

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.

On Thursday, February 28, 2005, the AABA and Texas State Representative Martha Wong sponsored a panel discussion on the efforts to change the name of “Jap” Roads in Jefferson County, Texas and elsewhere around the country. Attorneys, law students and other members of the Houston community attended the inspiring and thought-provoking discussion.



James C. Ho moderated the panel of speakers who shared their experiences participating in this extraordinary cause. Speakers included former Jefferson County teacher Sandra Tanamachi, George Hirasaki of the Japanese American Citizens League, Jodi Bernstein of the Anti-Defamation League and civil rights attorney Scott Newar.



On Tuesday, March 1, 2005, the Houston Bar Association Auxiliary hosted a luncheon honoring Harry Gee, Jr., the recipient of its 18th Annual Leon Jaworski Award. Keynote speaker Ron Stone, HBA President Rocky Robinson and AABA members were on hand to pay tribute to Mr. Gee’s commitment to the Houston community and legal profession.

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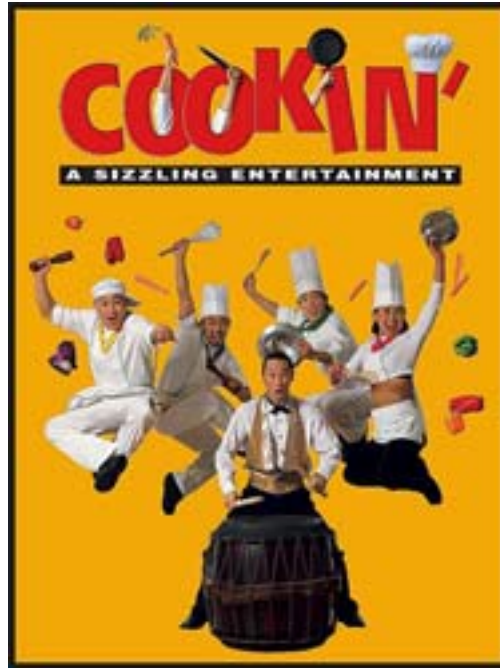
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MARCH & APRIL 2005 EVENTS



**“Call it Benihana goes berserk!
Take equal parts of Jackie Chan, the Marx Brothers and STOMP – and blend.”
-CBS Sunday Morning**

**Presented by the Society for the Performing Arts
Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall
Thursday, March 10, 2005**

**For more information, please contact Hoang Quan Vu at 713.546.0518 or
hvu@mayerbrownrowe.com.**

**MARCH 15, 2005 (Tuesday) @ 7:30 p.m. – Tentative meeting for the Asian
American Bar Foundation (AABF) at Café Express, 1422 West Gray.**

MARCH 2005 (Details to be announced) – Tax Seminar

**APRIL 2, 2005 (Saturday) @ noon – Mentorship Barbeque Kick-off. All
selected AABA mentors and mentees will receive a welcome letter with
program information and event details. Questions? Please contact
Catherine Than at cthan@aol.com or 713.252.7297.**

**APRIL 23, 2005 (Saturday) @ 5 p.m. – the AABA will host a cocktail hour at
the APIS Annual Retreat in Austin, Texas. See the Community section
below for event details.**

APRIL 2005 (Details to be announced) – Karaoke Night

SIDE BAR

Immediate Past President Lola Lin has accepted a position as Associate Counsel with Dell Computers in Austin, Texas.

Co-Vice President of Programs Peter Chang, formerly of Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP, will be an associate practicing intellectual property litigation with Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C. in Palo Alto, California.

The AABA congratulates you on your career successes. We appreciate your dedication and all the hard work you have devoted to our organization. You will truly be missed!!

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.

VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION ASSOCIATE COUNSEL/CONTRACTS (SAN ANTONIO, TX). This individual will review contracts for all Valero refineries in the US for the Valero Strategic Sourcing department. Responsible for drafting, reviewing and negotiating form type contracts as well as unique agreements in both cases covering a broad spectrum of topics and disciplines including commercial law, construction, secured transactions, UCC matters, intellectual property and real estate including alliance agreements, refinery work agreements, engineering/construction agreements, technology license agreements, energy contracts, purchase orders, confidentiality agreements and other miscellaneous contracts as needed. Valero's counsel must take an active role in project coordination among various disciplines within the company on a wide-range of projects. Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university required. Licensed attorney with a minimum of three years of corporate/commercial experience with a law firm and/or a corporate law department required. Superior communication skills, both verbal and written and organization skills required. Refining or similar industry experience preferred. If you are interested in this position, visit <http://valero.hrdpt.com> and apply for Job ID 1349177.

