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.

AABA LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

On February 23, 2007, over 50 members and friends of the AABA rang in the Lunar New Year (Year 4705) in observance of the Year Of The Boar. The celebration was held at Tay Do Restaurant in Chinatown and featured a sumptuous eight-course banquet meal, New Year-themed door prizes, and treats for the kids. Thanks to AABA Directors Judge Jay Karahan, Hoang Quan Vu, Theresa Chang, and former Director Joseph Yao for assisting with the door prize drawings, and special thanks to AABA President-Elect Catherine Than for organizing this fun and festive event.

Chris and Julie Evans, Emily Nguyen, and Jennifer Ho

Catherine Than, Emily Kuo, and Audrey Chang with Year of the Boar door prizes

AABA law student members and guests

New Year is a time to celebrate with the entire family!
UPCOMING CLE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Asian American Bar Association (AABA) of Houston presents:

Living the Dream:
Perspectives on Practicing Solo or Opening Your Own Small Firm

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Emilie Bendix Slohm Conference Room, Fred Parks Law Library
South Texas College of Law
1303 San Jacinto Street, Sixth Floor

5:30 p.m. - Registration
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Program and Q&A Session

Featured Speakers:

James T. McMillen
Attorney at Law
Tong & Sung, P.C.

R. Keith Morris III
The Morris Law Office
Trang Q. Tran
Tran Law Firm, P.C.

Naomi Jiyoung Bang (Moderator)
Quan, Burdette & Perez, P.C.

This program is designed for those thinking or dreaming of going solo or opening their own small firm. The roundtable panel discussion will present perspectives on operating and maintaining a solo or small firm practice, and our panelists will offer valuable insights into how they launched and developed their business ventures.

1.5 HOURS MCLE CREDIT
Light refreshments will be provided
Cost: FREE for AABA members; $25 for non-members

RSVP with Lynn Chuang Kramer at lkramer@munsch.com
by March 26, 2007.

Just in time for tax season...

AABA and MetLife Financial Services are pleased to present:

TAX AND FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR ATTORNEYS AND PROFESSIONALS

Thursday, March 22, 2007
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The Houstonian Hotel �� 111 North Post Oak Lane

Amit Jain presents his team of qualified CPAs and investment specialists from MetLife Financial Services and ING Investments, who will provide advice on tax, financial, and retirement planning in advance of the April 17th IRS deadline. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres and cocktails will be served. RSVP with Lynn Chuang Kramer at lkramer@munsch.com.

* Limited to the first 25 AABA members and their guests only.
On February 28, 2007, the Mentorship and Law School Relations Committee kicked off the AABA’s 2007 Mentorship Program at Tropioca Tea & Coffee Bar in Midtown. Now in its third year, the Mentorship Program matches law students and young attorneys with more experienced attorneys to provide professional wisdom and guidance. Mentor and Mentee pairs met and connected at Tropioca while enjoying bubble tea, Vietnamese sandwiches, Chinese buns, and other snacks. Thanks to Committee Chairs Jane Nguyen Vuong, Tan Pham, and Eunice Song for all of their hard work in organizing the Program and the kick-off event.

The AABA’s Mentorship Program has quadrupled in size since its inception in 2005!
On March 1st, the AABA presented its inaugural CLE program for 2007, entitled Developing Your Legal Practice and Managing Your Legal Career. The midday event was hosted and sponsored by Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, who generously provided facilities and lunch for all attendees.

AABA Directors and featured speakers Alex C. Chae, partner at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, and John S. Tsai, Vice President & Assistant General Counsel – Corporate & Securities of Waste Management, Inc., imparted their views on the successful practice of law. AABA member Michelle Hoogendam Cash of Pemberton Legal Search moderated the panel. Many thanks to Michelle and to AABA Vice President of Programs Lynn Chuang Kramer for arranging such an interesting and informative seminar.
The Asian American Bar Association of Houston, Asian Pacific Americans for Social Action and Rice Social Dance Society

invite you to attend

BALLROOM BASICS FOR SOCIAL SITUATIONS

Sunday, March 25, 2007
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Grand Hall
Rice University Student Center
(Entrance 20 off Rice Boulevard)
713.348.4096

lessons and demonstrations in:
foxtrot • swing • tango

followed by a dance performance by the instructors

taught by Hoang Quan Vu
AABA Director and nationally-ranked amateur ballroom dancer
and his partner Olga Curd

*** dance partners are not necessary for this event ***

$5 per person for AABA members (and one guest each)
$20 per person for non-members

RSVP by March 22nd with Audrey Chang at achang@gardere.com or 713.276.5711.
Come Dance With Us!

♦ Have you ever been to a wedding, gala, party, or club, and been forced to watch on the sidelines while everyone else has a great time – just because you don’t happen to know a few basic dance steps?

♦ Have you ever watched an episode of Dancing with the Stars and wondered, “Could I be stylish and elegant like that?”

♦ Have you ever dreamed of impressing a special someone with your fleetness of foot and Fred Astaire- or Ginger Rogers-like grace?

♦ Or maybe your significant other has been begging you to learn how to dance, and you just didn’t know where to go or how to begin?

Well, now here’s your chance, just in time for the wedding season, to do something about it! Come join the craze that’s sweeping the nation and discover how to “trip the light fantastic,” while getting to meet and socialize with other members of the Asian American and Houston community. Over the course of three hours, you will become acquainted with the basics of foxtrot, swing, and tango – three of the most useful dances to learn for social purposes. A special performance/demonstration by instructor Quan Vu and his dance partner Olga Curd follows the lesson, and refreshments will also be provided.

