

The Asian American Bar Association (AABA) of Houston is a voluntary organization of lawyers of Asian heritage or who have Asian American interests dedicated to promoting diversity within the legal profession and Houston community.

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March 2005 Events COOKIN' & Karaoke Night

AABA members gathered to attend COOKIN' presented by the Houston Society for the Performing Arts on Thursday, March 10th at the Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall. The spectacular show featured a surprising guest star - our own President Quan Vu!

On Wednesday March 30th, the AABA hosted a networking mixer featuring a night of singing at Spotlight Karaoke.

April 2, 2005 Mentorship BBQ Kick-Off Party



On Saturday, April 2nd, the AABA held its First Annual Mentorship BBQ Kick-Off Party. At the event, law students were matched with their selected attorney mentors. The mentors will be responsible for conducting meetings with their mentees and providing professional guidance throughout the year. The AABA would like to extend warm thanks to all the participants in the mentorship program and particularly, to our members who generously volunteered to serve as mentors.



APRIL & MAY 2005 EVENTS

AABA TAX SEMINAR (Saturday, April 9, 2005 @ 9 a.m.) - The AABA and VN TeamWork will host a presentation by Hugh Chong on "Tax Law Changes and Filing Tips" beneficial to individual taxpayers. The presentation will be held on April 9th from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. at the office of VN TeamWork located at 11210 Bellaire, Suite 118. Beverages and breakfast will be provided. Please contact Kristy Ton at 281.293.3437 or by e-mail at Kristy.P.Ton@conocophillips.com for details.



APIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Saturday, April 23, 2005) - The State Bar of Texas Asian Pacific Interest Section (APIS) will hold its 10th Anniversary Annual Conference in Austin, TX featuring a CLE (credit pending) program entitled "Counseling Your Growing Client". The Conference will begin with breakfast and registration at 9:30 a.m. at the Texas Law Center, 1414 Colorado Street in Austin, TX. Following the event, the AABA will host a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Andrea Tran at 713.767.1598 or by e-mail at atran@powersfrost.com. To find out more about APIS, please visit www.texasapis.org.



AABA Golf Invitational (Friday, May 20, 2005) - The First Annual AABA Golf Tournament will take place Friday, May 20th at the Hermann Park Golf Course and will be followed by a Mixer/BBQ dinner. Shotgun begins at 1:30 p.m. Golfers at all levels are invited to either enter solo or submit four-member teams to compete and raise funds for the Asian American Bar Foundation (AABF). Fees for the golf tournament and Mixer/BBQ are:

	Golf Tournament and Mixer/BBQ	Mixer/BBQ Only
Registered by April 15 th	\$49.99	\$18
Registered between April 16 th -May 12 th	\$64.99	\$22
Registered after May 12 th	\$85.00	\$35

All questions regarding the tournament or sponsorship may be directed to Tournament Director Mark Gilbreth at 713.667.1200 or by e-mail at jmark@gilbreth.org. Prizes will be awarded.

SIDEBAR

Jane Nguyen has started her own law practice emphasizing immigration and healthcare matters.

Marissa Yu, formerly associated with Diamond McCarthy Taylor Finley Bryant & Lee, LLP, has joined ConocoPhillips as Counsel in the Litigation Department.

The AABA will be presenting an award at the Gala to an outstanding Asian Pacific American attorney in Houston. Nominations are now being accepted. See below for details.

MEMBERSHIP

Don't miss out on any more AABA events! If you have not done so already, please take a moment to fill out the membership form and send it to AABA, Attn: CTT, P.O. Box 1554, Houston, TX 77251. Membership is at no cost to law students and retired attorneys, and ranges from \$ 25.00 to \$ 75.00 annually for attorneys, depending on number of years in practice.

For more information regarding membership, please contact Catherine Than at 713.252.7297 or by e-mail at cthan@aol.com. The membership form can also be downloaded at www.aabahouston.com.

OPPORTUNITIES

AABA COMMITTEES. The AABA has many opportunities for members who would like to be more active in the organization! If you are interested in participating on the Membership, Community Outreach, Networking and Programs, Professional Development, Gala, Law Students and/or Newsletter Committees, please contact Emily Kuo at 281.775.4869 or by e-mail at emily.kuo@nabors.com.

