

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.

### 2008 CORPORATE COUNSEL DINNER

On November 6, 2008, the AABA held its annual Corporate Counsel Dinner at Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House, featuring special guest speaker Nhan Vu, General Counsel and Vice President of Robinson Pharma, Inc. In-house counsel and outside counsel got better acquainted over a delicious (and filling!) meal. Special thanks to Nhan Vu and our Corporate Counsel Committee Co-Chairs Steven Wu and Tan Pham!



## 2008 OFFICERS

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**Warren S. Huang**

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*CenterPoint Energy Service Co., LLC*

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Vice President of Programs

*Porter & Hedges, L.L.P.*

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Vice President of Community Relations

*Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C.*

**Jason Luong**

Vice President of Development

*Harris County District Attorney's Office*

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**Julie Pi Evans**

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## DIRECTORS

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**Harry Gee, Jr.**

*Law Office of Harry Gee, Jr. & Assoc.*

**Bruce Hiran**

*Monks & Hiran, P.C.*

**Daniel David Hu**

*U.S. Department of Justice*

**Emily T. Kuo**

*M. D. Anderson Services Corporation*

**Lola F. Lin**

*Air Liquide USA LLC*

**David E. Warden**

*Yetter & Warden, LLP*

**Honorable Ted H. Wu**

*Attorney at Law*

**Joseph D. Yao**

*Exxon Mobil*

## 2009 AABA OFFICERS

The AABA is pleased to announce the results of the elections for 2009 AABA Officers and Director for the 2009-2010 term:

President-Elect

**Joyce Kao Soliman**

Vice President of Membership

**Audrey M. Chang**

Vice President of Programs

**Judy Y. Liu**

Vice President of Community Relations

**Alison L. Chen**

Vice President of Development

**Carmen Ng**

Secretary

**Sherry L. Scott**

Treasurer

**Juvie A. Cruz**

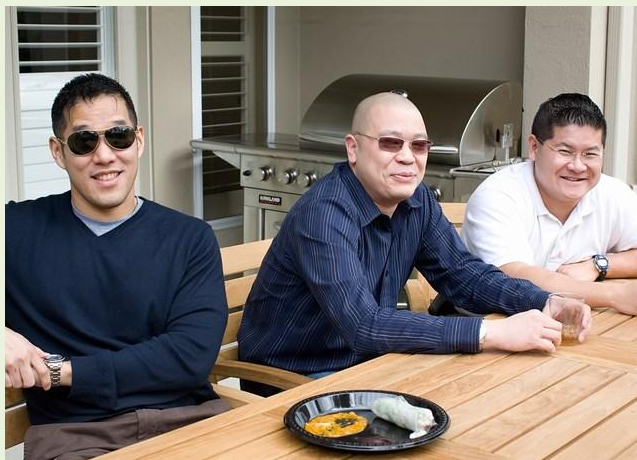
2009-2010 Director

**Jason Luong**



# 2008 HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 13th, the AABA celebrated the end of another successful year with its annual holiday party. Members not only enjoyed good food and good company but also brought gifts to be donated to Catholic Charities' holiday toy drive. Special thanks to AABA Social Committee Co-Chair David Chang for organizing the party and to the AABA President for hosting!



# AABA HOLIDAY MIXER

On Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, the AABA will be holding a holiday mixer with the Houston chapter of Ascend (a professional organization of Asian Americans in the fields of accounting, business, and finance).

The event will be held at the Post Oak Grill Cafe (3017 Milam) from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The mixer will benefit the Houston Food Bank.

Bring two cans of food, and the first drink is on the AABA!



## SIDEBAR

Congratulations to our own VP of Community Relations, Lynn Chuang Kramer, and her husband on the birth of their son!

Galen Chuang Kramer  
December 5, 2008 3:21 pm  
6lb 6.5 oz. 18.75 inches



# OPPORTUNITIES

## ABA INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION CLE

The ABA International Law Section's China Committee will be holding a 1.5 hour teleconference CLE on January 12, 2009 entitled "Bridging the Culture Gap Between Chinese and International Attorneys". The speakers are Shawn Zhao, Senior Corporate counsel for Google China; Andrew Starger, Chief Counsel for AT&T's Greater China operations; Victor Ho, partner at Allen & Overy in Shanghai; and Philip Zhang, partner at Hodgson & Russ in New York. We are now soliciting suggestions for issues or topics that you would like our speakers to address. For example, are you interested in hearing about the trend of foreign attorneys practicing in China or about the cultural differences in approaches to negotiations or the practical nitty gritty of how to perform due diligence with a Chinese counterparty (or advising a Chinese client on how to respond to due diligence requests)? Please email suggestions to Janis Chang at [jchang@velaw.com](mailto:jchang@velaw.com). When responding, please be as specific as possible.

