

# **NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER**

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'S FIFTH ANNUAL CORPORATE COUNSEL DINNER



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009

PAPPAS BROS. STEAKHOUSE 5839 WESTHEIMER

> 6:00 PM - Reception 7:00 PM - Dinner

> > **Keynote Speech By**:

**Edwin J. Buckingham III** 

Senior Executive Vice President & Regional General Counsel NAFTA Solvay North America, LLC

To RSVP, please visit www.aabahouston.com.

In-House Counsel: Free / Outside Counsel: \$125.

Outside counsel interested in attending must be an AABA member in good standing. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

The AABA's Corporate Counsel Dinner is generously underwritten by Exxon Mobil Corporation and Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP.

## 2009 OFFICERS

## Warren S. Huang

President Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.

## Joyce Kao Soliman

President-Elect Porter & Hedges, L.L.P.

### Audrey M. Chang

Vice President of Membership Greenberg Traurig

#### Judy Y. Liu

Vice President of Programs
CenterPoint Energy Service Company, LLC

#### Alison L. Chen

Vice President of Community Relations Andrews Kurth LLP

#### Carmen Ng

Vice President of Development Winstead PC

### Sherry L. Scott

Secretary
Exxon Mobil Corporation

#### **Juvie Cruz**

Treasurer
Daw & Ray L.L.P.

#### **DIRECTORS**

# Hoang Quan Vu, Chair

Mayer Brown LLP

### Alexander C. Chae

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

## Harry Gee, Jr.

Law Office of Harry Gee, Jr. & Associates

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U.S. Department of Justice

#### **Emily T. Kuo**

M. D. Anderson Services Corporation

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#### Jason Luong

Harris County District Attorney's Office

#### Stephanie Koo Song

Bracewell & Giuliani LLP

## John A. Tang

Strasburger

#### Catherine T. Than

Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

#### Joseph D. Yao

Exxon Mobil Corporation

# Nominations are now being accepted!

## **AABA 2010 OFFICER NOMINATIONS**

The AABA is now receiving nominations for its 2010 Officers and the 2010-2011 Elected Director.

The following positions are open and subject to vote by the AABA membership:

- President-Elect
- Vice President of Membership
  - Vice President of Programs
- Vice President of Community Relations
  - Vice President of Development
    - Treasurer
    - Secretary
    - 2010-2011 Elected Director

Any current AABA attorney member in good standing may nominate himself/herself or another attorney member for one of the positions listed above, except that any nominee for President-Elect must have served at least one previous term as an Officer of the AABA.

Please send nominations in writing to AABA President Warren Huang by <u>5:00 pm on Monday</u>, <u>November 30th</u> via email at whuang@fulbright.com or via fax at 713-651-5246.

Voting will begin on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 and will end at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 9, 2009. The election results will be announced no later than Monday, December 14, 2009.

Feel free to contact Warren Huang (713-651-3633) or 2009 President-Elect Joyce Kao Soliman (713-226-6685) with any questions regarding the election process or the duties and responsibilities of each officer.

We hope you will consider getting involved in the leadership of the AABA and making your contribution to our extraordinary organization and legal community!

# 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 Law Office of David S. Hsu

## Gala Committee

Miranda-Lin S. Bailey Exxon Mobil Corporation

Alice Chen Huang Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP

## Corporate Counsel Committee

David N. Chang Mayer Brown LLP

Jenny Hyun Weingarten Realty

Eunice Song Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

## **Programs Committee**

Judy Y. Liu VP of Programs CenterPoint Energy Service Company, LLC

# Community Service and Pro Bono Committee

Alison L. Chen VP of Community Relations Andrews Kurth LLP

## University of Houston Law Center

INVITES YOU TO THE

# 2009 Arrival Awards

## RECOGNIZING IMMIGRANT ACHIEVEMENT

6:30 p.m. Reception 7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program