AIG SENIOR COUNSEL POSITION - Regulatory and Insurance Operations (Houston, TX). AIG American General, is one of the nation's top life insurance providers, helping individuals, families and businesses secure their tomorrows through affordable solutions that help meet a lifetime of financial needs. We are currently looking for a Senior Counsel to join our Corporate Law Group. In this critical position, you will be challenged with a diversity of work providing legal guidance in support of all aspects of insurance regulatory and operational issues. You will be part of a dedicated team committed to the on-going growth and success of our domestic life insurance business. You will work across divisional lines advising internal clients on issues ranging from corporate governance to compliance to a broad scope of contracts, agreements and other transactional matters. Qualifications for the ideal candidate will be a JD admitted to the bar with 3-5 years of related experience. A strong academic record is required along with excellent oral and written communication skills. Life insurance, banking or financial services experience preferred but will also consider candidates with a strong Corporate/Transactional background. To apply on-line, go to: www.americangeneral.com/agfg2000/agfgweb.nsf.

ROBERT MATSUI WRITING COMPETITION. The Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (AEF) has established the AEF Robert T. Matsui Annual Writing Competition, in honor of the late Congressman Robert T. Matsui. The legal writing competition will encourage the publication of law review articles on topics of relevance to racial and ethnic minorities and the law. The 2005 competition will be open to all law students nationwide. Submissions for the 2005 competition must be received by July 1, 2005, and the winner will be announced by September 1, 2005. The winner of the 2005 competition will receive a monetary award of \$1,500, and the winning entry will be published by the Asian Pacific American Law Journal, at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. Details are set forth in the flyer attached.

OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

MARY KAY STAFF ATTORNEY POSITION (DALLAS, TX) - This position is responsible for providing professional legal assistance, advice and counsel to corporate management regarding legal rights, obligations and privileges of corporations to enhance the internal decision-making process and ensure adequate protection of the Company's legal rights, interests and objectives. This attorney is responsible for drawing up contracts involving leases, licenses, purchases, sales, real estate, employment, insurance and other matters; studying the constitution, statutes, decisions and ordinances of judicial bodies; examining legal data to determine advisability of defending lawsuits. May act as an agent of the Company in various transactions. Job requires the admission to practice plus 3 years of legal and/or litigation experience in order to possess a knowledge of Company policies, goals and objectives as they relate to the legal environment. Requires human relations and communication skills, tact, diplomacy and professionalism in order to interface with outside and opposing counsel, all levels of management, sales force and government officials. Must possess sound decision-making skills as well as excellent organizational and analytical skills to research, understand and comply with laws and regulations. Must have negotiation skills to set up legal transactions/settlements and ensure the Company's interests are represented. Arbitration and counseling skills are required to resolve issues, advise others and settle claims. Oral communication skills are required to effectively interact with both internal and external contacts, coordinate legal activities and formulate contracts and policy recommendations. Written communication skills required to draft documents, make recommendations and communicate with both internal and external customers. Ability to work in a timely manner in order to meet business needs and demands. To apply, fax resume to 972.687.1609.

Bilingual Wills & Probate Speaker. The Speakers Bureau coordinator for the Houston Bar Association is seeking a bilingual (English and Chinese) speaker to give a presentation on the topic of Wills & Probate at the Belle Reize apartment complex. The date is scheduled for either Thursday, April 7 or Friday, April 15 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you have any interest in speaking at this event, please contact Angelica Coronado with the Community Education Department of the HBA at 713.759.1133.

Board Member - Friends of Teach for America. Teach For America is looking for nominees to serve on the Board of Friends of Teach For America. Teach For America is a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in public schools serving low-income communities. This year, Teach For America placed over 210 corps members in the Houston metropolitan area, reaching over 18,000 students. Friends of Teach For America is a group of young professionals in Houston who coordinate different volunteer and support efforts to Teach For America and its corps members. Potential Board members should have an interest in education and prior experience in working with other community service or public interest organizations. If you would like more information on Friends of Teach For America or on nominating someone to serve on the Board of Friends of Teach For America, please contact Jason Luong at Beck, Redden & Secrest, LLP, (713) 951-6205 or jluong@brsfirm.com

NAPABA Committees. Be an active part of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's (NAPABA) decision-making process. Join one of the 20+ committees and make a difference!! Visit the Committees section of NAPABA's website www.napaba.org for a complete list of committees. To join a committee, please contact NAPABA President-Elect Amy Lin Meyerson at ameyerson@optonline.net.