AABF ESTABLISHMENT. The AABA is forming the AABF (Asian American Bar Foundation), a charitable 501(c)3 entity, and needs your help. Please contact Catherine Than at cthan@aol.com if you can assist in this effort. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:30 p.m., March 15th at Cafe Express, 1422 West Gray.

LYONDELL CHEMICAL COMPANY - CORPORATE COUNSEL/BENEFITS (HOUSTON, TX). The Corporate Counsel is responsible for providing strategic human resources and benefits legal advice for and providing necessary legal support to, all Enterprise merger and acquisition activities. In addition, this position provides legal support and advice to Enterprise Human Resources on design of U.S./non- U.S. qualified, non-qualified and statutory benefit plans and will be responsible to assess legal implications of new legislation/regulation on existing global benefits and human resources matters. This position will coordinate legal support for international human resources issues with the Associate General Counsel, International. The lawyer holding this position will represent the Enterprise in conjunction with U.S. government inquiries, negotiations or investigations and will direct and supervise all compliance activities relating to government regulation of employee benefits. This position also will participate with other members of the Department in providing legal services related to employee benefits litigation. Serves as Secretary to Enterprise fiduciary committees. Requirements include JD degree, license to practice law in location jurisdiction and minimum 8 - 12 years experience in specific field. If you are interested in this position, apply online at www.lyondell.com/html/careers/US_Jobs for JOB ID 2005-69 Corp Counsel.

OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

STEAK AND ALE CORPORATE COUNSEL (PLANO, TX). The selected individual must possess a JD from an accredited law school and a minimum of four years of practice experience in the area of corporate, franchising and/or real estate matters. We are looking for a person with strong leadership skills and a willingness to take ownership of company projects. The successful candidate will concentrate on the review, negotiation and documentation of various agreements across all brands, manage outside counsel on certain litigation and bankruptcy matters and provide legal advice and counseling to brand and corporate support functions. Knowledge of the restaurant industry a plus. We offer an excellent benefits package which consists of an outstanding insurance plan including dental, credit union and tuition reimbursement, plus a Plano office with a health club facility. Apply by submitting your resume and current or most recent salary by e-mail to kmehall@metrogroup or by mail/fax to: Metromedia Restaurant Group, Attn: Corporate Recruiter, 6500 International Parkway, Plano, TX 75093 or 972.588.5973.

AABA MENTORS/MENTEES. The AABA currently has a growing list of mentors and mentees for its first mentorship program. We are seeking additional experienced attorneys who are willing provide professional guidance. If you would like to participate in this free program, please email Catherine Than at cthan@aol.com for more information.

FOSSIL STAFF ATTORNEY (RICHARDSON, TX). FOSSIL has an excellent opportunity in Richardson, Texas, for a corporate staff attorney with 3-5 years of general corporate and transactional experience. Background in employment law is strongly preferred. This is an opportunity for a bright, creative attorney to learn our business and work on multiple areas of legal support. In addition to 3-5 years of excellent prior work history in a corporate or large firm environment, this position requires solid academic credentials, the ability to work independently plus excellent organization and communications skills. To apply on-line, go to: <http://fossil.hrdpt.com> for Job ID 257.

PRO BONO PROJECT. A local Asian American family is seeking an attorney with experience in tort law, particularly regarding the sovereign immunity cap. If you are interested in providing voluntary assistance to this family, please contact Andrea Tran at 713.767.1598 or by e-mail at atran@powersfrost.com.

COMMUNITY

APIS ANNUAL RETREAT IN AUSTIN, APRIL 23RD. The State Bar of Texas Asian Pacific Interest Section (APIS) will be holding its annual retreat on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the State Bar Building in Austin. The retreat will feature a CLE on "How to Counsel Your Growing Client" along with topic and keynote speakers to be determined. Following the retreat, the AABA will host a cocktail hour starting at 5:00 p.m. with a dinner following. If you would like more information on how to be involved in this statewide Asian Pacific American organization, please visit www.texasapis.org or contact Andrea Tran at 713.767.1598.

ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GALA. Houston's Asian Chamber of Commerce is hosting its Annual Gala on Friday, April 8, 2005 at the Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 West Alabama. The social and silent auction will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following at 7:00 p.m., featuring keynote speaker Dr. David Leebron, President of Rice University. Tickets are \$100 per person. To reserve your tickets by March 25th, please call 713.782.7222.

GRAND OPENING OF I-CAFÉ. I-Café will be having its grand opening on Saturday, March 12, 2005 starting at 10:00 a.m. at 22026 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, Texas 77450, at the corner of Westheimer Parkway and Mason Rd. There will be a local art exhibit all day and DJ Scrabblemac will be spinning from 5 PM to 8 PM. For details, please contact Thomas Nguyen at 713.654.787 or by e-mail at tn304@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

THE KING AND I PRESENTED BY APAHA. Theater Under The Stars & Asian Pacific American Heritage Association (APAHA) will host a special First Weekend program The King & I on Sunday, March 20, 2005. There will be 2 performances of The King & I on Sunday, March 20th, 2005 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts's Sarofim Theater: Matinee at 2pm and Evening at 7:30pm. A dinner reception is scheduled for 5 pm Sunday evening. For discount tickets, please contact Faye Chin at 832.248.9911 or email fchin@ev1.net. Information is also posted on the APAHA website at www.apaha.org.

VN TEAMWORK GALA 2005. The Board of Directors and the Advisory Board of VN Teamwork cordially invite you to join in a celebration of its 9th Anniversary honoring the Honorable Gordon Quan with special guests Mayor Bill White and Controller Annise Parker. The Gala will be held Friday, March 11, 2005 @ 6:30 p.m. at Ocean Palace Restaurant, 11215 Bellaire Blvd. Tickets are \$25 per person (discount price of \$200 if purchasing 1 table) including formal dinner and entertainment. Tickets may be purchased at VN Teamwork/Hiep-Luc Center, 11210 Bellaire, Suite 118 @ Boone (281.495.8936). For information, please contact 281.827.8019 or hiepluc@vnteamwork.org.

LAVAS FUNDRAISING EVENT. Hoi Trinh and Nguyen Cao Ky Duyen will co-host a fundraiser for Legal Assistance for Vietnamese Asylum Seekers (LAVAS) on Sunday, March 13, 2005 at Kim Son Ballroom on St. Emanuel. The event goal is to raise \$35,000 to maintain an office in Manila, Philippines, to process the remaining 1855 Vietnamese refugees. Simon Nguyen may be contacted at 713.532.8920 or by e-mail at lawyer@nguyenlaw.com for more information.

LIFE/HOUSTON. Local Infant Formula for Emergencies, known to the community as LIFE/Houston, was founded in 1988 to provide emergency formula/food for hungry babies and information about proper infant nutrition. If you know a family in need of nutritional assistance for their infant or toddler, please refer them to LIFE/Houston located on 277 West Gray at Taft (713.528.6044). If you would like to donate or find out more information about this generous organization, please visit www.lifehouston.org.

VCSA 2005 SPRING GALA. Vietnamese Culture and Science Association (VCSA) cordially invites you to the VCSA 2005 Spring Gala on Saturday, April 2, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m. at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. The Gala will feature Keynote Speaker Governor Rick Perry (to be confirmed) and special guest Dat Nguyen, Dallas Cowboy Linebacker. Ticket price is \$50 per person. For more information or to reserve your seats, please call 281.933.8118 or visit www.vhkhvn.org.

ABA Commission on Women in the Profession Fundraising Reception. The American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Women in the Profession will be hosting a "Women of Color Research Initiative Fundraising Reception" honoring Robert J. Grey, Jr., President of the American Bar Association and Catherine A. Lamboley, Sr. Vice President and General Counsel of Shell Oil Company on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Club. For more information, please contact the ABA Commission on Women at (312) 988-5715 or visit www.abanet.org/women.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

An exciting year of networking, CLE's and volunteer events has already begun for the AABA!! 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.