



Asian American Bar Association of Houston

February 2004 Newsletter

The Asian American Bar Association is dedicated to promoting the Houston society of Asian American lawyers and to addressing the needs and interests of Houston's Asian American community.

AABA News

New Officer Installation. On Thursday, January 29, 2004, the 2003 AABA officers were sworn in by Judge Jay Karahan in a ceremony at Vietopia Restaurant. Judge Karahan also presented an informative CLE entitled "A Six-Point Plan for Avoiding Grievances in Criminal Cases". The officers for 2004 are:

President - Lola Lin
President-Elect - Hoang Quan Vu
Vice President of Membership - Andrea Tran
Co-Vice President of Programs - Jennifer Phan
Co-Vice President of Programs - Kristy Ton
Treasurer - Peter Chang
Secretary - Tom Tong

Board of Directors. The AABA is also pleased to present its new board of directors for 2004:

Tri Nguyen	Anton Montano
Hugh Chong	David Quan
Joseph Yu	Philoan Tran
Tom Hoang	Trang Tran
Mark Lee	Russell Wong
Patricia Lin	

Thanks to the Board of Directors for their guidance and support.

Membership

New Membership. The AABA is in the midst of planning more exciting events, but we need members like you to make 2004 a truly memorable year! Please take a moment to fill out the attached membership application. Membership is at no cost to law students, and ranges from \$25.00 to \$75.00 annually for attorneys, depending on years of practice. For more information, please contact Andrea Tran at (713) 767-1598 or by e-mail at atran@powersfrost.com.

Here are some of the events we are planning:

- Monthly Mixers
- Speaker Series
- AABA 20th Anniversary Banquet
- Creation of an AABA foundation for scholarships

Upcoming Events

February General Meeting and Bar Mixer. Please join the AABA, the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston, the Houston Young Lawyers Minority Affairs Committee, the Hispanic Bar Association, and the South Asian American Bar Association for a networking event. Members from the African Bar Association of America, Houston Irish Bar Association, Houston Lawyers Association, Italian-American Lawyers Association of Texas and the Philippine-American Bar Association have also been invited to attend. Bring your business cards!

Where: Osaka Japanese Restaurant
515 Westheimer Road (near Montrose)

When: Wednesday, February 25, 2004
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Minority Bar Summit. The Minority Bar Summit will explore why successful minority lawyers take the time to be active members of both minority and mainstream bar associations and how bar involvement can offer special benefits to minority lawyers seeking to advance their careers. Co-chairs are the Hon. Hannah Chow and Sherea McKenzie. Participants include the AABA, Houston Bar Association, Houston Young Lawyers Association, Mexican American Bar Association of Houston, Houston Lawyers Association, Hispanic Bar Association, and the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

Where: Museum of Natural Science
When: Wednesday, February 11, 2004
Registration at 3:00 p.m.

Program from 3:30-5:30

Reception from 5:30-7:30

March General Meeting and Bar Mixer. Please join the AABA for its monthly mixer. Details to be announced.

Opportunities

AABA Subcommittees. If you are interested in serving on a subcommittee related to any of AABA's upcoming events, we welcome you. Please contact Lola Lin at (713) 226-1531 or by e-mail at llin@lockeliddell.com.

AABA 20th Anniversary Banquet. The AABA will begin actively planning its 20th anniversary banquet and creating the AABA foundation for scholarships in the near future. If you are interested in serving on the Scholarship and Banquet Committee, please contact Patricia Lin at patricialin@andrewskurth.com or (713) 220-4036.

Community

Houston Lawyer Referral Service. The Houston Lawyer Referral Service wants to increase its Asian-American attorney membership, especially attorneys who speak Mandarin, Cantonese, or Vietnamese. The HLRS receives upwards of 120,000 calls for referrals every year and matches those requests with lawyers who practice in 38 categories of law, including family law, consumer law, commercial law, criminal law, immigration law, probate law, personal injury, real estate and property law. For more information, contact Patricia Lin at patricialin@andrewskurth.com or (713) 220-4036 or Janet Diaz at jdiaz@hlrs.org or (713) 650-0470. The AABA is a sponsor of the HLRS.