Thursday, November 12, 2009

With a tribute to
JOSEPH A. VAIL,

Founding Director of UH Law Center's Immigration Clinic

Crystal Ballroom at the Rice Lofts 909 Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas

Complimentary Valet Parking
Business Attire

TABLES :	for Ten/Individual Reservations
	\$50,000 Premier Grand Underwriter
	\$25,000 Grand Underwriter
	\$10,000 Underwriter
	\$5,000 Benefactor
	\$2,500 Sponsor
	\$250 Individual Reservation
	\$100 (2003-2008 UHLC Graduates and Guest)

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact the Office of External Affairs at 713.743.2201 or Briefcase@uh.edu

# The AABA, Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Organization of Chinese Americans Greater Houston Chapter, and Catholic Charities are proud to co-sponsor the

# 2009 NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP CLINIC

**NEW DATE: Saturday, November 14, 2009** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MetroBank Community Center
Dynasty Plaza
9600 Bellaire, Suite 201

The AABA is looking for volunteers to assist in preparing applications for members of the Asian American community wishing to become naturalized citizens. While volunteers do not need to be an immigration specialist, all volunteers will be required to undergo a brief training program prior to the Clinic. The AABA also is looking for immigration specialist volunteers to review completed application forms and answer questions volunteers and applicants may have on the day of the Clinic.

The AABA would greatly appreciate if you could spread the word about the Clinic to family and friends who are interested in applying for naturalization. To register for the Clinic, applicants must call the Clinic's intake representative at 713-523-7852 between November 2, 2009 and November 6, 2009, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm to reserve an appointment for the day of the Clinic. Due to the limited number of appointments available, advanced registration for the clinic is strongly recommended. Walk-ins will be accepted as availability permits.

For more information or to volunteer for the Clinic, please contact AABA President Warren Huang at <a href="whuang@fulbright.com">whuang@fulbright.com</a> or volunteer online by "RSVP"-ing for this event.

Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

# **OPPORTUNITIES**

#### NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION – POLICY DIRECTOR

**The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association** (NAPABA) seeks a committed advocate to serve as Policy Director in NAPABA's D.C. headquarters. The Policy Director works closely with NAPABA's committees, the NAPABA Board, and NAPABA affiliates to promote diversity in the legal profession and justice, equity, and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans. This is a unique opportunity for a conscientious professional to develop management skills in a small and busy not-for-profit office.

NAPABA is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students and advances the interests of over 40,000 Asian Pacific American attorneys and 60 regional Asian Pacific American bar association affiliates. We are the leading national organization that promotes Asian Pacific American diversity in the legal profession and we support the Asian Pacific American community as a whole through many other initiatives, such as our ongoing advocacy for increased access to justice for individuals with Limited English Proficiency, for effective hate crimes prevention and enforcement, for protecting the fundamental right of all Americans to vote, and for comprehensive immigration reform that preserves family-based immigration and due process principles.

## Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with NAPABA committee co-chairs to identify and analyze issues impacting Asian Pacific Americans in order to formulate policy recommendations to the NAPABA board.
- Collaborate with policymakers, regional Asian Pacific American bar associations, and other stakeholders, such as members of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color, to identify and advance common goals.
- Draft, edit, and finalize press releases, policy and endorsement letters, board memos, and talking points.
- Serve as the primary media contact for a vast majority of issues promoted by NAPABA.
- Assist NAPABA committees with monitoring and reviewing federal legislation, case law (including related legal documents such as U.S. Supreme Court amicus briefs), and other legal developments that impact the Asian Pacific American community.
- Help formulate effective strategies as an active member of various issue-based coalitions.

**Qualifications**: Demonstrated commitment to advancing social justice for Asian Pacific Americans and a passion for building consensus among diverse advocates within an organization or an issue-based coalition, excellent writing abilities, and an ability to work independently are a must. Excellent time-management skills, detail oriented focus, oral communication ability, and strong interpersonal skills are also required. Applicants with legislative experience or a law degree are especially encouraged to apply. Experience working with media is a plus. Some travel and at times, evening and weekend work, are required.

