Xi, Lei Gao, Siew-Ling Shea, Kaz Kikkawa, Shilina Chatterjee-Brown, Kyong Choi, Anjlee Khurana, Yungbi Jang and Ling Guan.

form an Asian American bar association. Once we assembled a core of 9, we enlisted the help of NAPABA's North Carolina and Georgia affiliates to help guide us through the formalities of starting a 501(c)(6) bar association. Our first slate of officers and board members included Teresa Chan (President), Jon Stanley (Vice President), Kaz Kikkawa (Secretary), Ling Guan (Treasurer), Grace Yang, Reiko Fukushima, Siew-Ling Shea, and Shilina Chatterjee-Brown. Sam Choy from the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association also participated in our inaugural board. On May 1, 2007, TAPABA was officially formed.

We faced some hurdles in our first few months. Our President Teresa Chan and two other board members each made painful decisions to return to their respective home states to be closer to family. (Despite moving back to Sacramento, California, however, Teresa Chan has stayed very active with TAPABA and is single-handedly responsible for creating and maintaining our website: www.tapaba.org.)

Making An Impact

In December 2007, Kaz Kikkawa stepped in as TAPABA's Interim-President. And so far, 2008 has been a great year.

- In February-March 2008, TAPABA developed and launched a mentoring program with the Vanderbilt University Law School's chapter of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. TAPABA Board Members Shilina Chatterjee-Brown and Kyong Choi deserve much credit for helping develop and organize this effort.

- In March 2008, TAPABA members began working with the newly forming Tennessee chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP-TN) to help develop a united network of Asian professionals in Tennessee.
- In April 2008, TAPABA and the Vanderbilt chapter of APALSA co-presented a career panel that was open to all Vanderbilt Law students entitled, "How to Get The Job Offer You Want and Succeed Once You Get There." The discussion was kicked off by APALSA President Curtis Chow, and Kaz Kikkawa moderated the discussion with panelists Jon Stanley (Bridgestone-Firestone), Shilina Chatterjee-Brown (Tennessee Regulatory Authority), Bob Wood (Diversity Committee Chairperson of Boulton Cummings Connors & Berry) and Charles Williamson (Hiring Partner from Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis). The panel was sponsored by Boulton, Cummings, Connors & Berry.

- In May 2008, TAPABA members Ling Guan, Seth Yu, Mark Nobles, and Kaz Kikkawa presented a panel discussion to State Farm employees on "Doing Business With the Asian Community In Tennessee." State Farm asked TAPABA for this presentation after seeing TAPABA's website. The event was one of State Farm's diversity initiatives – to celebrate National Asian Heritage Month.
- In June 2008, TAPABA held its first annual banquet. The event was

co-hosted by TAPABA and NAAAP-TN and featured a dim sum banquet at Fulin's Restaurant in Brentwood, Tennessee. TAPABA Board Member Ling Guan deserves a lot of credit for helping organize this special event.

- In July 2008, TAPABA President Kaz Kikkawa was selected to serve on the Tennessee Bar Association's Committee for Racial and Ethnic Diversity. This is a newly formed standing committee of the Tennessee Bar Association. Members include the current and former Presidents of the TBA, USDC Magistrate Judge Tu Pham, and several other prominent attorneys from across the state.

What's in-store for the rest of 2008 and 2009?

TAPABA is not going to be a "large scale" organization for many years to come because our pool of potential members is so relatively small. But considering we basically have a handful of members and an annual budget of less than \$1,000, we have done a lot so far, and we're hoping to do even more in 2009. We are in the process of re-starting our mentoring program at Vanderbilt Law School and we expect to host another career panel there this year as well. Another one of our many goals for 2009 is to develop a more significant presence in Western Tennessee (Memphis).

Last but certainly not least, TAPABA has been selected to host the 2009 NAPABA Southeast Regional Conference. The conference will take place in Nashville on March 27-28, 2009. We're planning something truly special – so we hope you can come and join us there. Details will be posted on our website as they develop.

Kaz Kikkawa is the President of TAPABA. He is Senior Counsel with HCA practicing in the areas of health and managed care law.



First Annual Meeting at Fulin's Restaurant in Brentwood, Tennessee (co-sponsored with NAAAP-TN).



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Regional News

CALIFORNIA (SAN FRANCISCO) REGION

The **Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (AABA)** hosted a Mentorship Brunch on September 21st at Orrick in San Francisco. On September 23rd, it presented a panel "Careers Beyond the Partner Track" at the Quadrus Conference Center in Palo Alto.

