

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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2012 Gala & Silent Auction

On Friday, September 14, 2012, the AABA held its annual Gala & Silent Auction at the Omni Hotel featuring Russell Libby, GC of Sysco Corporation, as the keynote speaker and honoring Judge Theresa Chang as the Impact Award Winner. The Gala was co-chaired by Kei Ashizawa, Claire Le, and Janine Yee while the Silent Auction was chaired by Sharon Yin. Many thanks to our event underwriters, chairs, volunteers, performers, and speakers for a spectacular evening as the AABA celebrated yet another successful year.



2012
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AABA
of Houston

2012 Gala & Silent Auction



2012 Gala & Silent Auction



2012 Gala & Silent Auction





AABA 2012 Women's Retreat

When: Saturday, October 20, 2012

9am – Noon

Where: Locke Lord LLP – JPMorgan Chase Tower, Suite 2800

What:

Get ready for a fun morning of mingling, networking and learning featuring two exciting panels:

Panel 1 – “Business Development Tips for the Female Minority Attorney” with:

Judy Kim, Attorney at Axiom

Shauna Johnson Clark, Partner-in-Charge of Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P., Houston Office

Allison Arbizu, Business Development Manager at Locke Lord LLP

Panel 2 – “Wardrobe & Makeup for the Professional Woman: Putting Your Best Face Forward”
with a Nordstrom personal stylist and a Shiseido beauty consultant

Nearest Parking:

Chase Center Garage at 601 Travis Street

This event is free and open to women attorneys only

Breakfast and sophisticated beverages provided

R.S.V.P. by October 17, 2012 with Eunice Song at esong@gardere.com

The Houston Taipei Society Presents

Cosponsor

臺灣書院
TAIWAN ACADEMY

Rhythms of Taipei

October 1-31, 2012

City Hall Underground Tunnel

The Houston Taipei Society is pleased to present "Rhythms of Taipei." On loan to the Society from Taipei, these amateur photographs capture images of modernity and nature in and around the Taipei area. Taipei is a collage of tradition and modernity that mesmerizes the eye with the flash and angles of a global city, while also soothing the mind with the tranquility of nature and traditional architecture.

Founded in 1961 under Houston Mayor Lewis Cutter and Taipei City Mayor Chi-Jui Huang, the Houston Taipei Society holds the honor of being the first sister city relationship for both Taipei and Houston. The Society seeks to build people-to-people bridges through programming that promotes the proud histories and limitless horizons of our great cities.

Comments or questions please contact Hans Stockton, Houston Taipei Society at stockton@stthom.edu.

The Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California Public Interest Fellowship (2012)

Funding generously provided by the San Diego Foundation

This Fellowship Program will fund one law graduate who will work for one year to provide legal services to and advocacy for the Vietnamese American community and/or other underserved, underresourced communities. This year, the fellow will receive \$30,000. This is the third year that this fellowship will be awarded. The Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California (VABANC) Law Foundation will administer the Fellowship Program.

The objective of the Fellowship is to provide legal services on issues related to racial/ethnic communities in the law and to improve the quality of legal services delivered to underserved minority populations, including but not limited to the Vietnamese American community. The Fellowship will thus support a law graduate whose work will support underserved, underrepresented communities in an increasingly diverse state and nation.

Vision and History

In 1996, a small group of Vietnamese American attorneys met informally to discuss forming a Vietnamese American bar association. A steering committee was formed to organize and build interest and support. In January 1998, the Vietnamese Bar Association of Northern California inaugurated its first officers. From its inception, VABANC focused on community service and sought to support members from its communities in their public interest endeavors.

In 2002, VABANC launched its annual Scholarship Dinner to recognize outstanding Bay Area law students who demonstrated a commitment to serving the greater public interest. Since 2002, VABANC has awarded two to three scholarships per year to law students to recognize their achievements and commitments to serving their communities.

This fellowship builds on VABANC's goals of supporting a law graduate who will serve the greater community and whose work will achieve a richer and more inclusive vision of social justice in underserved communities.

Board Structure

The Board of the VABANC Law Foundation oversees the governance of this fellowship. Selection of the fellowship recipient will be conducted by Andrew A. Vu, Thanh D. Ngo and a representative from VABANC Law Foundation, in conjunction with the donors.