## NAPABA & OBAMA-BIDEN APPOINTMENTS

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) will forward resumes and bios of members who are seeking appointments in the Obama-Biden Administration. To apply, NAPABA members should:

- 1) Submit an application through [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov)
- 2) Send an email to [asamson@napaba.org](mailto:asamson@napaba.org) indicating your interest

\* Attach a resume using the format, Aleli Samson Resume.doc

\* Attach a bio using the format, Aleli Samson Bio.doc

\* If involved in the Obama/Biden campaign, include specific information in your resume/bio

Applications should be submitted ASAP. Some appointments will be made during the transition process and others during the early part of the new Administration.

## ABA COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION – VIDEO CONTEST

Put your video and writing skills to work! Create a 3-minute YouTube video and/or craft a 6-page essay to tell us what you think about "Gender Diversity: Have we solved the problem? If not, where do we go from here?" The contest is open to 1) young lawyers - lawyers under 36 years old or admitted to practice for less than 5 years; and 2) law students - all law students attending an ABA-accredited law school. There will be one YouTube video winner and one essay winner in each category of law students and young lawyers. Each winner will be presented with a \$500 honorarium. The award-winning entries will be published on the Commission's web site following their announcement at the 2009 Midyear Meeting. Your YouTube video or essay entry must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. Central Time on December 31, 2008. View all the details at <http://www.abanet.org/women/competition.html>

## THE HONG DUC CLERKSHIP

Recognizing that an international perspective will greatly enrich and broaden a law student's legal education and experience, Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington's (VABAW) Hong Duc Clerkship, founded in 2007, seeks to provide a law student with the opportunity to clerk at an international law firm in Vietnam for a maximum of three summer months. The student will have the unique experience of learning the local cultures and customs while living in Vietnam and learning international and comparative law working at a major law firm. The Clerkship will award up to a total of \$5,000 with approximately \$2,000 applied to a round trip airfare ticket to Vietnam and \$3,000 paid directly to the award recipient for living expenses. The deadline for submission of the application is February 2, 2009, by 5 pm. Each applicant must submit the following: (1) a completed application form; (2) a personal statement (1,000 words or less); (3) a legal writing sample (5 page limit); (4) a recommendation letter; (5) a current resume; (6) a most recent law school transcript; and (7) a signed release form. VABAW will post the Application on its website [www.vabaw.com](http://www.vabaw.com) and at [www.vabaw.com/foundation.aspx](http://www.vabaw.com/foundation.aspx) on or around January 7, 2009.

# OPPORTUNITIES

## SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY/ RACIAL JUSTICE ACLU FOUNDATION of TEXAS

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Texas ("ACLU TX") invites applications for the position of senior staff attorney. The ACLU TX Legal Department coordinates all litigation and investigation conducted on behalf of the ACLU TX. Under the direction of the Legal Director, the Attorney's primary responsibility will be the development and administration of an active litigation program addressing systemic patterns of race-based discrimination in Texas. The Attorney will work on issues involving criminal justice, racial profiling, and immigrants' rights, employing strategies involving litigation and general legal advocacy. The Attorney will office in Austin at ACLU TX headquarters. At the request of the Legal Director, the Racial Justice Staff Attorney will also be required to: participate in fund raising efforts; engage in public speaking and articulate ACLU views to the public and the media on a broad range of topics; and attend local, statewide, or national meetings, and travel for the purposes of litigation.

Ideally, applicants should have 4-7 years of experience litigating constitutional issues; experience litigating complex federal class action claims, ideally including police pattern-and-practice and/or prison/jail conditions of confinement claims; and broad substantive knowledge of constitutional law and a strong and demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and civil rights. The candidate should be licensed to practice law and a member of the State Bar of Texas; Spanish speaking and writing ability preferred; and strong consideration will be given to applicants with federal law clerk experience, although such experience is not a prerequisite for submitting an application.

Applications should include a cover letter, resume, three references, and an ACLU of Texas Employment Application, which is available at our website, [www.aclutx.org](http://www.aclutx.org), under the heading "Career Opportunities". Two writing samples are also required, at least one of which should be a substantive legal research memo, brief, or article. Applicants who graduated from law school within the past five years should include a law school transcript. Applications should be sent electronically in MS Word format or Adobe PDF to: [jobs@aclutx.org](mailto:jobs@aclutx.org) Applications accepted until position is filled, which will not be before January 1, 2009. Please indicate where you learned of this job posting.

## COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

**January 18-21, 2009:** Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association and Nova Arts Project Present: The Gate of Heaven - the story of two men, a Japanese-American soldier and Jewish survivor of the Dachau prison camp through 50 years of shared experience and a shared journey to discover the elusive American dream. Showings are at 8pm (2pm on Sunday) at DiverseWorks Arts Space; 1117 East Freeway; Houston, Texas, 77002. Purchase tickets now at: [www.thegateofheaven.eventbrite.com](http://www.thegateofheaven.eventbrite.com)

**January 21, 2009:** Asian Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon honoring Asian Peace Officers with HPD, Harris County and Dept. of Public Safety. The Keynote Speaker will be Kaushik Paul, District Team Leader for Target. The luncheon will be held at the Westin Galleria Monarch Room - 24th Floor at 5060 W. Alabama (next to Macy's) from 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM. Free for members. Reservations are mandatory - e-mail: [faye@asianchamber-hou.org](mailto:faye@asianchamber-hou.org) or call Faye Chin at the Chamber's office, 713-782-7222.

