

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 FAMILY FUN DAY



On Sunday, April 26, 2009, AABA members and their families enjoyed a beautiful day at Colonial Park. The children had lots of fun jumping in the bounce house, hitting the piñata, and playing in the park. It was a great leisurely event for everyone who attended. Special thanks to AABA Social Committee Co-Chairs Cindy Lin and Aaron Woo for organizing this terrific event!

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2009 AABA/HVLP/VN WILLS CLINIC



The AABA is proud to partner with Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program and VN Teamwork on the 2009 Wills Clinic!

This annual event provides pro bono estate planning services such as the drafting of wills, living wills, and powers of attorney for members of the Vietnamese community here in Houston.

This year's clinic will be held on

Saturday, May 16, 2009
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Golden Bamboo Village
12010 Dashwood Drive, Houston, TX 77072

There is a strong need for volunteers for this important project. If you are unable to volunteer for the entire day, please indicate during what times you would be able to do so. Every little bit helps!

In the lead up to the clinic, we will be holding a number of optional training sessions for attorneys who do not specialize in estate planning work. Volunteers will be instructed on how to prepare basic wills, living wills, and powers of attorney.

To volunteer for the clinic, please RSVP online at www.aabahouston.com or to AABA VP of Community Relations Alison Chen (alisonchen@andrewskurth.com).

* * *

Training Sessions – Webinars

Thursday, May 7, 2009 / 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm or
Thursday, May 14, 2009 / 11:30 am - 12:00 pm

To register, please go to the following link:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/204044449>

Training Session – Live

Wednesday, May 13, 2009
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
51st Floor, Bates Conference Room
1301 McKinney, Houston, Texas 77010
Lunch will be provided.

2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Social Committee

Cindy Lin
*Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle
LLP*

Aaron Woo
Phillips & Reiter PLLC

Mentorship and Law School Relations Committee

David S. Hsu
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*CenterPoint Energy Service
Company, LLC*

Community Service and Pro Bono Committee

Alison L. Chen
VP of Community Relations
Andrews Kurth LLP

AABA CLE: HOW TO START YOUR OWN LAW FIRM

The AABA is pleased to present its third CLE program of the year entitled "How to Start Your Own Law Firm."

The seminar will consist of a panel discussion by a group of experienced attorneys who have started their own successful practices. The seminar will focus on both big picture and nuts-and-bolts issues that attorneys face in going out on their own. We hope you can join us and take advantage of the wealth of experience our speakers have to share!

Tuesday, May 19, 2009
11:30 am: Registration / Lunch
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
51st Floor, Gayle Conference Room
1301 McKinney
Houston, Texas 77010

Lunch will be provided.

Attendance is free for AABA members and \$10 for non-AABA members.

RSVP online at www.aabahouston.com or to AABA VP of Programs
Judy Liu (judy.liu@centerpointenergy.com)



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE AABA'S 2009 GALA & SILENT AUCTION!

August 28, 2009
InterContinental Hotel
2222 West Loop South
Houston, Texas 77027

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS OF
SERVING HOUSTON'S
ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL
COMMUNITY AND THE HOUSTON
ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

BREAKFAST WITH THE GENERAL COUNSEL: CYNDI J. BAILY, GC OF BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



On Wednesday, April 22, 2009, the AABA held its first installment of this year's Breakfast with the General Counsel series at the Junior League of Houston. Cyndi J. Baily, Senior Vice President & General Counsel of Baylor College of Medicine, was the keynote speaker, speaking to AABA members about her experiences as a general counsel and sharing valuable advice for those contemplating careers as corporate counsel. Special thanks to AABA VP of Programs Judy Liu for organizing this event and to Cyndi Baily for serving as our keynote speaker!

JOSEPH VAIL IMMIGRATION WORKSHOP



On Saturday, April 18, 2009, AABA volunteers participated in the first annual Joseph Vail Immigration Workshop held at the University of Houston Law Center. AABA volunteers taught classes on immigration issues to local residents and generally assisted the event's organizers. Special thanks to AABA VP of Community Relations Alison Chen for coordinating the AABA's participation in this wonderful event and to AABA volunteers Kellie Pai, An Phong Vo, Alison Chen, Warren Huang, Rachel Le, Christopher Lee, Sana Naeem, Jenny Rugeiro, Larry Scott, and Gene Wu.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ASIAN AMERICAN CAREER DAY



On Saturday, May 2, 2009, AABA members Samantha Do, Tom Hoang, Lam Nguyen, and Gene Wu spent the morning speaking to local students at Houston Independent School District's Asian Career Day held at Sharpstown High School. The volunteers shared their experiences as attorneys and provided advice (and inspiration) to local students interested in pursuing a career in the law. Special thanks to Samantha, Tom, Lam, and Gene for volunteering!