Fellowship Requirements

Qualifications for applicants:

- J.D. in hand at the beginning of the grant period, awaiting bar results, or planning to take the bar exam the following summer;¹
- Strong demonstrated interest and desire in working with the Vietnamese American community and/or social justice work with subordinated communities;
- Unique life experience or other experiences in overcoming personal adversity/challenges;

¹ The grant period is to begin either immediately (or at a date agreed upon by the fellowship recipient and VABANC Law Foundation), or beginning in the Fall of 2013 (i.e., qualified recent law graduates or current 3Ls are eligible to apply for this fellowship).

- Overall academic excellence.

Application

1. Official Law School Transcript
2. Two letters of recommendation
3. Resume
4. A proposal no more than 3 pages (12 point, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins) detailing the proposed public interest project, and describing which legal rights the applicant will be enforcing, and the project's relevancy in advancing the legal and civil rights of the Vietnamese American community and/or other underserved communities.²

Please send all materials (in **one PDF document**) to Quyen Ta at qta@kvn.com by **December 3, 2012 at 5 p.m.** Interviews will be conducted shortly thereafter.

Any questions can be directed to Quyen Ta at qta@kvn.com.

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The Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California (VABANC) was founded in 1998 to provide Vietnamese American attorneys with a vehicle for the unified expression of opinions and positions on matters of concern to all Vietnamese American attorneys, to encourage and promote the professional growth of its members, and to advocate for civil and human right of the community at large.

VABANC has a strong sense of community responsibility. VABANC strives not only to meet the professional needs of our members, but also to use our resources and expertise to serve the public interest.

For more info please go to: <http://www.vabanc.org/>

² Please note that the applicant should have secured a host non-profit legal organization who will support his or her work and he or she should describe the legal organization's role in the project. Priority will be given to host organizations that are able to provide an additional \$8-10K in funding and benefits for the public interest fellow.

Job Posting # 1

Assistant General Counsel

Job Code: 1445

Location: Sugar Land, Texas

Categories: Corporate Generalist, General Commercial/Contracts, Multinational Business

About Pye Legal Group

Pye Legal Group is a full-service, legal search firm that combines the capabilities of a national firm with the personal attention of a boutique. We routinely handle searches in all practice areas for permanent and contract lawyers, paralegals, and other legal professionals, including compliance managers and contracts administrators. We particularly focus on in-house legal departments. A member of the National Association of Legal Search Consultants (NALSC), Pye Legal Group values excellence, integrity, service, innovation, and teamwork.

In-House Position

A leading player in the renewable energy industry has hired Pye Legal Group to handle its search for its new Assistant General Counsel. This exciting and newly-created position will be the second lawyer of a growing manufacturing company. The Assistant General Counsel will join a fast-paced, dynamic environment, where he or she will work closely with the commercial and operations teams in the U.S. and abroad.

Interested candidates must be fluent in Mandarin and have 5-8 years of corporate/commercial experience in a top tier law firm and/or prominent in-house environment (preferably in the energy sector or with a company with complex industrial operations). The ideal candidate will have sophisticated experience drafting and negotiating complex commercial contracts, project agreements, and construction contracts; experience managing other attorneys and/or local counsel; familiarity with environmental regulations and requirements; and international experience, preferably including Asia. Experience advising on employment matters and/or managing litigation would be a plus, but this is not a position for someone with a heavy litigation background. This position will include periodic domestic and international travel. We are looking for someone who is practical, pro-active, and results-oriented, and who will take a hands-on approach to structure and execute creative solutions.

For confidential consideration, please send a resume to stacy.humphries@pyelegalgroup.com and reference Job #1445.

Requirements

Fluent in Mandarin

5-8 years of corporate/commercial experience in a top tier law firm and/or prominent in-house environment

Experience drafting and negotiating complex commercial contracts, project agreements, and construction contracts

Willingness and ability to travel 25% of the time

Job Posting # 2

Oil & Gas/Energy Corporate Attorney

Axiom is a modern alternative to the traditional law firm and one of the nation's fastest growing private companies. We are launching our Houston, TX office, joining our 11 worldwide locations, and are looking for Corporate Attorneys.

Alums of the nation's best law firms and corporate law departments, Axiom Attorneys work in a uniquely integrated way with our predominantly Fortune 500 client base. In Axiom, they've found variety, sophisticated work, and a chance to be a legal pioneer.