**January 20, 2009:** Chinese Civic Center: 30th Anniversary of the Normalization of the U.S.-Chinese Relationship at Hobby Center, Zilkha Hall. For more information call (713) 772-1133.

## THE AABA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

Polin Chieu  
*Winstead PC*

Renee Huey  
*Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

Jenny Hyun  
*Weingarten Realty Investors*

Vorapong Matangkasombut,  
*University of Houston Law Center*

Steven Nguyen  
*Lin & Valdez, LLP*

Sunita Shirodkar  
*Winstead PC*

Jamie Takaki  
*Attorney at Law*

John Tang  
*Strasburger & Price, LLP*

Sean Yan  
*Attorney at Law*

Catharine Yen  
*University of Houston Law Center*

### 2009 MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE NOW JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE AABA TODAY!

As the end of the year approaches, please take a few minutes to renew your AABA membership for 2009! Unless you joined the AABA in conjunction with your purchase of Gala tickets or within the last few months, your membership will expire on December 31, 2008. It's easy to renew your membership and pay your dues on-line at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com), or you can use the attached membership application. Renew (or join for the first time) now so that you can enjoy a full year of AABA membership. If you have any questions about membership, please send your inquiries to [membership@aabahouston.com](mailto:membership@aabahouston.com).

*Many thanks to our 2008-2009 Major Underwriters:*

#### **Platinum Dragon Underwriters**

Andrews Kurth LLP  
Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.  
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

#### **Gold Dragon Underwriters**

Baker Botts L.L.P.  
Exxon Mobil Corporation  
Sutherland

If you would like to publicize job opportunities, community news, or personal SIDEBAR news, please contact AABA Secretary Sherry Scott at [sherry.l.scott@exxonmobil.com](mailto:sherry.l.scott@exxonmobil.com)

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Julie Pi Evans  
Brockman, Brauchle & Evans, PLLC

1. If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . a doctor. Well, I would try to become a doctor. I imagine watching a lot of Discovery Health shows does not guarantee I would get through medical school.
2. My favorite (or fantasy) vacation is . . . shopping all day in New York and then dinner and a Broadway play (preferably a musical).
3. In my spare time, I enjoy . . . mostly hanging at home with my son, Benjamin.
4. In my iPod (or other mp3 device) you will find . . . new and old alternative rock.
5. Most AABA members probably don't know that I . . . just started my own firm! I am now a partner in Brockman, Brauchle & Evans. So, I am using my last issue as AABA Secretary to shamelessly promote myself.
6. The best restaurant in Houston is . . . any place in Chinatown that serves pork and leek dumplings.
7. My favorite place in Houston is . . . honestly, I have to say the Galleria.
8. The sports team(s) I root for is/are . . . the Texas Longhorns. Who else thinks the Horns should have gone to the Big 12 Championship and Colt McCoy should have won the Heisman? I agree with Obama – we need a playoff system.
9. If I won the lottery, I would . . . buy matching Jaguar XK coupes for me and my husband. After paying off our school loans and mortgage, of course!
10. I recommend reading . . . Pigeons – the fascinating saga of the world's revered and reviled bird by Andrew D. Blechman.
11. You forgot to ask me about . . . my favorite charity. The doctors at Texas Children's Hospital saved my son's life – please consider making a donation this holiday season.





Asian American Bar Association of Houston
2009 Membership Application/Renewal

- Law Student • Retired Attorney
Attorney with less than 3 years in practice • In-House or Non-Profit Counsel • Solo Practitioner • Auxiliary Member\*
Attorney with 3 to 8 years in practice • Judge • Government Attorney
Attorney with 8+ years in practice

Bar Number and Jurisdiction

Last Name First Name

Employer

Address

City State ZIP

Office # Home #

Fax # E-Mail

Area(s) of Practice

Law School and Graduation Year Language(s)

How would you like to receive the AABA Newsletter? E-Mail Fax

Would you like your business contact information published in the AABA On-Line Directory? Yes No

Please give us any comments or programming suggestions you might have:

Please indicate any committees on which you would be interested in serving:

- Gala Fundraising Programs Social/Networking
Community Relations/Pro Bono Corporate Counsel Mentorship/Law School Relations

Make checks payable to AABA and submit application and fee to:

AABA
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 1554
Houston, TX 77251

Send any inquiries concerning AABA membership to
membership@aabahouston.com.

Auxiliary membership is open to attorneys who neither reside nor practice in the Greater Houston