The **Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicone Valley (APBA SV)**, along with the Diversity Committee of Santa Clara County Bar Association, on August 5th, presented the 2008 Minority Bar and Summer Associate mixer at Fenwick & West in Mountain View. On August 7th, APBA SV presented a talk by David Codell on Marriage Equality in California: Developments in Legislation and Litigation sponsored by Orrick and co-sponsored by Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition, KABA, Rainbow Committee, SABA, VABANC, and Women's Lawyers Committee. The APBA SV Scholarship/Diversity Awards Dinner was held on October 20th.

The **Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California (VABANC)** co-hosted the National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorneys, "Building New Bridges," in San Francisco from August 15-16th.

The **Filipino Bar Association of Northern California (FBANC)**, with the Asian Law Caucus, hosted its 15th Annual Caucus Classic on September 6th, at the Metropolitan Golf Course in Oakland. On September 18th, FBANC held its Annual Attorney-Law Student Mixer at Thelen in San Francisco, and on October 18th, it held the Fall Picnic.

The **Korean American Bar Association of Northern California (KABANC)** celebrated the achievements of Professor Donna Ryu on September 18th at the UC Hastings Skyroom in San Francisco. On September 27th, KABANC held a Mentorship BBQ at Lindley Meadows. On October 11th, it hosted a Golf Tournament at Metropolitan Golf in Oakland. The International Association of Korean Lawyers Annual Conference was held from September 11-14th at the Radisson Hotel in Philadelphia.

The **South Asian Bar Association-Northern California (SABANC)** held its monthly South Bay Luncheon on September 17th at Pho Viet in San Jose. The South Bay Luncheon is held every 3rd Wednesday of the month. On September 20th, SABANC held its Annual Picnic and BBQ at Coyote Point in San Mateo. The SABA-NC Foundation hosted a Halloween fundraiser on October 30th in San Francisco – its First Annual Sa-boon Soiree, which raised funds for public interest fellowships for law students.

For more information:

AABA - Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area: aaba.bay.com

APBA SV - Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley: apbasv.org

FBANC - Filipino Bar Association of Northern California: fbanc.org

KABA - Korean American Bar Association Northern California: kabanc.org

SABA - South Asian Bar Association - Northern California chapter: southasianbar.org

VABANC - Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California: vabanc.org

CALIFORNIA (LOS ANGELES) REGION

The **Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County (APABA)** recently signed onto an amicus brief in support of the litigation to remove Proposition 8 (the anti-marriage equality ballot measure) from the ballot on equal protection grounds. APABA board member Al Valencia, along with Cliff Davidson at Proskauer Rose, helped write the brief. Consistent with APABA's long-standing support for the freedom to marry, APABA signed onto the brief along with other legal and civil rights groups.

On June 25th, APABA held a meet and greet to celebrate Phyllis Cheng's appointment as Director of the State's Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). Phyllis shared her plans to mark the 50th anniversary of DFEH, the largest state civil rights entity in the country. On July 17th, APABA presented a panel discussion for law students on preparation for on-campus interviews at Chop Suey in Little Tokyo. On August 7th, APABA held its Annual Membership Meeting and Reception. Many of their new and long-time members attended in the beautiful courtyard of the new Chado Tea Room at the Japanese American National Museum. This past August, the most eagerly anticipated event, APABA's Annual Softball Tournament with 9 teams participating from APABA, the Asian Pacific American Public Defenders, the Japanese American Bar Association, the Korean American Bar Association, the Latino Prosecutors Association, the Mexican American Bar Association, the Pilipino American Bar Association, the South Asian Bar Association, and the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association. Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches conducted a bone marrow donor drive during the tournament and KABA took home the title

(again). On September 18th, over 150 attorney and law students attended APABA's festive Joint APA Bar Associations' 2nd Annual Attorney-Law Student Welcome Mixer.

APABA is organizing a small group to travel to Washington, D.C., from December 12-15th, to attend a swearing-in ceremony on December 15th to the United States Supreme Court Bar before the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. A breakfast or brunch with one of the Supreme Court Justices in a small group setting is also in the works.

The **Japanese American Bar Association (JABA)** hosted a legal clinic at the Little Tokyo Service Center in Los Angeles on September 27th. Volunteer attorneys were on hand to address a variety of issues including immigration, family law, trusts and wills, contracts, small claims/litigation, landlord-tenant, and consumer rights. On October 16th, JABA honored Holly Fujie, new California Bar President, at its annual meeting to be held at Empress Pavilion Restaurant in Chinatown.

