

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.

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AABA Officers & Committees Retreat

On Saturday, January 14, 2012, the Officers, Committee Chairs, and Directors of the AABA met at the Chinese Community Center and held their annual retreat and planning meeting for the 2012 year. During the meeting, Judy Liu, Jenny Hyun, and Helene Dang were each appointed by majority vote of the Officers to serve two for years on the Board of Directors. Congratulations to Audrey Chang who was voted the new Chairperson of the Board. Special thanks to Porter Hedges LLP for sponsoring this important meeting!



Cindy Lin, Eunice Song, and Carmen Ng



Daniel Chen and Albert Liou

**2012
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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Susan Tran

CTS Law Firm

*Mentorship and Law School Relations
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Clinton Yu

Givens & Johnston PLLC

Brendon Singh

CTS Law Firm

Kellie Pai

Liu & Associates PLLC

Nominations Committee

Alice C. Huang, Chair

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP

AABA
of Houston

AABA Officers & Committee Retreat



Clinton Yu, Kellie Pai, and Brendon Singh



Eunice Song, Claire Le, Jennifer Fung, and Jane Nguyen Vuong



LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION WITH



On January 19, 2012, AABA celebrated the Year of the Dragon with Yellow Magazine at Momentum BMW Southwest. Along with Yellow Magazine, the event was co-hosted by the AABA, Asia Society Young Professionals, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Hope Initiative, KASH, Filipino Young Professionals, and Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce.



AABA ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING AND KICKOFF DINNER

**The AABA is pleased to invite you to its
2012 Annual Members Meeting and Kickoff Dinner!**

Learn more about the organization and the exciting programs for this year, share your ideas for how the AABA can better serve you, and meet your AABA officers, board members, committee co-chairs, and fellow members.

WHERE:

Kim Son Restaurant
2001 Jefferson Street
Houston, TX 77003
Telephone: (713)222.2461
<http://www.kimson.com>

WHEN:

Thursday, January 26, 2012
6:00 - 6:30 PM: Check-In / Reception
6:30 - 6:45 PM: Annual Membership Meeting
6:45 - 8:30 PM: Dinner served

REGISTRATION:

Please RSVP on the AABA Website at www.aabahouston.com
The Annual Members Meeting is free.
The cost for Dinner is \$15 for AABA Members, and \$35 for Non-Members.

We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Come join the AABA in celebrating the Year of the Dragon!

Families are definitely welcome, with special treats for the kids!

WHERE Fung's Kitchen
7320 Southwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77074

WHEN Saturday, February 11, 2012
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

COST \$10/person for AABA members.
\$20/person for non-members.
Children 12 years old or younger are free!

REGISTRATION RSVP online at
www.aabahouston.com
by Thursday, February 9.

QUESTIONS Contact our Social Committee Co-Chairs:
Chris Lee at clee@targaresources.com
Susan Tran at Susan.Tran@ctsattorneys.com



The AABA wishes you a happy, healthy,
and prosperous New Year!

Law Day Poster Workshop

In recognition of Law Day, the AABA is sponsoring a Poster Workshop with the Houston Bar Association to create posters for entry into the HBA Poster Contest. We hope that the workshop will allow students to recognize the importance of law in our society. The theme for this year is “**No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom.**” The posters should depict the importance of our court system and how the courts preserve justice and freedom.



Date: Saturday, February 18, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Place: Chinese Community Center
9800 Town Park
Houston, Texas 77036

Speaker: The Honorable Jay Karahan

Grade Levels: K-8th grades may participate

Posters, drawing supplies, food, and drinks will be provided. Completed posters will be submitted to the HBA courtesy of the AABA for entry into the official Poster Contest.

The Poster Contest will award all prizes in two categories:

K-3rd grade and 4th-8th grade

First Place Winners - \$150.00 each

Second Place Winners - \$ 100.00 each

Third Place Winners - \$ 50.00 each

2 Honorable Mentions - \$ 25.00 each

Teacher of First Place Winners - \$ 100.00 each

Courtesy of the Pratz Simmons Group at UBS

RSVPs for the Poster Workshop are encouraged at www.aabahouston.com via the Law Week Asian Outreach Poster Workshop link, but walk-ins are also welcome.