The ideal candidate will have:

- At least 4 years of experience at a top law firm, in-house experience is a plus but not required;
- Oil and gas law with a focus on upstream and midstream transactions in the energy sector.
- Experience negotiating and drafting oilfield master service agreements, joint operating agreements, interconnection agreements, transportation agreements, hydraulic fracturing services agreements, drilling contracts and other commercial agreements.
- Experience in both acquisitions and divestitures of producing and non-producing oil and gas properties.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to work in a fast-paced legal environment;
- Active membership and good standing in the TX state bar as well as exceptional academic credentials.

To apply, please [click here](#). Please select Houston as your office of interest and specify where you saw this job posting in the "how did you hear about us" section. **Be sure to note in the "why Axiom" section of your application that you're applying to Axiom's Corporate posting.**

For more information about our innovative practice, go to www.axiomlaw.com.

Job Posting # 3

FERC Attorney

Axiom is a modern alternative to the traditional law firm and one of the nation's fastest growing private companies. Axiom has 11 offices worldwide including our newest office here in Houston. We are actively recruiting attorneys with experience across all sectors of the oil and gas industry. In particular the Houston office is looking for experienced FERC attorneys.

Alums of the nation's best law firms and corporate law departments, Axiom Attorneys work in a uniquely integrated way with our predominantly Fortune 500 client base. In Axiom, they've found variety, sophisticated work, and a chance to be a legal pioneer.

The ideal candidate must have:

- Minimum of 15 years of experience in handling a wide variety of regulatory matters, including rate proceedings, before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC);
- Experience including, but not limited to, transmission disputes, environmental compliance, renewable energy procurement and utility rate matters, advising on FERC and Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) market manipulation rules and requirements in the context of physical and financial energy and transmission transactions (EEIs, ISDAs, etc.);
- Excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to work in a fast-paced legal environment; and
- Active membership and good standing in the TX state bar as well as exceptional academic credentials.

To apply, please [click here](#). Please select Houston as your office of interest and specify where you saw this job posting in the "how did you hear about us" section. **Be sure to note in the "why Axiom" section of your application that you're applying to Axiom's FERC attorney posting.**

For more information about our innovative practice, go to www.axiomlaw.com.

Job Posting # 4

Securities and M&A Attorney

Axiom is a modern alternative to the traditional law firm and one of the nation's fastest growing private companies. We are launching our Houston, TX office, joining our 11 worldwide locations, and are looking for Corporate Attorneys.

Alums of the nation's best law firms and corporate law departments, Axiom Attorneys work in a uniquely integrated way with our predominantly Fortune 500 client base. In Axiom, they've found variety, sophisticated work, and a chance to be a legal pioneer.

The ideal candidate will have:

- At least 5 years of experience at a top law firm, in-house experience is a plus but not required;
- Substantive knowledge and experience in offerings of equity and debt securities, including negotiations, documentation, due diligence, SEC registered offerings, Rule 144A/Regulations, and private placements;
- Experience evaluating, structuring, and executing on acquisition transactions;
- Experience supporting multi-functional deal teams within clients, including corporate and business development, finance, sales, human resources, and legal;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to work in a fast-paced legal environment;
- Active membership and good standing in the TX state bar as well as exceptional academic credentials.

To apply, please [click here](#). Please select Houston as your office of interest and specify where you saw this job posting in the "how did you hear about us" section. **Be sure to note in the "why Axiom" section of your application that you're applying to Axiom's Corporate posting.**

For more information about our innovative practice, go to www.axiomlaw.com.

Tutoring Volunteers Needed

The Houston Bar Association has adopted B.C. Elmore Middle School in North Forest ISD to provide Wednesday tutoring sessions for 6th graders. Wednesday, October 3rd is the beginning of the weekly tutoring sessions. Tutors need to arrive at the school no later than noon; sessions last for exactly one hour. There is a total of 20 students who will be tutored through this program.

We prefer to have tutors be one-on-one with each student. Our goal is to have 20 tutors for each and every Wednesday. The subjects being tutored are state standardized testing (STAAR) reading and math. The middle school is located about 15 minutes from downtown at 8200 Tate, Houston TX 77028.

Please call or email Claire Nelson with any questions.

Claire Nelson

Committees, Programs & Events Director - Houston Bar Association
1001 Fannin, Suite 1300, Houston, Texas 77002
ClaireN@hba.org
713-759-1133 (p) 713-759-1710 (f)

Attorney Volunteers Needed

OCA-Greater Houston will be hosting Saturday morning and Wednesday evening Citizenship & Immigration forums. We need attorneys like you to help applicants with their more challenging questions.