The **Philippine American Bar Association (PABA)** presented its pro bono legal clinic in historic Filipino town on October 4th. The clinic, which is co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), included lawyers with expertise on the topics of immigration law, employment law, criminal deportation, trusts and estate planning, family law, and elder abuse law. On October 14th, PABA hosted its annual bowling night at the trendy Jillian's in Universal City.

The **South Asian Bar Association of Southern California (SABA-SC)** started its new term with its Fall Networking Mixer on August 21st. The event was a huge success with over 50 people in attendance! SABA-SC also sponsored the Joint API Bar Law Student Welcome Mixer on September 18th. Representatives from the local area Asian Pacific American bar associations were present to introduce themselves and their respective organizations. Over 120 people attended the event including a host of law students. SABA-SC subsequently hosted the screening of the documentary "Divided We Fall". Winner of more than a dozen international awards, "Divided We Fall" documented incidents of racism and fear that gripped the Sikh community following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack. The screening was followed by a panel discussion. In conjunction with APABA, SCCLA, JABA, KABA and PABA, SABA-SC hosted an evening with Holly Fujie, the new State Bar of California President. The event will be hosted and

sponsored by Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP on October 2nd. SABA-SC, along with other Asian American bars in California, signed on earlier this year to support the amicus brief in support of marriage equality. SABA-SC recently re-affirmed its endorsement in opposition to Proposition 8 regarding marriage equality.

The **Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association (SCCLA)** was honored by the Los Angeles Chinatown Service Center as a Community Partner at the Service Center's September 26th Annual Awards Banquet. The Service Center is a non-profit community organization that provides health, education, legal and direct services to Los Angeles' Chinatown community. For the past 30 years, SCCLA has partnered with the Service Center to provide a holiday gift basket and toy drive program for the Service Center's clients, as well as a monthly legal clinic. SCCLA President and NAPABA partner Paul S. Chan accepted the award on behalf of SCCLA.

The **Taiwanese American Lawyers Association (TALA)** held its 14th Annual Installation Dinner on October 17th. New State Bar President, Holly Fujie, served as the evening's Keynote Speaker.

The **Ventura County Asian American Bar Association (VCAABA)** held its 3rd Annual Tennis Open at the Pacific Tennis Club in Westlake Village on October 19th.

CALIFORNIA (ORANGE COUNTY/SAN DIEGO) REGION

In July, the **Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego (FALSD)**, represented by their President, participated in the annual conference of local bar leaders at the San Diego County Bar Association, where bar leaders discussed various issues affecting membership in their respective organizations, means of organizational improvement, and how to collaborate more with one another. In September, FALSD members participated in Mock Interviews at the University of San Diego School of Law and FALSD co-hosted the Corporate Counsel informative networking mixer event, "Views From In-House," which was held at QUALCOMM, Inc.

The **Korean American Bar Association of San Diego (KABA-SD)** just completed its first year as an organization. Highlights from the past year include an event featuring Judge Tammy Ryu, the first Korean American female judge appointed to the California judiciary, a career panel event at USD School of Law and volunteering at the Women's Resource Fair in March.

On September 19th, in conjunction with the Korean American Coalition of San Diego (KAC-SD), the KABA-SD hosted

their inaugural Annual Dinner & Installation of Officers at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park, San Diego. The keynote speaker was civil rights and community leader Angela Oh and the mistress of ceremonies was local news anchorwoman Lee Ann Kim. Over 120 people attended, including members of the judiciary, local law firms and bar associations, and local area law schools. Chief Judge Irma E. Gonzalez, United States District Court, Presiding Judge Kenneth So, Judge Patricia Cowett, Judge Lillian Lim and Judge Larry Stirling, of the California Superior Court. The event was highlighted by a Korean drum group and a Taekwondo demonstration. KABA-SD also welcomed its newly elected board. Carol M. Lee from the U.S. Attorney's Office serves as KABA-SD's next President. She is joined by Vice President Amanda Harris, Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek, Secretary Susie Yoo, Mintz Levin, Treasurer Michael Han, DLA Piper.

KABA-SD was recently approved as a 501(c)(3) organization and it looks forward to its second year of incorporation and hosting more events in the upcoming year.