For questions about this event, please contact Daniel Chen at dchen@njclaw.com or Alice Huang at ahuang@lockelord.com.

Job Opportunity

Corporate Associate

Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody seeks a corporate associate with two-to-five years experience and an emphasis on general corporate, M&A, private equity and commercial transactions. Excellent academic credentials, analytical skills and verbal and written communication skills required. The firm offers a collegial environment with competitive compensation and benefits. Qualified candidates should send a cover letter and résumé in confidence via email to resumes@gdhm.com or by mail to Diane Dettmann, PHR, Director of Human Resources, P.O. Box 98, Austin, TX 78767-0098.

Please visit www.gdhm.com to learn more about Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody, P.C.

2012 AABA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM and CAREER NIGHT

AABA is seeking Mentors and Mentees for its 2012 Mentorship Program!

Please submit your applications by Friday, February 24, 2012.

A **Career Night and Mentorship Program Kickoff** will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012 beginning at 6:30 P.M. at South Texas College of Law.

The Career Panel will begin at 7:30 P.M.

All AABA members, friends, supporters, mentees and mentors are invited and encouraged to attend.

MENTOR APPLICATION – AABA 2012 Mentorship Program

The goal of the **AABA Mentorship Program** is to assist law students and new attorneys better define their legal path through the sharing of an experienced attorney's wisdom, experiences, and knowledge about the practice of law. In order to maximize the benefits of this program, Mentees and Mentors will be matched as closely as possible according to their areas of interest and practice, respectively. ***Mentors and Mentees are encouraged to schedule a meeting once per month to 6 weeks and to remain in contact with each other on a regular basis throughout the year.***

Eligibility: Attorneys with 2 or more years of legal experience are eligible to apply to be a Mentor. If you would like to participate in this program, please complete the form below.

The deadline to apply is February 24, 2012.

Name _____

Employer _____

Employer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

E-mail _____ State Bar Number _____

Law School _____

Year of Graduation _____

Year(s) in Practice _____

Practice Area(s) _____

Your Goals & Expectations from the Mentorship Program _____

Please mail, fax or e-mail your completed form to:

Juvie A. Cruz
Pagel, Davis & Hill, P.C.
1415 Louisiana, 22nd Floor
Tel: (713) 951-0160
Fax: (713) 951-0662
E-mail: jcruz@pdhlaw.com

MENTEE APPLICATION – AABA 2012 Mentorship Program

The goal of the **AABA Mentorship Program** is to assist law students and new attorneys better define their legal path through the sharing of an experienced attorney's wisdom, experiences, and knowledge about the practice of law. In order to maximize the benefits of this program, Mentees and Mentors will be matched as closely as possible according to their areas of interest and practice, respectively. ***Mentors and Mentees are encouraged to schedule a meeting once per month to 6 weeks and to remain in contact with each other on a regular basis throughout the year.***

Eligibility: Law students and attorneys with up to 2 years of legal experience are eligible to apply to be a Mentee. If you would like to participate in this program, please complete the form below.

Please note: Matches will be subject to availability.

The deadline to apply is February 24, 2012.

Name _____

Employer (for Attorneys) _____

Home/Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

State Bar Number (Attorneys) _____

Law School _____

Year of Graduation or Current Law School Year _____

Year(s) in Practice (for Attorneys) _____

Practice Area(s) of Interest _____

Your Goals & Expectations from the Mentorship Program _____

Please mail or e-mail your completed form to:

Juvie A. Cruz

Pagel, Davis & Hill, P.C.

1415 Louisiana, 22nd Floor

Tel: (713) 951-0160

E-mail: jcruz@pdhlaw.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for a Legal Round-Up

NCVAA 2012

Houston, Texas, May 18 -19, 2012



The National Conference for Vietnamese American Attorneys 2012 (“NCVAA”) is pleased to announce that this year’s conference will be held **May 18-19, 2012** in **Houston, Texas**. On behalf of the conference committee, we ask for your support.

This year’s conference, based on the theme “Legal Round-Up,” marks the sixth occasion Vietnamese American attorneys from all over the nation will convene to discuss issues and experiences of interest to the Vietnamese legal community. This is the first time the NCVAA will be held in Texas.