FDIC Money Smart Program. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") Money Smart program is a set of 10 instructor-led training modules that covers topics such as understanding credit, preparing a personal budget, and assessing the costs and benefits of consumer and home loans. Each module includes a comprehensive guide for instructors and a take-home booklet containing highlights and resource material for class participants. The program is available in five languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. The release of the Vietnamese language version will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 11:00am at Kim Son Restaurant (2001 Jefferson). Contact: msabala@fdic.gov or 1-800-568-9161 extension 2075. RSVP Deadline: Friday, February 6, 2004

The Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute ("APAWLI") is the only national, non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing and enriching leadership skills for Asian Pacific American women leaders. APAWLI's primary mission is to place ethical, caring, and compassionate Asian American and Pacific Islanders women at leadership tables by providing leadership training programs designed to assist Asian American and Pacific Islanders women acquire the tools and techniques to find their voice or passion and have their voices heard.

APAWLI 2004 Discovery Leadership - A Regional Leadership will be held in Houston. The Discovery Leadership Program is targeted toward women between 25-35 with 4-5 years experience who are already viewed by their communities as emerging in their capacity and talent to lead. The program will select 12-16 AA/PI women to spend a weekend for each month for five months with APAWLI faculty and staff. The program seeks to help women answer the questions, "Who am I?" and "So What?" and provide technical skills such as team building, public speaking, consensus-building and ethics and values clarification. Upon completion of the program, the women will collaboratively develop a community impact project that will benefit at least 25 individuals in their community. If you or know someone that would be a great candidate, contact info@apawli.org for more information or download the application at www.apawli.org. The start date for the program is April 2004. Application deadline is March 1, 2004.

State Bar of Texas Asian Pacific Interest Section (APIS). The APIS Annual Retreat is set for Saturday, April 24, 2004 at the State Bar Building in Austin, Texas. Sandra Yamate, ABA Chair on Diversity, will be the keynote speaker for the event. For more information about the Annual Retreat or APIS membership, please visit www.texasapis.org. To send nominations for the annual Justice Chu award, please e-mail Judge Brenda Rhoades, APIS Chair, at brenda_rhoades@txeb.uscourts.gov by March 19, 2004.

Children's Museum Exhibit. Visitors will enter a magical place where aspects of modern day life in Viet Nam are interwoven with the presentation of centuries-old folktales in *Dragons & Fairies: Exploring Viet Nam Through Folktales*. Created by The Children's Museum of Houston, the exhibit provides a wealth of hands-on, interactive learning regarding the daily experiences and culture of the Vietnamese people. This world-premiere exhibit debuts on January 24 - just in time for the celebration of Tet Nguyen Dan, the Lunar New Year Festival and runs through April 18, 2004. The Children's Museum of Houston is located at 1500 Binz in the Museum District. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The Museum is open Mondays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. only on Federal Holidays, during HISD Spring Break and during the summer months. Admission is \$5 per person, \$4 for seniors 65yrs. and older. Children under two and Museum Members are admitted free of charge. Free Family Nights are offered Thursday from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. For more information, call 713/522-1138.

Annual Houston Dragon Boat Festival. The Houston Dragon Boat Festival is seeking boat sponsors. The purpose of the annual Houston Dragon Boat Festival is to promote the sport and tradition of dragon boat racing, thereby sharing this dramatic aspect of Asian culture with the greater Houston community during Asian/Pacific American Heritage month. In addition, the Dragon Boat Festival will showcase the remarkable renovations happening along our own Buffalo Bayou. For more information, visit our Web site (<http://www.houstondragonboat.com>).

Chinese American Citizens Alliance Forum. Please attend the presentation of Democratic and Republican Candidates for the Primary Election during the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Forum. The Forum will take place at the Southern Chinese Daily News Auditorium at 11122 Bellaire Blvd. on Saturday, February 28, 2004 from 2:00-4:30 PM. For more information, please contact Dr. Edward Chen at 713.667.3001 or visit www.cacahouston.org.

Anything to add?? If you have any news or announcements you would like to share with the AABA community, please contact Tom Tong at (713) 226-1428 or by e-mail at ttong@lockeliddell.com.