**To Apply:** Interested candidates should email <u>policy@napaba.org</u> and <u>ed@napaba.org</u> a cover letter, résumé, and three references addressed to Tina R. Matsuoka, Executive Director, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, 1612 K St. NW, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20006.

#### TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL III

The Texas A&M University System currently has a posting for an Assistant General Counsel III. Interested persons may review the position details and apply on-line by going to <a href="https://jobs.system.tamus.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50784">https://jobs.system.tamus.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50784</a>.

The Texas A&M University System, located in College Station, Texas, is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, composed of a statewide network of 11 universities, seven state agencies and a comprehensive health science center. The Texas A&M University System is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer committed to excellence.

# Many thanks to our 2009-2010 Major Underwriters!

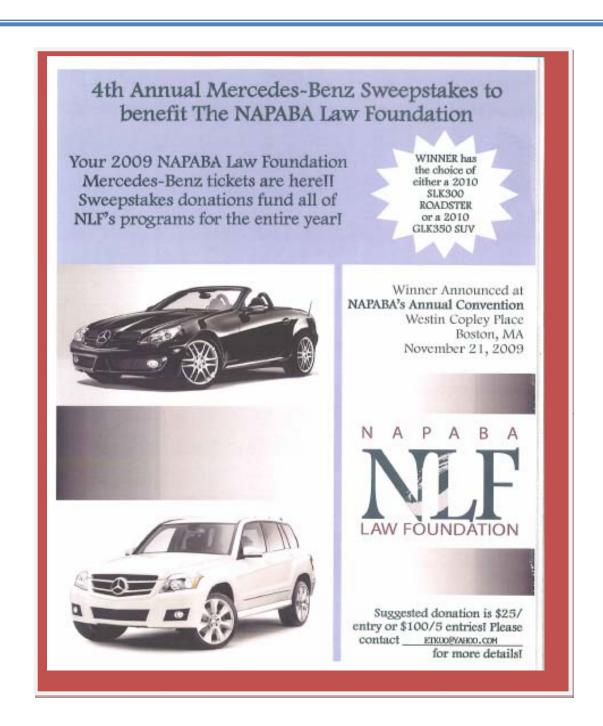
# PLATINUM UNDERWRITERS

# EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL LLP

## **GOLD UNDERWRITERS**

BRACEWELL & GIULIANI LLP
THE LANIER LAW FIRM

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P. LOCKE LORD BISSELL & LIDDELL LLP



# PROJECT BLUEPRINT

a blueprint for diversity in volunteer leadership

-Project Hinsprint is committed to ensuring that the board leadership of our semprofit sector reflects the rich ethnic diversity of our Houston.

Community. Since its inception in 1988, Project Blagarist kap progned the sent generation of energing leaders from Houston's multi-column communities to fill key roles on boards and board committees. More than 650 well trained leaders are providing the skills, resources and diverse perspectives needed to assist nonprofit organizations in improving performance and increasing their impact in the community.

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants for Project Bluegrint are recruited community wide.
The goal is to identify an attrainably diverse pool of individuals
who have the potential to assume leadership rules in the numbrafit
areas.

Condidates for the Project Biasprint program may self-submit, or may be recommended by colleagues or covardam. Emject Blusprint alumni are succuraged to recommend applicants, as are corporations and nonprofit organizations.

The program fee is \$600.00 and is due after March 50, 2009, the applicant is notified of their acceptance into the program. The five covers coats rulated to the program including a two-day officin retreat that is designed to foster consenders and teem spirit among the participants. Participants are encountered to seak corporate sponegoship where appropriate.

Classes converse in early spring and conclude with a recognition commony honoring the new Emject Etherprint graduates.

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

Clean mambers are taleaten based on oritoria that include: professinual experience, promunantly involvement and landership potential. Basis also is the monographically diverse in terms of age, gender, otherinity, and professional occupation.