On August 21st, the **Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA)** held its summer joint mixer with local bars (the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association, the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association and Orange County Women Lawyers).

On September 6th, the **Orange County Korean American Bar Association (OC KABA)** held a Breakfast Roundtable at Pacific Whey at Crystal Cove Promenade to promote networking and discussion of legal and professional issues among its OC KABA members. Throughout September and October, OC KABA members participated in "Law Suits," a professional clothing drive in conjunction with UC Irvine Women's Law Society.

On September 4th, **Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALSD)** held a Welcome Reception for First Year Law Students at California Western School of Law, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and the University of San Diego School of Law hosted by Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear.

CALIFORNIA (EASTERN CALIFORNIA/LAS VEGAS) REGION

The **Asian Bar Association of Las Vegas (ABALV)** held its October General Meeting on, October 8th. ABALV will be rolling out its new mentoring program for members.

After a brief respite from hosting a successful NAPABA Regional Conference in Sacramento last June, the **Asian Bar**

Association of Sacramento (ABAS) continued with its strong community service activities and its representation on the Sacramento County Bar Association, Asian Bar of California, the Unity Bar, and Operation Protect and Defend, to name a few. Last year, ABAS began a legal clinic for My Sister's House, a safe haven for battered Asian Pacific Islander women and children. The legal clinic proved to be a much needed service – every Tuesday night, women are lined up to talk to any of the four dedicated volunteer ABAS attorneys – Lee No, Steve Tsuyuki, Victoria Searl, and Dee Brown. The ABAS legal clinic has done such great work that My Sister's House awarded ABAS with its Organization of the Year Award. ABAS was also awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the California Legislature, which was presented by Assemblyman Dave Jones.

ABAS continued to have an extremely busy fall season! In October, there was no shortage of ABAS-hosted events. ABAS hosted a law school mixer with the McGeorge School of Law APALSA students on October 2nd. On October 8th, ABAS held its quarterly speaker series luncheon with Dean Kevin Johnson of the UC Davis School of Law as its featured speaker. On October 12nd, ABAS held its annual golf tournament at Turkey Creek Golf Club, ABAS's largest fundraiser of the year. On October 30th, ABAS hosted the Unity Bar Dinner at the Radisson Hotel, in conjunction with La Raza, Wiley Manuel Bar Association, SacLegal, South Asian Bar Association, and Women Lawyers of Sacramento. ABAS's featured guest speaker was the Honorable Ed Chen of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California. On November 8th, ABAS and its running teams – the ABAS Legal Eagles and ABAS Legal Beagles, participated in the annual My Sister's House 5k Fun Run in beautiful Land Park in downtown Sacramento.

CENTRAL REGION

The **Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago (AABA-GC)** had its installation reception on July 24th at Trump Hotel and Towers. All officers and board members were sworn-in by the Illinois Chief Justice Thomas Fitzgerald and five Asian judges, namely, Hon. Maria Kuriakos Ciesil, Hon. Israel Desierto, Hon. Sandra Otaka, Hon. Lynn Kawamoto, and Hon. Neera Walsh. The keynote speaker was Illinois Director of Veteran's Affairs L. Tammy Duckworth who shared her experiences of serving the army and being an Asian American. It was the largest installation that AABA has had since its

founding with over 300 people who attended by members, leaders of various bar organizations from Chicago area, members of the judiciary and dignitaries who also were guest speakers. Attorney General Lisa Madigan gave the welcoming remarks during the reception, and Alderman Robert Fioretti read a resolution presented to the City Council of the City of Chicago to the group.

The AABA-GC Community Outreach Dinner was held on October 15th. Leaders from each of the Asian communities (Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Filipino, and Pakistani) were invited to discuss the role of AABA in the Asian community including but not limited to issues such as, voter registration, pro-bono legal clinic, community service, political endorsements, hate crime, domestic violence and others. Mr. Charlie Jung, president of Korean Association of Chicago, graciously sponsored the event.