The Houston Conference Committee is thrilled to show southern hospitality to our colleagues and friends. The conference will commence with a Welcome Reception on the evening of May 18. The full-day conference will take place on May 19 at Norris Conference Centers, City Centre, 803 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77024 and will feature a series of esteemed speakers and panelists. A block of rooms are on hold on a limited basis with Hotel Sorella, 800 Sorella Court, Houston, Texas 77024, which is immediately adjacent to the Norris Conference Center, for conference attendees and guests.

The conference will conclude with a Banquet Dinner at Fung’s Kitchen, 7320 Southwest Freeway, Suite 115, Houston, Texas 77074, and two local law students will be presented with scholarships in recognition of their commitment to the Vietnamese American community.

This event provides opportunities to network with prominent judges, attorneys, government officials, and scholars. To learn more about NCVAA, please visit our website at www.ncvaa.org.

We hope you will support NCVAA 2012 and join us for the reception, conference, and/or dinner. The levels of sponsorship are attached for your review. A member of NCVAA will be contacting you in the near future to discuss your potential sponsorship. For your convenience, we have also included a Save the Date and the Conference Registration Package information.

We are very excited about this event, and hope to count on your generous support.

If you would like to be included on the NCVAA ListServ, please e-mail Catherine Than at CThan@bickerstaff.com with your contact information.

Executive Board

*Mai Dinh Phan, President
San Jose, California*

*Tita Nguyen, President Elect
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*Caroline Nguyen, Vice President
Washington, D.C.*

*Minh Nguyen, Secretary
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*Duy Thai, Treasurer
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*Teri Pham
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*Catherine Than
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*Dominique N. Thieu
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*Nguyen Vu
Washington, D.C.*

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*Catherine Than, Co-Chair
Houston, Texas*

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San Jose, California*

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*Elizabeth Tran
Houston, Texas*

*Hoang Quan Vu
Houston, Texas*

*Nguyen Vu
Washington, D.C.*

2012 SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Law Firm/Corporation/Org. : _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Name of Contact Person: _____

Phone: (____)_____ Fax: (____)_____ E-Mail Address: _____

YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS EVENT!

<input type="checkbox"/> Presenting Sponsor \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized at Opening Breakfast and Banquet Name recognition on website, conference materials, and dinner program Exclusive opportunity for remarks on stage at conference or dinner; booth space and/or product displays; and radio and media exposure Signage rights and full cover page ad on conference materials and dinner program 10 Tickets to Welcome Reception; 5 Tickets to Conference; 10 Tickets (one table) to Banquet
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Sponsor \$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized at Opening Breakfast and Banquet Name recognition on website, conference materials, and dinner program Full page ad in conference materials and dinner program 6 Tickets to Welcome Reception; 2 Tickets to Conference; 6 Tickets to Banquet
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor \$1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized at Opening Breakfast and Banquet Name recognition on website, conference materials, and dinner program Half page ad in conference materials and dinner program 4 Tickets to Welcome Reception; 2 Tickets to Conference; 4 Tickets to Banquet
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized at Opening Breakfast and Banquet Name recognition on website, conference materials, and dinner program Quarter page ad in conference materials and dinner program 2 Tickets to Welcome Reception; 2 Tickets to Conference; 2 Tickets to Banquet
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Sponsor \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized at Opening Breakfast and Banquet Name recognition on website, conference materials, and dinner program 1 Ticket to Welcome Reception; 1 Ticket to Conference; 2 Tickets to Banquet
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship Sponsor \$1,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Tickets (one table) to Banquet Recognized at Banquet </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Sponsor \$500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Tickets to Banquet Recognized at Banquet </div> </div>	

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

☐ A check is enclosed for: \$_____. ☐ A check for \$_____ will be mailed by _____ [date].

☐ We cannot commit as a sponsor at this time, but we'd like to enclose a donation for: \$_____.

Please make checks payable to: "NCVAA" and mail to: NCVAA, c/o Duy Thai, 351 California St., Suite 550, San Francisco, CA 94104.

