



Asian American Bar Association of Houston

May 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's April Mixer

On April 22, 2004, AABA held its annual student mixer at Tropioca Tea and Coffee Bar. Turn out for the event was great! Over 40 students and attorneys were present. Enthusiastic law students from all Houston area law schools: South Texas College of Law, Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law and University of Houston College of Law attended the event. The law students had an opportunity to meet a diverse group of attorneys who discussed their various areas of practice, experiences as both students and attorneys, and summer clerkship opportunities.

State Bar of Texas Brown v. Board of Education Celebration

In celebration of the Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary, the Racial Diversity in the Profession Committee of the State Bar of Texas will be hosting a Pioneer Breakfast during the 2004 State Bar Annual Meeting. The Pioneer Breakfast is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on June 24, 2004, as the State Bar Annual meeting will be held in San Antonio on June 24th and 25th. During the Breakfast, the State Bar of Texas will honor minorities identified as the first to attend (post Brown), first to matriculate, and first to make a significant impact on the law school and/or the community at large. If you have any questions, please contact Kristie Brasfield at (800)204-2222 or kbrasfield@texasbar.com.

*AABA is extremely proud that **Mr. William Sim** will be honored at the Breakfast and AABA will be co-sponsoring his trip to Austin. Mr. Sim was the first Asian American graduate of the University of Houston Law Center (class of 1969) and a founding member of our organization.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AABA Salsa Night

Come join the members of AABA for a little fun! On May 27, 2004, we are getting together to dance and mingle at the Scott Gertner Skybar at 3400 Montrose Boulevard. Come at 8:30 for free salsa lessons or if you are a pro just come later in the evening. There is no cover for the ladies and \$10 cover charge for men.

NAPABA Northern California Regional Conference

NAPABA will be hosting its regional conference in San Francisco on Saturday, July 10, 2004. The conference will be held at the Golden Gate University from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. followed by a reception at the Four Seas Restaurant at 5:30 p.m. The invited keynote speaker is U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. For more information, please contact Ruthe Ashley at rutheash@aol.com.

AABA Speaker

Save June 30, 2004 on your calendars! AABA will host Mr. James C. Ho, Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights & Property Rights to discuss the federal government's contingency plan in the event of a terror attack.

Annual NAPABA Convention

This year's National Pacific American Bar Association annual conference will be held in Dallas, Texas on November 11-14, 2004. Let's plan to give our visitors a warm Texas welcome!

Membership

The AABA is always welcoming new members. If you have not done so already, 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 \$ 50.00 annually for attorneys, depending on years of practice.

*Remember that membership with the AABA includes a free membership to the National Pacific American Bar Association. For more information, please contact Hoang Quan Vu at (713) 546-0518 or by e-mail at hvu@mayerbrownrowe.com.

Opportunities

Executive Director (Austin, TX). The executive director is responsible for the operational management of the Political Asylum Project of Austin (PAPA), a non-profit agency that provides low-cost and free legal services to low-income immigrants and asylum seekers. The ED's duties include providing supervision to staff, administrative management of the agency, oversight of agency finances, reporting to the Board of Directors, and community outreach. Five years of non-profit management, fundraising experience is required. Fluency in Spanish preferred. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resumes and inquiries to: jeannie@travisbar.com.

Minority Attorney Needed. International law firm with a substantial presence in Houston's legal community is committed to promoting diversity within their firm in recognition of the multi-cultural society that it serves. This multi-practice firm, located in downtown Houston, seeks a strong candidate with a desire to expand their professional experience and build their practice by utilizing existing contacts and the valuable business associations that this firm can offer. Their interest is in both partner and associate level practitioners with strong academic and professional experience. For more information, please contact Amanda B. Sheeren with The Alexander Group at 713-993-7900 or www.thealexandergroup.com.

Labor/Litigation Attorney Needed. Large, primarily public sector union based in Albany, New York, looking for aggressive, practical attorney with 3 to 8 years litigation experience, preferably in labor/employment area, for in-house position handling administrative hearings, arbitrations, and court proceedings. Exciting opportunity, excellent benefits. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Submit resume, writing sample to Office of General Counsel, CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME, 143 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

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) 470-6106 or by e-mail at lola.lin@sablaw.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.

Additional Job Postings. MICJob posts additional job opportunities at <http://www.abanet.org/minorities/jobs/home.html>. Everyone is welcome to sign up to receive job posting via e-mail or view job postings on the website.

WSBA Indian Law Section and NIBA Award \$30,000 in Scholarships. Native Indian Bar Association (NIBA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 and consists of 175 Native Indian attorneys, judges, spokespersons, and students in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, British Columbia, and the Yukon territory. NIBA is committed to increasing the number of Native Indian attorneys in the Pacific Northwest through education and advocacy. WSBA Indian Law Section (Indian Law Section) was formed in 1988 and seeks to develop Indian law in the bar. During 2003, the Indian Law Section and NIBA awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships to aspiring Native American lawyers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. NIBA's former president and the current Chair of the Indian Law Section, Gabriel Galanda, emphasized the organizations' commitment to provide the Native Americans with resources to access the legal profession. According to Galanda, Native Americans are the most under represented ethnic group in the nation. The 2000 National Census reported 4.1 million people identify themselves as Native Americans, but there are only 3,000 Native Americans practicing attorneys. For more information about the Indian Law Section or NIBA visit www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/indianlaw/default1.htm and www.nwiba.org.

Let it be known NAPABA will announce significant job promotions of all Asian Pacific American lawyers in the next issue of its newsletter. Please let us know or contact Yabo Lin at ylin@blackwellsanders.com if you know any APA attorney who has been appointed as a judge or promoted to partnership or significant in-house position.

Community

Asian Pacific American Heritage at the Children's Museum Join the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association and the Children's Museum as it celebrates Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month! Cultural organizations and community performers will be on hand to share the unique experiences of the Asian/Pacific community through arts & crafts, dance, story telling and more! The event will be held Saturday, May 29, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Jerome Vielman if you have any questions at (713) 784-1112 or jerome@apaha.org.

OCA-Greater Houston 2nd Quarter Membership Mixer Have you ever wondered: What, exactly, is OCA? What does it stand for, both figuratively and literally? Who's involved with it? Why should I get involved? Here's your chance to find out: Prepare to be inspired and get to know your fellow APIAs at the OCA Membership Mixer on June 3, 2004 at Wasabi Restaurant, Downtown. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Grace Rodriguez at ocamembership@yahoo.com.