On July 24th, the **Asian American Bar Association of Kansas City (AABAKC)** celebrated its 3rd Annual Dinner with over 170 guests at the InterContinental Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. The dinner featured keynote speaker, Jimmy Lee, the former Executive Director of the White House Initiative for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and current Managing Director of the U.S. Asian Business Council. Mr. Lee presented his remarks to a sold out crowd that included notable guests such as the Hon. Richard Teitelman – Missouri Supreme Court, the Hon. Laura Stith – Missouri Supreme Court, the Hon. Duane Benton – U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, the Hon. Eric Ahuja – Missouri Court of Appeals, the Hon. Thomas Newton – Missouri Court of Appeals, Charlie Harris – President of the Missouri Bar, Gigi Mateo – President of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce, and Dean Gail Agrawal from the University of Kansas School of Law. Thanks to donations from sponsors, including Sprint Nextel Corp., Garmin, Zurich North America, Ameristar Casino, the Missouri Bar, the University of Missouri – Kansas City, the University of Kansas and the Asian American Chamber of Commerce, AABAKC presented two scholarships to deserving law students. Next year, AABAKC will incorporate the Annual Dinner as part of NAPABA's Central Regional Convention.

The **NAPABA Minnesota Chapter (NAPABA-MN)** has spent the last few months following up on its activities in connection with the Central Regional Conference. Because of the lessons learned about the need for special outreach to students and more senior members and because of the time and expense spent on the Central Regional Conference, NAPABA-MN is trying a few different outreach activities this year. NAPABA-MN will hold board meetings

at each local law school in connection with that law school's APALSA chapter. And NAPABA-MN will send out special invitations to our senior members to attend a special board meeting at the local restaurant where it was first formed 20 years ago. With strong law student attendance at these board meetings, NAPABA-MN is confident that it will connect up-and-coming members of our community with the more senior colleagues. NAPABA-MN will also be holding a winter retreat and hosting a new lawyer's reception in early 2009.

NORTHEAST REGION

In July and August and into September, the **Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY)** and its Student Outreach Committee worked in overdrive to make sure that the law students were getting the proper attention and support as they entered the interview season and the job market. On July 29th, AABANY hosted its first basic interactive networking skills workshop, presented by Board Member and Past President Chris Chan, at New York Law School. This workshop was designed to show law students the basic ins and outs of meeting people at functions and how to make the proper connection and impression so that law students would feel comfortable at any networking function to go up to strangers and start to building their professional networks. In August, AABANY hosted two sessions of Mock Interview and Resume Writing Workshops, first on August 9th at Hughes Hubbard & Reed, and then on August 13th at Dewey & LeBoeuf. AABANY then hosted a third session, focusing on call-back interviews on August 28th, at McDermott Will & Emery. All sessions were well attended by law students and panelists included Judge Marilyn Go of the Eastern District of New York, and Lauren Rasmus, Director of Legal Recruiting at Dewey & LeBoeuf. Among the mock interviewers volunteering their weekend and evenings to prepare and advise the law students was Judge Kiyo Matsumoto of the Eastern District of New York.

On September 3rd, AABANY's Prosecutors' Committee presented a program on "The Ins and Outs of Interviewing at the DA's Office" and provided advice to law students who are contemplating careers in the public sector as prosecutors.

On September 19th, AABANY presented its second basic interactive networking skills workshop, this time at Brooklyn Law School, to a large group of students from Brooklyn Law School and other law schools in New York.

On September 8 and 17, AABANY made the rounds at St. John's University Law School, New York Law School, Fordham Law School, Touro Law Center

and the New York University School of Law to give a presentation about AABANY and why law students should join. AABANY met the Asian Pacific American law school associations at these schools and had the opportunity to introduce AABANY to a new crop of Asian American law students who will soon become members of the profession.

On August 8, AABANY hosted the NAPABA Affiliates Dinner at Todai in midtown Manhattan, to welcome NAPABA members and officers who were in New York City to attend the ABA Annual Meeting.

On August 11, AABANY, together with Visiting Nurse Service of New York, presented a Community Seminar entitled "Protect Your Assets and Learn to How to Finance Long Term Care" at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in Chinatown.

On August 14, AABANY, together with some fifty other community groups, co-sponsored a candidate forum in Flushing, New York, for State Assembly candidates Grace Meng and Ellen Young, running in Assembly District 22, home to one of the largest Asian American populations in New York City.

On August 20, the Prosecutors' Committee hosted an outing to catch the Staten Island Yankees in action at the Richmond County Bank Ball Park.

On September 18, AABANY, together with the Association of Chinese American Physicians, organized a fundraiser to help rebuild a hospital in Sichuan Province that was destroyed during the earthquake in May. The event, which was held at Asia Roma in Chinatown and dubbed "Karaoke for a Cause," raised over \$5000 towards the effort to rebuild the hospital.