Our Federal Tax ID # is 27-3630527. Reservations held at the door; tickets will not be mailed.
 For more information, please contact Catherine Than, (713) 395-1681/cthan@bickerstaff.com
 Please visit www.ncvaa.org for the Program Schedule and Ad submission requirements and instructions.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICES		General	Government; Nonprofit; Students
Early Registration Package (by March 30, 2012) (1 ticket to Welcome Reception, Conference, and Banquet)		\$225	\$175
Regular Registration Package (after March 30, 2012) (1 ticket to Welcome Reception, Conference, and Banquet)		\$285	\$225
Individual Tickets			
	Welcome Reception (Friday, May 18, 2012)	\$50	\$40
	Conference (Saturday, May 19, 2012)	\$200	\$150
	Banquet (stand alone ticket)	\$75	\$60
	Banquet (companion ticket for Package Registrant)	\$60	\$60



Houston Bar Association

1001 Fannin, Suite 1300 Houston, Texas 77002

Phone: 713-759-1133 Fax: 713-759-1710

Law Day Readings 2012 Volunteer Form

Members of the Houston Bar Association will read to students in 100 elementary schools in the Houston area in honor of Law Day (May 1), from April 23 to May 18, 2012. The book that our lawyers and judges will read is *The Cupcake Thief* by Ellen Jackson for **grades K-2**. At the end of the reading, the book will be presented to the school library as a gift from the Houston Bar Association.

If you would like to be a part of this event by volunteering to read, please fax this form to 713-759-1710 (no cover sheet required). If you have any questions feel free to contact Claire Nelson at ClaireN@hba.org or 713-759-1133. You can also email this form to ClaireN@hba.org.

ATTORNEY'S NAME:

FIRM OR ORGANIZATION:

PHONE NUMBER(S):

MAILING ADDRESS:

FAX NUMBER:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

E-MAIL:

Please let us know if you are willing to read more than once during the 4 week period (2 schools). Please do not request specific schools, as we only read to the 100 schools that sign up. These schools are located all across the Harris County area in 20+ school districts. Thank you for your flexibility. We are always in need of volunteer readers, please spread the word.

CWIL Leadership BootCamp

Sponsored by:

*Center for Women in Law, UT School of Law | Association of Women Attorneys
Andrews Kurth LLP | Baker Hostetler | Beverly Manne*



3Ls, Judicial Clerks:

Don't be another statistic. Learn critical skills to successfully navigate your career through small group workshops with leading lawyers and trainers.

Participating Organizations To Date:

Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto
& Friend
Andrews Kurth LLP
Baker Botts LLP
Baker Hostetler
Denson & Tang Law Firm
First Court of Appeals
Harris County District Court, 190th Civil Court
Harris County District Court, 234 Civil Court

Holmes, Diggs & Eames
Legal Insight, Inc./ Bragg Law
Locke Lord LLP
Ogden Gibson Brooks Longoria & Hall, LLP
Robert J. Kruckemeyer Attorney at Law
Strong Pipkin Bissell & Ledyard, LLP
Texas Department of Insurance
Texas House of Representatives
Vinson & Elkins LLP

SPACE IS LIMITED
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!
Saturday, February 11, 2012

9 AM-6 PM, Andrews Kurth, 600 Travis, Houston

This event is free, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

center
for
women
in law
university
of texas
school of law

convening leaders
generating ideas
leading change.

Register online at
centerforwomeninlaw.org/events
or call 512.232.1911.

Help Outfit a Foster Teen for Prom!

Donate your gently-used, dry-cleaned formals, bridesmaids dresses or other evening wear suitable for high school proms to the Houston Alumni and Youth (HAY) Center. High school students in foster care often have a difficult time getting clothes for their proms, and the HBA's HAY Center Committee is trying to help by collecting clothing that will allow high school students in foster care to "shop" for an outfit for their prom.

Please drop off items you would like to donate by March 23 at:

HAY Center

1906 Cochran St.
(entrance on Gano St.)
Houston, TX 77009

or

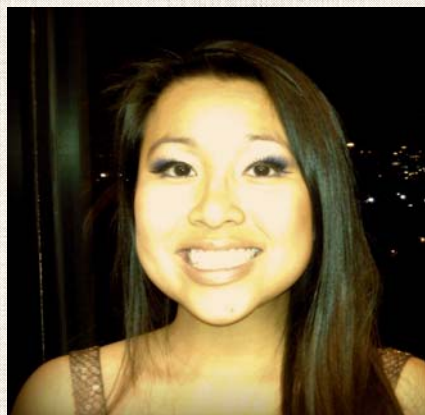
Houston Bar Association

1001 Fannin Street,
Loading dock on San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002

If you have questions, contact Bonnie Simmons at the HBA, 713-759-1133 or bonnies@hba.org.