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

May 8, 2009 / APAHA 17TH Anniversary Gala: 007 From Asia With Love / Marriott Westchase Hotel, Houston, Texas

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Association's 17th Anniversary Gala will be held on May 8, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Marriott Westchase Hotel, 2900 Briar Park Drive, Houston, Texas 77042. Ladies, come dressed in your favorite Asian Bond "Girl" character, or James Bond chic attire for men. Corporate Sponsorship Levels and individual tickets available. Honorees include Cole Chemical Corporation's Donna F. Cole, Asian American Family Services, and the Honorable Sichan Siv. For more information visit www.apaha.org or contact Dorothy Chow at 713-784-1112 (Dorothy@apaha.org). Proceeds benefit APAHA's education & cultural programs throughout the year.

May 14-15, 2009 / ABA Spring Minority Counsel Program / New York, New York

The ABA's Minority Counsel Program is designed to encourage corporations to retain lawyers of color as outside counsel. The program meets twice a year bringing together in-house lawyers and potential outside counsel for CLE programs, workshops, roundtable discussions, and MCP's signature Mystery Networking Event. For registration information for the Spring Program, visit http://www.abanet.org/minorities/mcp/spring09/agenda_online.pdf.

May 21, 2009 / Asian Chamber of Commerce: Women Rock! / The Junior League, Houston, Texas

A WomenRock! event shows you easy and practical ways to help improve your financial well-being and your health. Sponsored by The Prudential Insurance Company of America and The Asian Chamber of Commerce, get the knowledge and tools you need to make smart decisions, in a supportive and interactive environment. Panel Speakers are Y. Ping Sun, Sylvia Quan and Jo Casady, Managing Director of Prudential. Emcee'd by Elsie Huang. May 21, 2009 from 3:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at The Junior League, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston. To register, contact faye@asianchamber-hou.org.

May 21, 2009 / NAAAP Houston Networking Mixer / Pagoda Vietnamese Bistro & Bar, Houston, Texas

The Houston Chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals invites you to our signature monthly mixer for May. Come out and enjoy yourself after a hard day's work. Meet and network with other professionals. May 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Pagoda Vietnamese Bistro & Bar, 4705 Inker, Houston, Texas 77007 (across from The Cadillac Bar. To RSVP, go to <http://www.naaaphouston.org/Events.do?id=7447>.

May 23, 2009 / Houston Dynamo APA Heritage Game / University of Houston Robertson Stadium, Houston, Texas

Dynamo fans, come celebrate APA Heritage Month at the Houston Dynamos v. San Jose Earthquakes game! May 23, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Discounted tickets available through the Houston Dynamo Ticket Office – use the password "APAHA" to get the discount. For more information, contact Kristen Gambetta at kgambetta@houstondynamo.com or call (713) 276-7532.

May 30, 2009 / 9th Annual Slant Film Festival / Glassell School of Art (5101 Montrose, Freed Auditorium), Houston, Texas

The Aurora Picture Show, a local arts space, will be hosting its 9th Annual Slant Film Festival, featuring short films by APA filmmakers. Tickets are free for Aurora Picture show members and \$6 for nonmembers. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.aurorapictureshow.org. For more information, visit www.aurorapictureshow.org.

June 10 – 13, 2009 / HBA Night Court: Legal Fairy Tales / Wortham Center, Houston, Texas

Tickets for the HBA's 2009 Night Court are now on sale. Ticket prices are \$21 for the Wednesday preview performance, \$29 for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday night performances and \$15 for the Saturday matinee. The evening shows start at 8 p.m. and the Saturday Matinee is at 2 p.m. This year features three promotions: Wednesday, June 10 is "Fairy Tale Mug Night" with audience members receiving a free commemorative mug; Thursday, June 11 is "Buy 3 Get 1 Free Night;" and the Saturday matinee is the Dress Like a Fairy Tale Character Matinee for any audience members who want to invent their own story lines. For tickets, go to www.hba.org.

SIDEBAR

Ping Sun of Yetter, Warden & Coleman, LLP will be honored as one of the recipients of the University of Houston Law Center's 2009 Arrival Awards. Ping will be honored at a dinner to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, in the Crystal Ballroom at the Rice Lofts, 909 Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas. The reception begins at 6:30 pm followed by dinner and program at 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact the University of Houston Law Center's Office of External Affairs at 713.743.2201 or briefcase@uh.edu. Congratulations, Ping!

Hoang Quan Vu, Chair of the AABA of Houston's Board of Directors, recently joined the Banking Section of Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP as a partner and will be practicing banking and corporate finance. Quan was formerly a Banking and Finance partner at Mayer Brown LLP. Congratulations, Quan!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

OCA Greater Houston is hosting a Legal Clinic and Citizenship Workshop in conjunction with Neighborhood Centers, Inc. The workshop will help local residents apply for citizenship and gain basic legal knowledge to protect their rights.

OCA is looking for attorney volunteers to make a 30-minute presentation in one of three areas: (1) basic legal rights; (2) basic family law; and (3) basic criminal rights. You do not need to practice in these areas in order to present.