On September 23, AABANY joined with the National Employment Lawyers' Association (NELA) and other minority bar associations to host a free CLE program on Tackling National Origin Employment Discrimination. Held at Cardozo Law School, the event attracted a large number of attendees.

On September 27, AABANY, together with Catholic Charities Community Services and Empire Justice Center, presented a free legal seminar on Paths to Immigration and Government Benefits at the Ling Sing Association in Chinatown.

The **Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association Of New Jersey (APALA/NJ)** held its third annual interviewing workshop on August 11th. The event was sponsored by the law firm, Sills Cummis & Gross, P.C. and featured guest speaker Scott Murray, the co-chair of Sills Cummis's diversity committee, as well as a member of the firm's hiring committee, who spoke to law students and attorneys on interviewing tips. Law students were afforded the opportunity to practice interviewing techniques during mock

interview sessions conducted by practicing attorneys from throughout the state, many of whom are involved in the hiring process of their own firms or business entities. Each mock interview was followed by a critique. Thirty law students and attorneys attended, and the event was considered a resounding success. APALA/NJ wishes to express its gratitude to the sponsor, Sills Cummis, each attorney that volunteered to assist with the workshop, and each law student who attended.

On September 15th, APALA/NJ held its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at the Glen Ridge Country Club in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. Very generous support and sponsorship were provided from, among others, Mercedes Benz, HSBC, Provident, Stark & Stark and Ballard Spahr. Mayor Jun Choi attended and Michael Mu, an Asian American Sports Agent from Tennessee, was the Keynote speaker. The event was organized and executed by the Golf Committee: Shereen Chen, Eugene Huang, Moly Hung, Jin Hwang, Ed Kiel, David Kwon, Carlos Manalasan, Khizar Sheikh, Will Shih, Florelee Wan, Eric Wei and Dave Yoon. This year's Co-Chairs were Eugene Huang and Moly Hung, and next year's Co-Chairs will be Florelee Wan and Carlos Manalasan. It was another successful event.

On September 26th, APALA/NJ Immediate Past President, E. Michael Angulo, received the Professionalism of the Year Award at the New Jersey State Bar Association luncheon held in New Brunswick.

On October 2nd, APALA/NJ supported the annual MELA held by the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association of Rutgers Law – Newark. On October 4th, APALA/NJ hosted its Fall Picnic at Roosevelt Park, Edison, NJ – rain or shine. The Fall picnic includes great food/drinks, fun and games for all ages and an opportunity for the entire family to relax and enjoy each other's company.

On October 17th, the **Asian-Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania (APABA-PA)** held its Annual Banquet. The proceeds from the Annual Banquet benefit The Judge William M. Marutani Fellowship, which is offered to Asian American first-year law students. It provides a stipend for an Asian American Law student to enable him/her to take a summer internship position with federal, state, or municipal government offices/agencies (including the judiciary) or non-profit/public interest organizations in the Greater Philadelphia area. Andrew G. Patel was the keynote speaker and was introduced by mistress of ceremonies, Nydia Han, consumer investigative reporter for WPVI-TV/6ABC. Mr. Patel, dubbed by New York Magazine as "the terror suspect's advocate," defended El-Sayyid Nosair, a convicted assassin suspected of masterminding the 1993

World Trade Center bombing from prison, in 1997. Mr. Patel recently represented Jose Padilla, who was accused of plotting to detonate a so-called "dirty bomb" and was the first American citizen in the war against terrorism to be held as an enemy combatant without charges inside the U.S. or access to a lawyer. Mr. Patel shared his experiences in representing Mr. Padilla in an effort to preserve every citizen's right to counsel.

On October 8th, APABA-PA collaborated with the **Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)**, to offer a CLE program to train attorneys on voting rights laws and to request that these attorneys provide between 3 and 12 hours and pro bono legal services by monitoring the Presidential elections of November 4th.

On September 25th, APABA-PA hosted its annual law student reception. A record number of law students attended the reception sponsored by Morgan Lewis. Students from all are law schools were in attendance, including Rutgers-Camden University School of Law, Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law, University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Villanova University School of Law, Drexel University College of Law, and Widener University School of Law.

Fall has just begun and the **Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts (AALAM)** is already off to a busy start in September. On September 4th, members of AALAM, the Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) and the Saffron Circle, a local Asian giving circle, gathered at a Boston restaurant for a social mixer to ring in the fall semester. Then on September 8th, AALAM co-sponsored with the Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Section of the Boston Bar Association and other diversity bar associations a civil rights reception, with Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts as the guest speaker. On September 11th, members of AALAM joined other members of the Boston area legal community at the annual lunch of the Boston Bar Association.

