

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.

AABA 2008 LUNAR NEW YEAR DIM SUM CELEBRATION



On February 23, 2008, AABA members and their families gathered for dim sum at Fung's Kitchen to celebrate the Lunar New Year (the Year of the Rat). Fun fact: Persons born in the Year of the Rat are likely to enjoy financial as well as professional success, are quick, energetic, and adaptable, and believe in having a small but close circle of friends. Special thanks to AABA Social Committee Co-Chairs David Chang and Kay-Linh Pham for organizing this fun (and filling) event!

2008 OFFICERS

Catherine Than

President
*Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta,
L.L.P.*

Warren S. Huang

President-Elect
Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.

Judy Y. Liu

Vice President of Membership
CenterPoint Energy Service Co., LLC

Joyce Kao Soliman

Vice President of Programs
Porter & Hedges, L.L.P.

Lynn Chuang Kramer

Vice President of Community Relations
Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C.

Jason Luong

Vice President of Development
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka, L.L.P.

Steve C. Bae

Treasurer
Deloitte

Julie Pi Evans

Secretary
David M. Verbit & Associates, P.C.

DIRECTORS

Hoang Quan Vu, Chair

Mayer Brown LLP

Alexander C. Chae

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

Honorable Theresa W. Chang

District Clerk of Harris County

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

AABA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM KICKOFF RECEPTION



The AABA's Mentorship Program got off to a great start on February 26, 2008 with a kickoff reception at Aka Sushi, where mentors and mentees introduced themselves and got to know each other better. The AABA is excited to announce that it was able to successfully match over 30 pairs of attorneys and law students this year. Special thanks to AABA Mentorship Committee Co-Chairs Eunice Song and Audrey Chang for their hard work in getting the program up and running and for organizing the kickoff reception!

2008 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Social Committee

David Chang
Mayer Brown LLP

Kay-Linh Pham
Mayer Brown LLP

Mentorship and Law School Relations Committee

Audrey Chang
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

Eunice Song
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

Gala Committee

Alison Chen
Andrews Kurth LLP

Sherry Scott
Vinson & Elkins, LLP

Corporate Counsel Committee

Tan Pham
Baker & McKenzie

Steve Wu
Chevron Products Company

Programs Committee

Joyce Kao Soliman
VP of Programs
Porter & Hedges, L.L.P.

Community Service and Pro Bono Committee

Lynn Chuang Kramer
VP of Community Relations
Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C.

AABA COOKING CLASS



MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Central Market (3815 Westheimer)

\$35 Members / \$45 Non-Members

Tired of frozen pizza or ramen (or worse, both) for dinner? Come learn the secret to cooking delicious, authentic Chinese cuisine from one of Houston's culinary treasures – Chef Dorothy Huang. Chef Huang will teach you how to prepare Pan Fried Dumplings (with Ginger & Soy Dipping Sauce), General Tso's Chicken, and Shrimp with Lobster Sauce. Space is limited, so RSVP soon with Kay-Linh Pham (kpham@mayerbrown.com) or online at www.aabahouston.com.

AABA CLE Seminar Series:

DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA

Featured Speakers:

Tom Tong (*Tong & Sung, P.C.*)
Benjamin Bai (*Jones Day*)



MARCH 27, 2008

Registration: 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Program and Q&A Session: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mayer Brown LLP
700 Louisiana, Suite 3400

Free for AABA Members / \$20 for Non-Members
Lunch Will Be Provided, Courtesy of CLE sponsor Mayer Brown LLP

RSVP Online at www.aabahouston.com

Hear from two experts who regularly advise multi-national corporations and mid to small-market companies on all aspects of doing business in China and doing business with Chinese companies. This is a great opportunity to learn how the legal framework in China affects corporate and finance transactions, manufacturing contracts, dispute resolution, real estate acquisitions, labor issues, intellectual property rights and much more. ** The program has been approved for 1.0 hour of MCLE Credit. **

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

A team of AABA members has graciously volunteered to assist the Houston Young Lawyers Association in translating into Vietnamese a pamphlet entitled "the Law of the Land" that provides basic information regarding immigration and naturalization law. Our volunteers have requested the assistance of an additional individual who is fluent in Vietnamese to review a draft of the translation to confirm the consistency and accuracy of that translation. If you are available to help, please contact AABA VP of Community Relations Lynn Kramer at lkramer@munsch.com. Thanks!

OPPORTUNITIES

POSITION AVAILABLE AT SEMICONDUCTOR COMPANY / AUSTIN, TEXAS

Job Title: Patent Licensing Counsel

Description: This lawyer will provide support to the Director of Patent Licensing, who handles all legal aspects of patent licensing matters for the company, including preparation of offensive and defensive patent positions and negotiation of licensing agreements. This lawyer will be involved in offensive and defensive actions and will advise on patent licensing strategy for the company working closely with the senior business manager in the Intellectual Property Licensing Department. This position will require extensive travel to Asia (generally one week per month).