A Project Bluegrint Volunteer Schotien Committee reviews confidate applications, conclusts personal interviews with the top applicants and selects the participants.

#### PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Experts in all areas of negarofit government lend the participants through a congrehensive consistant covering an erray of topics maked to beard government, exists communication, legal and framerick issues and fundaming.

Following graduation, Project Hlasprint alaumi on offered volunteer placement opportunities either with United Way or other nonprofit organizations.

#### Project Blueprint participants enjoy these benefits:

- Leadership Training: A series of workshop sensions that provides concentrated study of issues related to conpress teadership and management;
- Teambuilding: A two-day retreat designed to build cameraderic among program participants and develop the skills that are secontral to effective team interaction, and fractionize:
- Volunteer Placement: Pollowing completion of the program, Project Blueprint graduates are provided with placement opportunities in area asspredits to exercise their new skills;
- Project Blueprint Alumni: Graduates are important ambassakes for the program and appear the annual reactifunate and alcohology present. They have opportunities to increase their networks and to further develop their leadership skills through a variety of overleshops and Emjort Bluepriet oversit.

# Learn more about PROJECT BLUEPRINT

For more information, contact Karon B. White, Londonbip Development Manager at 713.685.2711 or localized methodoxylouston-ong OR complete and fax the following from to Project Hacquird Londonbip Development Manager at 1-866-826-1068.

- ☐ My organization would like volunteer reflexals for our board
- I would like to receive an application for participation in the next Project Huspaint class.
- ☐ I would like to nominate a condidate for the Project Rhosprint program.

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Address
City

State

Zip+4

Phone

Threat year

Project Harquist United Way of Greater Houston 2:0. Box 3247 Haratan, TX 77243-3247

Project Blueprist is a program of the United Way of Greater Houston, were united my houston, or g

You You for the

# PROJECT BLUEPRINT benefit you?

## – As a Participant...

- > Strengthens your leadership and management skills
- > Provides valueble networking opportunities
- Enhances your status as a member of a distinguished group of community leaders

## -As a Nonprofit Organization...

- Reduces time consuming tasks of locating, recruiting, and training board volunteers
- > Server as a new source of leaders who know and care shout the community
- Offers representation that reflects the cultural diversity of the Community.

#### -As a Corporation...

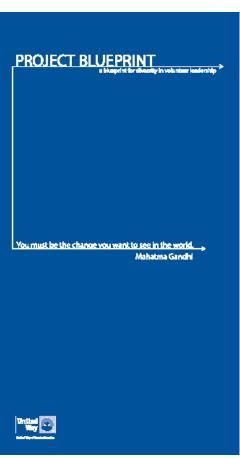
- Strengthens your company's community image and provides another evenue for community relations
- Provides leadership and management training for your employees
- Fohences your employees' shifting to manage the cultural diversity that exists in the workplace

#### For More Information:

phone: 713-685-2711 web site: www.unitedwayhouston.org







Applications must be received at United Way no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2009.

Mayor Bill White and Andrea Ferguson White

Ginya and Clayton Trier

Laura and John Armold
Cheryl and fin Buildr
Jan Carson and Tim Connolly
Meryl and Mery Cohen
Booky and John Crano
Jonn'er Lagglon and Joe Crownover
Anne and Kon Cullous
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Nancy and Neal Hanne
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Balls and Jay Bosenfeld
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#### SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS





Writers in the Schools (WITS) engages students in the pleasure and power of reading and writing. Founded in 1953 changing the Limberrity of Housean's creative writing program, WITS sends some of our nation's most calthod writers into intersor in basis and sends as well as the factory organization and is ranked fall by the Tools Commission on the Arice. WITS teaches creative writing to an fall students in schools, community contact, planning development of the program of the Arice. WITS teaches creative writing to a fall students in schools, community contact, WITS writers subject students on a journey to discover their own voice as so nycellers. This experience helps different to become lifeting is a men, citibal chindren, and confident communication. This year WITS writers will teach in 130 classrooms, impacting 30,000 students.

