



Asian American Bar Association of Houston

January 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.

2003 AABA JUDICIAL BANQUET

Thank you for making our 2003 annual judicial banquet such a success! We all had a wonderful time among friends and colleagues. The event was held on Thursday, October 30, at the Warwick Hotel. Our guest speaker was Mr. Larry Payne, deputy director to U.S. Representative Chris Bell (Rep. Bell was unable to attend the event). Many thanks to Mr. Payne who gave an eloquent and inspirational speech and Ms. Lisa Foronda who served as a lively and gracious emcee. We were honored to have over 40 judges RSVP to the event. Attached are a few photos from the event.

Once again, we would like to thank the sponsors for their support of AABA.

Platinum Sponsors: Andrews Kurth LLP, Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP

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2003 NAPABA CONFERENCE

Our national affiliate, NAPABA, held its annual convention November 12-15 at the Renaissance Iikai Waikiki hotel on Honolulu, Hawaii. Harry Gee, Dan Hu, Patricia Lin, Benjamin Bai, and Joseph Yao from Houston attended. Over the four days of the convention, we discussed diversity issues, trans-Pacific marketing opportunities, public service projects, and bar leadership topics. We also had the opportunity to earn CLE credit on intellectual property, securities, civil rights, and litigation topics and to mingle with APA law students from law schools around the country. During the convention, we were able to network with leaders from many of the other APA local bar associations and share project and service ideas. On the cultural side, we attended a luau and a Polynesian dance demonstration and enjoyed the hijinks during the annual karaoke party. Save the date for next year's convention, to be held in Dallas November 11-14!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2004 Officer Elections. Exercise your right to vote! Paid members will receive ballots within the month of January. Please complete the ballots and vote for the officers of 2004 as instructed. We welcome and encourage everyone's input and participation in AABA; however, only paid AABA members in 2003 are eligible to vote in the election.

New Officer Instillation. Upon the completion of the 2004 officer election, AABA officers will be sworn in. Details to be announced.

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
- And more...

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.

February General Meeting and Bar Mixer. Please join the AABA for its kickoff monthly mixer. A networking event with the other Houston minority bar organizations. Bring your business cards. Details to be announced.

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.

2003 AABA HOLIDAY PARTY

AABA members celebrated the holiday season on December 21, 2003, at Patricia Lin's house. Thanks Patricia for welcoming us all to your home. Also, special thanks to Ming's Cafe for providing hot appetizers at a discount.

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.

Dallas Best Lawyers Under 40. The Dallas Asian-American Bar Association has asked for our help in voting for several Dallas area Asian-American attorneys for D Magazine's list of best lawyers under 40. The ballot is located at <http://www.dmagazine.com/ballot.asp> and is due Thursday, January 15. DAABA's candidates are Zahara Alarakhia at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, PC (corporate and securities), Suzy Fulton at Stewart & Stimmel LLP (former president of DAABA), Wei-Wei Jeang at Haynes & Boone LLP (partner in intellectual property), Cindy Kang at Haynes & Boone LLP (partner in immigration and nationality law), Toni Nguyen at Travelocity, Xuan-Thao Nguyen (Associate Professor at SMU Dedman School of Law), Purvi Patel at Haynes & Boone, LLP (intellectual property), Brenda Rhoades (U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Texas), Albert Tan at Haynes & Boone LLP (partner in international joint and direct ventures and project development), Emeline Yang at Winstead Sechrest & Minick (partner in banking and credit transactions and former president of DAABA), Thomas Yang at Haynes & Boone LLP (partner in corporate and securities), and Wesley Young at Baron & Budd, PC (toxic tort litigation).

DAYA Superbowl Charity Event. "Carry the Ball for DAYA" on Sunday, February 1, 2004, 4:30 p.m. at Plaza 59 located at 5901 Hillcroft, Ste. B, Houston, TX 77036. The event begins at 4:30 with appetizers, beer and wine. Activities include football and pool. 5:30 is the game kickoff and dinner will be served at halftime. Enjoy an afternoon of good food, music, football, and team spirit! Prizes will be distributed at each quarter and at final. The dress is casual. Wear the colors of the Texans: red, white and blue. Various sponsorship levels are available. Individual tickets are \$30 with special prices for children. All proceeds benefit DAYA operations and client services. RSVP by Jan. 15, 2004 to Viji Raman (713) 461-7776; Shaila Patel (281) 363-1701; or Vijay Buchar (281) 980-3332. DAYA Inc. aims to promote healthy family relationships in the South-Asian community by increasing awareness of family issues and providing referrals, advocacy, financial assistance towards rent, childcare, job training, etc. to families who are in crisis and striving to create an independent life.

Scholarship Ball. The Chinese Professional Club will be holding its 50th Annual Scholarship Ball at the Westin Galleria on Saturday, February 21, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. Individual Tickets are \$50. Call Peggy Lum, Gala Chairman at 281-242-8217 or Betty Gong at 713-777-5798 for more details.

Rockets Game. The San Antonio Spurs are hosting an Asian American Appreciation Night on Tuesday, February 24, 2003 in San Antonio when the Spurs play Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets. Discounted tickets are available for this game. Contact Chanson Douglas at CDouglas@SBCCenter.net for details.

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>).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Please make plans to come on Saturday, January 24th - 10am to 4pm and bring your families and friends to the Chinese Community Center's New Year Celebration at 5855 Sovereign (between Harwin and TownPark). For more information, please visit www.ccchouston.org or call 713-271-6100.

This year's Festival promises to be bigger than last year's!