The legal department is a collegial, team-oriented environment. The lawyers work hard, but smart and tend to keep reasonable hours. The lawyers genuinely enjoy working with one another and this is readily apparent.

Compensation: Competitive compensation package and world-class benefits.

Contact: For more information, please contact Carrie Trabue of Carrington Legal Placement at carrie@carringtonlegal.com.

SIDEBAR

Congratulations to AABA Board Member Honorable Theresa Chang on winning the Republican primary for Harris County District Clerk! If you would like more information about or would like to lend your support to Theresa's campaign, please write to: Theresa Chang for District Clerk, 3100 Timmons Lane, Suite 555, Houston, Texas 77027 or e-mail Theresa at TheresaChangDC@aol.com.

Don't Forget to Renew Your AABA membership!

The AABA is accepting membership applications and renewals for 2008! You may apply for membership on-line at www.aabahouston.com or by completing and submitting the attached form and dues. Members of the AABA receive significant discounts to all AABA events, as well as invitations to exclusive members-only seminars and programs such as the annual Corporate Counsel Dinner and inclusion in the printed Attorney Profiles Directory. Become an AABA member today, and gain access to all of the networking, career enhancement, mentorship, and volunteer opportunities and resources that the AABA has to offer!

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

March 6, 2008 to May 22, 2008 / Class: Chinese Language and Culture for Business People / Asian Chamber of Commerce / Houston, Texas

The Asian Chamber of Commerce is offering an introductory course in basic conversational Mandarin Chinese and business culture necessary for doing business in China. In addition to language study, throughout the course, guest speakers will give presentations and share their insight into Chinese business culture, including common business practices, working relationships and expectations, legal and regulatory issues, regional differences, business customs and etiquette, and travel logistics. The course will conclude with a traditional Chinese banquet dinner at a local restaurant. This is a 12-week course taught by Pei-Ting Tsai, a lecturer at Rice University's Center for the Study of Language. Tuition is \$395, and classes will be held at the Asian Chamber of Commerce, 6833 West Sam Houston Parkway, Suite 206, Houston, Texas 77072. To register, please contact the Asian Chamber of Commerce at 713.782.7222 or via email at elsiehuang@asianchamber-hou.org.

March 12, 2008 (11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.) / Asian Chamber of Commerce of Houston Monthly Luncheon / Westin Galleria, Monarch Room (5060 West Alabama)

The Asian Chamber of Commerce of Houston will be holding its monthly luncheon, with a keynote speech by David Crossley, Director of the Gulf Coast Institute and Urban Planner. To RSVP, please visit www.asianchamber-hou.org.

March 26-28, 2008 / Minority Corporate Counsel Association: 2008 CLE Expo / Marriott Downtown Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

The MCCA's goal in presenting the conference is to build bridges of opportunity by bringing together the best and the brightest, with a special emphasis on talented minority and women attorneys who will share their expertise on their substantive legal practice areas. For more information and to register, please visit www.mcca.com.

June 26-27, 2008 / 2008 National Conference for the Minority Lawyer / San Jose, California

The conference will offer attendees a combination of practical training sessions and cutting-edge, substantive CLE programs designed specifically for minority business lawyers, litigators, and government lawyers. The conference will combine real world advice on improving your techniques – such as prospering while promoting diversity, and marketing yourself in your current environment – with timely updates on current legal issues – such as securities law, negotiations and settlements, employment law, mediation strategies, and new developments in e-discovery. In addition, the conference is designed to foster personal interaction with other lawyers of color, including networking receptions, luncheons, and opportunities to share with, and learn from, the experiences of all in attendance. For more information, please visit www.abanet.org.

If you would like to publicize job opportunities, community news, or personal SIDEBAR news, please contact AABA President-Elect Warren Huang at whuang@fulbright.com.

2008 NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY AWARD

Last spring, the NAPABA Law Foundation (NLF) was awarded a Diversity Dollars grant from the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) to implement a diversity project featuring a diversity symposium. As part of the diversity project, NAPABA will present the NAPABA Diversity Award at the NAPABA & NLF Diversity Symposium to a large law firm that has demonstrated a commitment to diversity, and has succeeded especially in increasing the recruitment, retention, and advancement of APA attorneys.

If you would like to nominate your own firm, or a large law firm that you know has done well in diversity, please visit www.napaba.org to download the nomination form. Nominations will be accepted until **March 14, 2008**.



Nominated law firms will be assessed by a selection committee for their commitment to and success in diversity—especially APA diversity—based on the following criteria:

Diversity Outreach: Law firms that reach out to diverse law student bodies through participation in diversity job fairs, have a track record of significant diversity in their summer associate programs, or create diversity scholarships demonstrate a commitment to diversifying the profession at the recruitment level. It is especially telling when law firms reach out to law schools that tend to have more law students of color—for instance, historically black universities.