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## WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

#### **PROGRAM**



NEW BERRY MEDALISTS Converteins Energy Laura and John Armold Wells Farge

NY TIMES BEST SELLERS
Edund Cheryl Buller
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The Social Meen - John Hammed Screuss

WITS WRITER AWARDS
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Li Cunxon, the keynote speaker, wrote "Mao's Last Dancer." The book, which was made into a movie, premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and was very well received.

# **SIDEBAR**

**Emily Kuo**, AABA Past-President in 2007, has been elected to serve as NAPABA's 2009-2010 Vice President of Programs and Operations.

Emily, congratulations and best of luck in your new position with NAPABA!



Avery Isabella Chen was born on Sept. 23, 2009, weighing 6 lb., 7 oz and measuring 19 inches.

Congratulations to Alison, Kevin and Mason on your beautiful new addition to the family!

If you would like to publicize job opportunities, community news, or personal SIDEBAR news, please contact AABA Secretary Sherry Scott at sscott1812@live.com.

# **COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS**

#### November 11, 2009 / MCCA Day of Diversity, New York Marriott Marquis, New York, NY

MCCA will host a day of diversity on November 11, 2009 at the New York Marriott Marquis, which will include the Pathways to Diversity Conference and the Northeast Region Diversity Dinner. The annual conference continues to deliver practical tools and resources that attorneys need to meet organizational diversity goals and expand their personal career growth. The dinner will celebrate the diversity accomplishments of two regional law departments and one law firm.

Attend the conference where you can choose from 15 concurrent substantive panels across 5 tracks. Plus, add to that the opening plenary session focusing on The Call to Leadership: Advancing Diversity Through Peaks & Valleys and the luncheon programs where you can choose from one of two panels focused on the Center for Women in Law: Leading the Way for Advancement and the Call to Action Update 2009. These programs are designed to help you create your own unique path to developing, rejuvenating, or broadening diversity in your workplace. The list of speakers is impressive including representatives from Intel, Google, American Airlines, Wal-Mart, NBC Universal, Prudential, Allstate Insurance, DuPont,Colgate-Palmolive and many more.

Following the conference will be the Northeast Region Diversity Dinner honoring the 2009 Employers of Choice. This annual event draws attendance from over 1000 attorneys in the MCCA network and is The Diversity Event of the year! Participate at this event by sponsoring a table or purchasing tickets and taking part in honoring the law departments of Bristol Myers-Squibb and Xerox Corporation. This is a perfect way to entertain clients in a festive atmosphere and celebrate your commitment to diversity at the same time.

Registration is affordable with rates starting at just \$295 for MCCA supporters. To take advantage of these low rates, visit MCCA and click on the conference link. For additional information regarding the conference, email questions to <a href="mailto:education@mcca.com">education@mcca.com</a>.

For additional information regarding the dinner, please contact Jennifer Chen at 202-739-5702 or jenchen@mcca.com or visit www.mcca.com.



## November 13, 2009 / Tahirih Justice Center Inaugural Reception, Houston, Texas

Join the Tahirih Justice Center in celebration of the opening of its Houston office on Friday, November 13, 2009, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at One Park Place, 1400 McKinney Street, Houston, Texas. There will be complimentary valet parking. To RSVP, visit <a href="www.support.tahirih.org/houstonlaunch">www.support.tahirih.org/houstonlaunch</a>. For more information, contact Anne Chandler at <a href="mailto:annec@tahirih.org">annec@tahirih.org</a> or 713.250.2175.