AALAM held its annual fall kickoff event on September 16th, at the offices of Bingham McCutchen LLP in Boston. The fall kickoff was well-attended by AALAM members, ranging from some of AALAM's founding members to students from area law schools. At the kickoff event, AALAM previewed some of its fall events, such as AALAM's efforts to help (with AALDEF) monitor election polls on Election Day. AALAM helped AALDEF organize training sessions for volunteers who will help administer a multilingual voter survey and help document voting issues on Election Day in Massachusetts. In addition, AALAM co-sponsored with the Massachusetts Bar Association on October

9th a reception for a visiting group of Cambodian arbitrators and lawyers from the Cambodian Arbitration Council, an independent body established in Cambodia in 2003 whose function is to resolve collective labor disputes that could not be resolved by conciliation.

Continuing with AALAM's goal of increasing connectivity with other diversity bar associations and furthering AALAM's goal of fostering a greater unity of purpose, on September 24th, AALAM officers joined other officers and members of the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association and other diversity bar associations in Massachusetts for the first Diversity Bar mixer of the season, at the Parris Lounge in historic Faneuil Hall, steps from the Freedom Trail.

As AALAM enters its 25th year in 2009, we're thrilled to have the honor and privilege to host the 2009 NAPABA Convention in Boston. We look forward to a fantastic 2008 convention in Seattle, and to advancing our shared goals further in 2009.

On August 21st, the **Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (CAPABA)** held a special Open Membership Meeting sponsored by Jackson Lewis LLP for the installation of the new Officers and Board of Directors. The new officers are: Tanya A. Wolanic, President; Douglas Hirai, President-Elect; Calvin K. Woo, Vice President; Cecilia Zhang Stiber, Vice President of Communications; Jaclyn Leung, Secretary and Robert Schulman, Treasurer. The board includes the officers and: Angel Feng, Immediate Past President; Shirley S. Ma; Joe Khanna; Susan Kim; The Honorable Nina Elgo; An-Ping Hsieh; Amy Lin Meyerson; and Carlton S. Chen.

On September 27th, CAPABA held its Annual Luau at the Lyman Orchards Apple Barrel Market Field in Middlefield, CT which involved an all-you-can-eat buffet, vouchers for fruit pies, and crafts for kids.

SOUTHEAST REGION

On August 13th, the **Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida (APABA)** hosted "Meet the Candidates." Over 150 people attended, including more than 40 political and judicial candidates (candidates for U.S. Representative, Florida Senate and House of Representatives, Miami-Dade County Commission, Clerk of Court, Circuit and County judge, and school board). APABA hosted the event to increase the Asian Pacific American community's interaction with the political and judicial system and to help political and judicial candidates gain a greater understanding and appreciation for Asian Pacific American concerns. Members and leaders of the

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Regional News *continued from page 13*

Asian Pacific American community and APABA supporters arrived in force. Present were a multitude of officers from South Florida's preeminent Asian Pacific American community organizations including the Asian American Federation of Florida, the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Thai-American Association, NANAY, the Muslim Bar Association, the Center for Voter Advocacy, and the Iranian Festival of South Florida. This was the first event of its kind for Miami-Dade County's Asian Pacific Americans.

The **Asian Pacific American Bar Association – District of Columbia (APABA-DC)** headed into the summer months by competing in the annual D.C. Dragon Boat Festival for the second year in a row on May 31-June 1st. Team APABA-DC ("the Bakunawas") won gold and bronze in the Division B races. On July 10th, APABA-DC held its annual "Law Students Know Thy Career Options" event, which featured a panel discussion by speakers from a private law firm, a corporate in-house legal department, the government, and public interest. Students also had the opportunity to meet and network with practicing attorneys at this event hosted by Jones Day. The organization held its elections for the 2008-09 Board during the month of June. The new officers were sworn-in by the Honorable Eric T. Washington, Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals, during APABA-DC's annual Installation Dinner, which was held on September 17th at the National Press Club. Carol Lam, Vice President and Senior Counsel at Qualcomm, Inc. and former United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, delivered an inspiring and insightful keynote address about her experience during and after her dismissal and that of six other United States Attorneys in December 2006. On September 30th, APABA-DC held a reception, hosted by Baker & McKenzie, in honor of Tina Matsuoka, NAPABA Executive Director.