Collaboration with the Community and Bar Associations: By working actively with bar associations of color, or by sponsoring or hosting events and programs run by local specialty bar associations, law firms demonstrate a broad commitment to diversifying the legal profession. In addition, law firms that engage in community outreach programs and pro bono activities that focus on communities of color exhibit a true commitment to diversity both within, and outside of the profession.

Internal Support: Law firms that value the goal of increasing diversity in the profession are supportive of their lawyers attending conferences and other events or activities revolving around diversity. Law firms should demonstrate that they create opportunities for their attorneys to engage in networking, marketing, learning about diversity, and professional development.

Outward Support: Law firms outwardly support diversity by publishing diversity statements on their firm websites, for instance. Such publicized statements are a meaningful demonstration of the firms' commitment to diversity.

Inclusive Law Firm Culture: Establishment of an inclusive law firm culture that values diversity demonstrates commitment to diversity. An inclusive law firm culture may be attained through the development of committees and policies to embrace diversity, and the implementation of “zero tolerance” policies that publicly renounce improper conduct and statements that are prejudicial to the diverse populations within firms.

Law firms that have high rates of retaining APAs demonstrate a commitment to APA diversity at the retention level.

2008 NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY AWARD (CON'T)

Strategic Plans: Law firms that develop and implement strategic plans to identify goals and establish metrics to measure APA diversity demonstrate a commitment to increasing APA diversity.

Sustainable Diversity Efforts: Law firm practices that support diversity include instituting mentoring programs; providing valuable, challenging, and substantive work assignments for attorneys of color; increasing opportunities to work with prominent partners; and meaningful opportunities for involving associates of color in business development. Law firms that develop innovative practices to increase diversity go further in demonstrating a commitment to diversity. Whether or not firms consider diversity to be a responsibility, as can be measured by the extent to which diversity is part of shareholders' or partners' compensation, for instance, is also to be assessed.

Promotion: The rates at which partner-eligible associates are promoted to partnership will also be considered as a demonstration of the commitment to APA diversity at the partnership level.

Retention: Law firms that have high rates of retaining APAs demonstrate a commitment to APA diversity at the retention level.

Strategic Plans: Law firms that develop and implement strategic plans to identify goals and establish metrics to measure APA diversity demonstrate a commitment to increasing APA diversity.

Measurable Progress: An examination of the number of APA associates, partners, and new hires in law firms should demonstrate the success of law firms' efforts to increase APA diversity. Factors will include ratios of APA associates to non-APA associates; APA partners to non-APA partners; and APA new hires to non-APA new hires. Other factors tending to show the promotion of associates of color to partnership, as well as improvement of diversity over time, also demonstrate successful efforts to increase diversity. Special attention will also be given to the rates at which law firms laterally hire APA attorneys.

Many thanks to our 2007-2008 Major Underwriters:

PLATINUM DRAGON UNDERWRITER

GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL LLP

GOLD DRAGON UNDERWRITERS

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

BRACEWELL & GIULIANI LLP

HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP

YETTER & WARDEN, LLP

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

David T. Chang
Chevron

Rina W. Chang
The Dow Chemical Company

Chia-Ching Cheng
Attorney at Law

Indranil Chowdhury
Chowdhury & Georgakis, P.C.

Tan Pham
Baker & McKenzie LLP

Xiaoxu "Cathy" Sun
Yetter & Warden, LLP

Eunsook (Meri) Maguire
*Shannon, Martin, Finkelstein &
Alvarado, P.C.*

Honorable Sharolyn Wood
*127th Judicial District Court of
Harris County, Texas*

John Tang
Strasburger & Price, LLP

Khanh Tran
Law Offices of Harry Gee, Jr.

Michelle Wan
Thomas & Wan, LLP

Carmen Ng
Winstead PC

Martin Marasigan
Therapy Experts, Inc.

Kei Ashizawa
Univ. of Houston Law Center

Nancy Tu
Univ. of Houston Law Center

Faisal Vellani
Univ. of Houston Law Center

Jason Wu
Univ. of Houston Law Center

Sylvia Ngo
Univ. of Houston Law Center

Linh Bui
Univ. of Houston Law Center

Venkata Thiagarajan
Univ. of Houston Law Center

Lily-Ngoc Hoang
South Texas College of Law

Elaine Pascual
South Texas College of Law

Stacy Ly
Appalachian School of Law



Asian American Bar Association of Houston
2008 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) _____

(Next Two Questions for Attorneys Only:)

Would you like your business contact information published in the 2008 AABA Directory? Yes No

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 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,
or contact Judy Y. Liu at 713.207.5465.

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