The event will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at the Chinese Community Center (9800 Town Park Drive, Houston, TX 77036). The immigration workshop begins at 8:00 am followed by the legal clinic presentations at 11:00 am.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gene Wu at genewu@gmail.com or 512.689.8618.

CORRECTION

In the "Get to Know an AABA Member" page of the April 2009 newsletter, AABA Member Muhammad "Mo" Aziz was incorrectly identified as Muhammad "Mo" Hakimi. The AABA deeply and sincerely apologizes for this inadvertent error. The corrected page appears in this month's newsletter.

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 sscott1812@live.com.

2009 Law School Summer Boot Camp for Students of Color

Dates:

Early Application: Completed by April 1;

Late Application: after May 7;

Applications Accepted till May 24

Having more lawyers of color is essential to the well-being of the nation and of communities of color. In fact, a recent National Jurist Article, a journal for law students, talked about the disappearing black and Latino law student. This is particularly problematic. The power in this country is held by those who control the money and the law. The decreasing number of black and Mexican-American attorney is in fact a decrease in power. The JD Project (<http://thejdproject.org>) is committed to reversing that trend. One of our projects is to assure that entering law students of color do well in law school, particularly their first year. This is important so that they can maximize their career options and be prepared to give back to their community with legal knowledge, skills and support.

Everyone admitted to law school has demonstrated similar intelligence, commitment and effort. What distinguishes "A" students is study skills and habits, access to legal information, analytical and test-taking skills. All these are skills and abilities that can be learned and improved. In our more than 35 years of experience of helping students-of-color succeed, we have seen the impact that intense preparation can have on a student's ability to excel. In a competitive environment, like law school, where grades are given based on how a person performs compared to the other students in the class, it is essential that entering law students-of-color be appropriately prepared.

The 2009 Summer Boot Camp (<http://www.thejdproject.org/Excelling/BootCamp/index.htm>) is an online distance learning program designed to provide that intense preparation. The Boot Camp teaches students to study effectively for law school, introduces students to the writing, thinking and test-taking skills needed to excel on law school exams, and builds a network of academic support that crosses school boundaries. The participants will work on the study skills, strategies and techniques they will need to achieve their goals as law students.

This is a 150 hour online program which costs \$750 including \$150 materials fee. Other programs, like BarBri cost \$2000 for a 40 hour program.

Admission is on a rolling basis till the program is filled and is open to any black, Latino, Asian, or Native American person who is planning to go to law school in the fall 2009.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Brenda Randall, Volunteer Administrator, admin@thejdproject.org.

The Pre-Law Students-of-Color Network
<http://thejdproject.org/moodle/index.php>

2009 Law School Boot Camp
<http://thejdproject.org/Excelling/BootCamp/index.htm>

Get to Know an AABA Member!



Muhammad (“Mo”) Aziz

***Abraham, Watkins, Nichols,
Sorrels & Friend***

If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . a fighter pilot.

My favorite (or fantasy) vacation is... a trek to the base camp of K2.

The best dessert (or other food) in the world is . . . chicken tikka.

In my spare time, I enjoy . . . lifting weights, circuit training and kick boxing.

In my iPod (or other mp3 device) you will find... Metallica.

My favorite movies are . . . Gladiator, Devil's Advocate, Training Day, Scarface.

The best restaurant in Houston is . . . Morton's Downtown/Sorrento's Italian.

My favorite place in Houston is . . . my office. Really.

The sports team(s) I root for is/are . . . Texans.

If I won the lottery, I would . . . Not retire.

I recommend reading . . . The Appeal by John Grisham.

Most AABA members probably don't know that . . . I have a law degree from the U.K. as well.

You forgot to ask me about . . . What type of law do I practice?

The AABA welcomes the following new and renewing members!

Janet Brown

The University of Houston Law Center

David Chang

Mayer Brown LLP

Wendy Ho

Solvay North America, LLC

Gary Ilagan

Ilagan & Associates, P.C.

Lisa Lazarte

Law Office of Lisa Lazarte

Anderson Lee

BJ Services Company

John T. Lin

Duane Morris, LLP

Andrea Tran

Pramudji Wendt & Tran, LLP

Nicholas Tsai

Thompson & Knight, LLP

Charlene Tsang-Kao

Solvay-America

David Wu

South Texas College of Law

Janine Yee

Porter & Hedges, L.L.P.

Wesley Yuan

Duane Morris LLP

If you have not already applied for membership to the AABA, then you are missing out on all the benefits of membership! Members of the AABA receive significant discounts to all AABA events (many of which are free for members) as well as invitations to exclusive members-only seminars and programs such as the annual Corporate Counsel Dinner and inclusion in the Attorney Profiles Directory on the AABA's website. 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! You may apply for membership on-line at www.aabahouston.com or by completing and submitting the attached form and dues.





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 Online 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 Communications
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 Audrey Chang at (713) 374-3537.

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