# <u>December 2, 2009</u> / Asian Houston Network Community Leadership Awards Luncheon, The Junior League, Houston, Texas

Asian Houston Network and event chairs, Hon. Theresa Chang and Dr. Peter Chang, cordially invite you to the 2009 Community Leadership Awards Luncheon. Join us as we honor Donna Fujimoto Cole and Elsie Huang on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 (11:30 a.m. reception, 12:00 p.m. luncheon) at The Junior League, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane. Sponsorship levels and ticket prices are:

Platinum - \$5,000 Gold - \$2,500 Silver - \$1,500 Bronze - \$750 Patron Ticket: \$150 Individual Ticket: \$50

Please R.S.V.P. by November 20. For questions, contact <u>info@asiahouston.org</u> or 281.575.7722. You may mail your check to Asia Houston Network, P.O. Box 130676, Houston, Texas 77219.

# Get to Know an AABA Member!



# "Jessica" Wen Chen

Law Offices of Lai & Associates, P.C.

**If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . .** a manager for a Fortune 500 company since I like the atmosphere of teamwork and the big company culture.

My favorite (or fantasy) vacation is . . . to visit Paris or Barcelona. I like scenic and historical sites, and old, beautiful cities.

**The best dessert (or other food) in the world is . . .** Chinese pea cake. It is very popular in northern China. Luckily, I found a Chinese Restaurant along Highway 59 that sells it.

**In my spare time, I enjoy**... walking in Memorial Park and shopping in the Galleria. In my opinion, Memorial Park is the most aesthetically attractive place in Houston. I always walk the entire loop in the park, which takes around 45 minutes. It is safe and you may find a lot of people exercising there like you, so you won't feel lonely.

In my iPod (or other mp3 device) you will find ... smooth jazz, old Chinese music, and Michael Jackson songs. I became enamored of smooth jazz ever since I began listening to FM 97.5 in Houston. It is exciting, hopeful, and relaxed.

**My favorite movies are . . .** Titanic, which is a dream of love, and Sex and the City, which had a beautiful wedding scene and a happy ending.

**The best restaurant in Houston is...** the 101 Café. I like the atmosphere for talking with friends and eating.

**My favorite place in Houston is . . .** the Galleria. There is a lot of luxury stuff there, which makes me feel that life is so beautiful.

**The sports team(s)** I root for is/are... the Rockets. Yao Ming is really the only reason I care about the Rockets.

**If I won the lottery, I would . . .** attend Harvard to pursue an MBA degree and start a business to achieve my dream, which is to be prosperous, healthy, and happy.

I recommend reading . . . The Power of Positive Thinking by Norman Vincent Peale. I am reading this book now.

**Most AABA members probably don't know that I...** was a senior accountant working for the Central Bank in China before I went to law school.

# THE AABA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

H.C. Chang *McGehee Chang* 

Roxanne Meng
O'Donnell, Ferebee, Medley & Keiser, P.C.

Kathy Cheng Cheng Copeland & Assocs., P.L.L.C.

David Quan
Law Office of David Quan

Sara Coane Goldberg
Katine & Nechman LLP

Samina Quddos Hewlett Packard Company

Nile Copeland Cheng Copeland & Assocs., P.L.L.C.

Maulik Shaw Georgetown University Law Center

Chun Kuo Hewlett Packard Company Cathy Sun
Osha Liang LLP

Julia Maldonado J. Maldonado Law Firm, P.C. Tom Tseng

If you haven't 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, 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. Another terrific benefit of AABA membership is automatic membership in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("NAPABA"). 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.



NAPABA members are now eligible for special pricing on the purchase or lease of Mercedes-Benz vehicles



# Asian American Bar Association of Houston 2009 Membership Application/Renewal

□ \$0 □ \$25	\$25 Attorney with less than 3 years in practice • In-House or Non-Profit Counsel • Solo Practitioner •			
□ \$50 □ \$75	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
Bar Num	nber and Jurisdiction			
Last Name		First Name		
Employe	er			
Address	<b>3</b>			
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 in	ndicate any committees on which you would be in	terested in serving:		
	☐ Gala ☐ Fundraising ☐ Programs	☐ Social/Networking ☐ Communications		
☐ Community Relations/Pro Bono ☐ Corporate Counsel ☐ Mentorship/Law School Relations				
Make checks payable to <b>AABA</b> 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.