First Annual AABA Gala Award. The AABA is pleased to announce that at our Gala this year, we will be presenting an award to an outstanding Asian Pacific American (APA) attorney in Houston. We are currently soliciting nominations for potential honorees, with the award recipient to be selected by a panel of AABA officers and/or directors. If you are a member of the AABA and would like to nominate an APA attorney in Houston who you think is deserving of the award and demonstrates outstanding qualities such as legal expertise, leadership, community service or dedication to the AABA, please email Quan Vu at hvu@mayerbrownrowe.com with your nominee and a brief explanation why you believe such individual should be considered.

COMMUNITY

Houston International Festival. The 2005 Houston International Festival (IFEST) will take place Downtown from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on April 23-24th and April 30-May 1st. This year's festival will spotlight the culture, cuisine and customs of India. There will be food, arts and crafts, performances and much more! Early bird discount tickets are available through April 17th for \$7.00. For more information, call 713.654.8808 or visit www.ifest.org.

CPC Appreciation Dinner. The Chinese Professional Club (CPC) of Houston will host its Appreciation Dinner Friday, April 29th from 6-9 pm at the New Golden Palace Restaurant. The cost is \$15 for non-members and \$10 for paid members. To make reservations, please contact Annie Mak at 713.669.8138 or visit www.cpchouston.com.

TFA School Supply Drive. Teach for American (TFA) is looking for offices, corporations, and law firms to participate in its 2005 School Supply Drive. Last year, TFA collected over 500 boxes of supplies from area business, law firms, and individuals that were used in the classrooms of new TFA corps members teaching in the Houston area. Teach For America hopes to exceed last year's tremendous success. If you or your office would like more information on being a part of this year's drive, please contact Jason Luong at Beck, Redden & Secrest, LLP, (713) 951-6205 or jluong@brsfirm.com

10th Annual Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association (APAHA) Festival. May is National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month!! To celebrate, APAHA will host its 10th Annual Asian/Pacific American Heritage Festival. The celebration will take place Sunday, May 1, 2005 at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. along with a Special Showcase at 8:00 p.m. The theme of the festival this year is "An Inspiration From the Past, a Bridge to the Future." For complete information, please visit APAHA's website at www.apaha.org.

Special Screening of "Wet Sand". The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) Greater Houston & Community Partners presents a *free* special screening of "Wet Sand" with a post-screening talk on coexistence and community building with the Director, Dai Sil Kim-Gibson. *Wet Sand* explores the aftermath of the 1992 LA Riots & civil unrest, focused on the stories of the victims and witnesses leading to present conditions. Initially conceived as a sequel to SA-I-GU (April 29 in Korean), a video about the 1992 LA upheaval from the perspectives of Korean women, the documentary now consists of voices from African, Latino, Korean and White communities. The screening will be held Thursday, April 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Multi-Ethnic Community Center, 9819 Bissonnet, Suite F. RSVP to 713.357.8875.

20th Law Week Fun Run. Since 1986, the Houston Bar Association (HBA) has raised over \$562,000 for The Center Serving Persons with Mental Retardation. Please join us on Saturday, April 9th, in continuing to support this worthwhile cause by participating in the 8K race, the children's run or the 1-mile family walk. For complete information, please visit www.lawweekfunrun.com.

YLC's Orchid Banquet. Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is presenting its Orchid Banquet recognizing Leadership in Action Awards on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 at Kim Son Restaurant, 2001 Jefferson Street from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Originally organized in 1988 by concerned Asian parents, YLC has now evolved to include a core group of young professionals, college students and community leaders who dedicate themselves to foster leadership skills among the Asian American youth in Great Houston. To learn more about YLC, visit www.ylc.net. To RSVP for the Banquet before April 8th, contact James Yu at 832.603.1572 or by e-mail at JamesYu@alumni.utexas.net.

If you would like to publicize any opportunities, community events or SIDE BAR news, please contact Andrea Tran at 713.767.1598 or by e-mail at atran@powersfrost.com. Publications in the newsletter are at the discretion of the AABA.