The **Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA)** recently formed a new committee to explore meaningful ways for GAPABA to provide legal and related services to the APA community in Georgia. That Committee has gotten off to a running start and recently organized a citizenship drive for eligible voters in the Atlanta area. Building on this momentum, the Committee hopes to organize a network of pro bono lawyers to provide services and specialty legal advice to APAs in the area. On another front, GAPABA held its Annual Summer Associate Reception for all summer associates in the Atlanta area. The event was well attended, and the participants enjoyed role playing (and spoofing) various summer associate

experiences. The organization also published yet another issue of its award-winning newsletter and added Sarah Hawk of Fisher and Phillips, LLP to its Board.

NORTHWEST REGION

Congratulations to new affiliate to the Northwest Region: the **Filipino Law Association of Washington (FLOW)**. Congratulations on your formation!

The **Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington (VABAW)** celebrated its Fourth Annual Dinner on October 28th. The keynote speaker was Jerilyn Brusseau of PeaceTrees Vietnam, who is also the creator of the Cinnabon recipe. Please visit www.vabaw.com for more information and pictures.

The **Asian Bar Association of Washington (ABAW)**'s final Mix N Mingle of the year was held on September 24th.

SOUTHWEST REGION

In Texas, the Asian American Bar Association of Houston (AABA) recently held its 24th Annual Gala & Silent Auction. Despite Hurricane Ike's devastating impact on the Houston community, more than 350 guests and civic leaders came to support AABA. A portion of the Gala proceeds were donated to Hurricane Ike relief efforts in Houston. At the Gala, AABA presented its annual Impact Award to Daniel David Hu, Deputy Chief of the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas and current member of the AABA Board of Directors. Mr. Hu is a past President of the AABA and a past Chair and Founder of the Asian Pacific Islander Section of the State Bar of Texas. AABA also recently held a FEMA workshop for the Asian community, for both Vietnamese and Mandarin speakers.

In Colorado, members of the **Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado (APABA)** recently supported and attended APIAVote's bi-partisan gala at the Democratic National Convention held in Denver, Colorado in August. Included among the distinguished speakers was Senator Daniel K. Inouye from Hawaii.

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People in the News

Former SABA-SC president **Ajay Patel** was selected to receive the State Bar of California President's Pro Bono Award. Each year, the State Bar presents nine President's Pro Bono Awards at its annual meeting to individuals and law firms that have provided or facilitated legal services to individuals or to legal aid organizations. This year, Ajay Patel was one of the nine recipients being recognized in the corporate category for his exemplary work in providing pro bono services.

The California Central Region affiliates recently voted to make **Ekwan Rhow** its next Regional Governor to NAPABA. Ekwan Rhow litigates and tries complex business disputes. A 1991 graduate of Stanford University and 1994 graduate of Harvard Law School, Ekwan represents companies, partnerships and individuals in disputes involving contracts, securities, employment, intellectual property and other commercial matters. Ekwan has

been named a "Southern California Super Lawyer" by Los Angeles Magazine since 2004 and one of the nation's "Best Lawyers Under 40" by NAPABA. He is former President of the Korean American Bar Association and is an executive committee member of the Korean American Coalition.

This summer's 2008 edition of the *Chambers USA* guide again ranked Pillsbury Winthrop's appellate practice, co-led by **Kevin Fong**, as one of the twenty best in the nation, noting "clients praise team members for bringing new and creative perspectives to cases, highlighting the 'efficiency with which this is done.'" The *Chambers* rankings are based on interviews with clients around the nation. The 2008 guide noted that Pillsbury Winthrop's appellate practice "is undeniably national in scope" and "Kevin Fong is a standout name"!

Kay Kyungsun Yu, current President of APABA-PA and a partner in Pepper

Hamilton's Commercial Litigation Department, recently won a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on behalf of IKON Office Solutions. In *Panecasio v. Unisource Worldwide Inc., et al.*, the Second Circuit affirmed the district court's grant of summary judgment in favor of defendants, finding that the termination of the plan, which was permitted under the terms of the plan, did not violate ERISA or the ADEA.

John Encarnacion recently addressed newly naturalized citizens and provided remarks on behalf of the Philadelphia Bar Association at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Naturalization Ceremonies on September 18, 2008.

California (Orange County/San Diego) Regional Governor **Marty Lorenzo** has expanded his service to the community by becoming the General Counsel for the Asian Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund.



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