- **Saturday 10/27/12:** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Collins Elementary School, 9829 Town Park Drive
- **Tuesday 10/30/12:** 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Chinese Community Center, 9800 Town Park Drive

If you would like to attend these or future forums, please email ron.sung@ocahouston.org or call 972-400-0457.

OCA is an organization of community advocates dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans with our headquarters in Washington, D.C. For more information about us, please visit www.oanational.org and www.ocahouston.org.



EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS
OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

INVITATION

AABA members are cordially invited to attend a Dedication Ceremony honoring past and present judges who have served twenty years or more with the City of Houston Municipal Courts.

The event will take place on **Saturday, November 10, 2012**
from 2-4 PM at the HERBERT W. GEE COURTHOUSE
at 1400 Lubbock, Houston, TX 77002.

Please RSVP to Lilly Warden at lilly.warden@houstontx.gov



If you would like to publicize job opportunities, community news, or personal SIDEBAR news, please contact AABA Secretary, Mai Huynh, at mhuynh@tum.com.

Get to Know an AABA Member!



Name: Kathryn Karam

Firm: Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Practice Area: Immigration

If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . a personal shopper for someone who loves bright colored clothes and chunky jewelry.

My favorite (or fantasy) vacation is . . . Hawaii, Bali – pretty much anywhere warm with a beautiful beach.

In my spare time, I enjoy . . . good conversation, spending my time with friends and family, especially my nephew, making jewelry (wow- I haven't had time to make jewelry in a year or so!).

The best dessert (or other food) in the world is . . . anything involving rich dark chocolate is a good bet.

The best restaurant in Houston is . . . how could I pick just one?!

My favorite movies are . . . ones that make you think, ones that make you laugh, and girly movies based on Jane Austen novels.

The sports team I root for is . . . San Antonio Spurs (I'm originally from San Antonio), University of Texas Longhorns, Houston Texans, Houston Rockets *if* the Spurs aren't playing them...

If I won the lottery, I would . . . pay off my law school loans, then take a vacation to Hawaii, then return to my practice and keep working on my cases ☺.

I recommend reading . . . *The New Earth* and any books by Pearl Buck, especially the *Good Earth* trilogy, *Pavilion of Women*, *Imperial Woman* and *Letter from Peking*.

Most AABA members probably don't know that . . . I was Runner Up Miss Smile San Antonio in 1998...

You forgot to ask me about . . . why I majored in Chinese as an undergraduate and lived in China for about 2 years!

Get to Know an AABA Member!



Name: Bruce Hiran

Firm: Bellaire Bail Bonds and Monks, Monks & Hiran, P.C.

Practice Areas: Surety Bail Practice Nationwide, International Bail Clients, Texas Criminal Procedure on Bail Bond Law, Texas High Bail Reduction, Bail Bond Consultation, and Bail Forfeiture Hearings, Civil Litigation on Bail Collateral Foreclosure, Bail Collateral Evaluation, and Bail Bond Litigation

If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . in politics.

My favorite (or fantasy) vacation is . . . Kanapali Beach in Maui, Hawaii.

In my spare time, I enjoy . . . football, Muay Thai and MMA.

The best dessert (or other food) in the world is . . . Thai coconut custard.

The best restaurant in Houston is . . . Thai Gourmet on Richmond Avenue.

My favorite movies are . . . *Forest Gump*, *Taken*, and *Ong-Bak*.

The sports teams I root for are . . . Houston Texans, San Diego Chargers, Houston Rockets, and LA Lakers.

If I won the lottery, I would . . . start a foundation to help children at risk.

I recommend reading . . . Plato's *The Republic*.

Most AABA members probably don't know that . . . I can write bail bond nationwide with very large bail amounts.

You forgot to ask me about . . . my favorite actor: Denzel Washington.

Many thanks to our 2012-2013 Major Underwriters!

Diamond Dragon Underwriters

Legal Knowledge. Human Wisdom.

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& 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!

Sireesha Chirala, *University of Houston Law Center*
Steven Mitby, *Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing, P.C.*
Elizabeth Tran, *Boat People SOS*
Clara Tse, *University of Houston Law Center*
Yongseock Choi
Mason Lee, *Law Office of Mason J. Lee, PLLC*

- ☐ \$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 ☐ NoWould 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.