Other items needed are personal grooming items for gift baskets, shoes, handbags, gift cards to major chain restaurants, jewelry, hair accessories or gift cards for tuxedo rentals.

Get to Know An AABA MEMBER!



Name: Susan Tran

Firm: CTS Law Firm & Law Offices of Donna Roth

Practice Areas: Bankruptcy and business law

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

The oddest food I have ever eaten has been . . . the KFC double-down.

In my spare time, I enjoy . . . knitting and cooking.

If my life were a movie, it would be called . . . Dog Hoarders.

In my opinion, the best restaurant in Houston is . . . Banana Leaf, the sizzling tofu is delicious!

The coolest store in Houston is . . . Anthropologie.

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

My decade for music is the 00's and my favorite song is . . . "I Will Follow You into the Dark" by Death Cab for Cutie.

My favorite quote is . . . "Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you who you are." –Brillat-Savarin.

Most AABA members probably don't know that I . . . aspire to own my brewpub.

You forgot to ask me about . . . why I decided to become a lawyer!

Get to Know An AABA MEMBER!



Name: Brendon Singh

Firm: CTS Law Firm

Practice Areas: Bankruptcy and business law

If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . a NASCAR engine builder.

The oddest food I have ever eaten has been . . . Armadillo in Mustard Sauce.

In my spare time, I enjoy . . . watching DVR and going shooting.

If my life were a movie, it would be called . . . Boy Who Never Sleeps.

In my opinion, the best restaurant in Houston is . . . Ruggles Green.

The coolest store in Houston is . . . the Apple Store.

The sports team(s) I root for is/are . . . the Texans and Houston Cougars.

My decade for music is the 90's and my favorite song is . . . "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

My favorite quote is . . . "We make a living by what we get, but we make a difference by what we give."

Most AABA members probably don't know that I . . . wake up at 3pm on Sundays.

You forgot to ask me about . . . the coolest place I have ever been. Australia!

Many thanks to our 2012–2013 Major Underwriters!

Diamond Dragon Underwriters

Legal Knowledge. Human Wisdom.

GARDERE

GT GreenbergTraurig

Platinum Dragon Underwriter

**JONES
DAY**[®]

Gold Dragon Underwriters

**BRACEWELL
& GIULIANI** LLP

FULBRIGHT
& Jaworski L.L.P.



It's that time of year again...
Renew your **AABA** membership!



The AABA is accepting membership applications and renewals for 2012!

**You may apply for membership online at www.aabahouston.com
or by completing and submitting the attached form and dues.**

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. 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!

Another terrific benefit of AABA membership is automatic membership in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("NAPABA").

The **AABA** welcomes the following
new and renewing members!

Marrick Armstrong, *Adams and Reese LLP*
Ngoc-Linh Bui
Audrey Chang, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP*
Kathy Cheng, *Cheng Copeland, PLLC*
Nile Copeland, *Cheng Copeland, PLLC*
Romulo Diaz, *Law Office of Romulo B. Diaz, PLLC*

Henry Garrana, *Garrana Tran, LLP*
Zack S. Huang, *Lin & Valdez, LLP*
Chun Kuo, *Hewlett Packard Company*
Jennifer Lin
Ryan Nayar, *Locke Lord LLP*
Ba Nguyen, *Levinthal Wilkins & Nguyen PLLC*
Melody Wang, *University of Houston Law Center*

- ☐ \$50 General Member
☐ \$25 Public Interest Attorney • Government Attorney • Judge • Solo Practitioner
☐ \$0 Law Student • Retired Attorney • Transitional Attorney*

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) Spoken _____

Would you like to receive the AABA Newsletter by E-Mail? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like your business contact information published in the 2012 AABA Directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No

By completing this membership application, I hereby consent to the receipt of notice of meeting through electronic means.

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
☐ Solo and Small Firm ☐ 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 Cindy Lin at (713) 220-4311.

*Transitional attorneys refer to those attorneys currently not employed.