About the Dancers: AABA Director Hoang Quan Vu and Olga Curd have danced together for four years and have won several state and regional amateur titles in championship ballroom dancing. In addition, they were national finalists in the Championship American Ballroom Smooth Division at the 2003 United States National Amateur Ballroom Dancesport Championships.

Directions to the Rice University Student Center:

Enter Rice University through Entrance 20 (on the right heading northeast on Rice Boulevard, or on the left heading southwest on Rice Boulevard from Montrose/Sunset Boulevard). The building is at the second stop sign, on your left-hand side. The Grand Hall is on the Ground Floor of the Student Center.

PARKING: At the second stop sign, take a right. Your first left will be a declined ramp. This is the entrance to the Central Parking Garage on the Rice University campus.
CORPORATE COUNSEL BULLETIN

MCCA CLE Expo
March 21 - 23, 2007
Chicago Marriott Downtown

The Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) presents its 6th Annual CLE Expo this month, entitled Breaking Barriers! Strengthening Relationships! Advancing the Profession! This conference features targeted CLE programming to meet the substantive legal needs of in-house counsel. The program includes tracks on corporate governance, intellectual property, labor and employment, litigation, value-added strategies, and global law and commerce.

Launched in 2002, MCCA’s goal in presenting the conference is to build bridges of opportunity by bringing together the best and brightest, with a special emphasis on talented minority and women attorneys who will share their expertise on their substantive legal practice areas. This event promises to exceed expectations by providing outstanding faculty, stellar breakout sessions, and superior networking opportunities.

Corporate law department registration is still open at this time; however, law firm and legal service provider registration is closed. Register on-line at www.mcca.com; and contact MCCA’s Education Manager, Peter Chin, at peterchin@mcca.com or 202.739.5901 for more information.

29th Annual Corporate Counsel Institute
April 19 - 20, 2007
Westin Oaks Hotel, Houston

The University of Texas School of Law and the Corporate Counsel Section of the State Bar of Texas present the 29th Annual Corporate Counsel Institute, offering up to 13.75 hours of CLE, including 3.25 hours of ethics credit. Program panels include topics on M&A, real estate, executive compensation, internal investigations, employment law, environmental law, intellectual property, bankruptcy, ADR, and antitrust. The institute will be repeated in Dallas from May 10 - 11, 2007, at the Cityplace Conference Center. Register on-line at www.utcle.org.

2007 AABA Resume Book

The Mentorship and Law School Relations Committee is still accepting resumes for the 2007 AABA Resume Book! If you are a law student and would like to submit your resume, please send your ONE PAGE resume to Committee Co-Chair Tan Pham at tan.pham@bakernet.com. If you are an attorney and would like to request a copy of the Resume Book, please contact Tan Pham.
Get to Know an AABA Member!

... and the newest addition to the AABA’s Board of Directors:

Theresa Chang
Harris County Attorney’s Office

If I weren’t an attorney, I would be ... an engineer
My favorite vacation is ... Venice, Italy
The best dessert (or other food) in the world is ... strawberry-banana shake with tapioca
In my spare time, I enjoy ... playing Sudoku and reading comics
In my iPod (or other mp3 device) you will find ... classical music
Most AABA members probably don’t know that I ... enjoy cooking dinner for my family
The best restaurant in Houston is ... Artista (in the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts)
My favorite place in Houston is ... my sweet home
The sports team(s) I root for is/are ... Rockets and Astros
If I won the lottery, I would ... continue working and set up a foundation with the money from the lottery
I recommend reading ... The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey
You forgot to ask me about ... why did I decide to become an attorney after being a chemical engineer for years?
My original goal of attending law school was to “sharpen my tools” by having a law degree and the legal knowledge to climb the corporate ladder. Now I love my job as a civil prosecutor, because I am able to help the citizens of Harris County resolve their problems.

SIDEBAR

On March 3, 2007, AABA President Emily T. Kuo was honored with the Young Achievers Award at the Chinese Professional Club’s 53rd Annual Scholarship Ball. The Scholarship Ball was held at the Westin Oaks Hotel, and Antje and Harry Gee, Jr. were Honorary Co-Chairs of the event.

AABA Treasurer Steve C. Bae recently left private law practice to join Deloitte Tax LLP as Manager of Deloitte’s State Strategic Tax Review section.

CONGRATULATIONS!
**Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid - Staff Attorneys, Civil Division**

Staff attorneys are needed at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid to provide civil legal services to indigent clients throughout TRLA’s service area. TRLA is looking for an attorney/law graduate to work near Corpus Christi, Texas, who speaks Vietnamese and has experience doing outreach to Vietnamese communities. Staff attorneys will be members of one or more of the Practice Area Teams listed on the web site (www.trla.org). Depending on the practice area or the community, the attorney might litigate complex cases in federal courts or develop a litigation-oriented practice in the state courts of the region. Salary commensurate with experience and an excellent benefits package. Qualifications: Licensed to practice law in Texas, or willing to waive into the Texas bar, or willing to take the next available bar exam, in that order of preference. For additional information and consideration, submit a cover letter and resume to mbustamante@trla.org.

**AIG American General Life - In-House Counsel, Corporate Law**

Located in Houston, Texas, AIG American General has been protecting the hopes and dreams of American families for nearly a century. With 4,500 employees and customer service centers across the country to serve our producers and customers, AIG American General now ranks as the top insurance provider in North America. We are currently interviewing for an In-House Counsel position in our Corporate Law group. In this critical position, you will be challenged with a diversity of work providing legal guidance related to tax issues affecting the company’s insurance products and operational area of the company. You will be part of a dedicated team committed to the on-going growth and success of our domestic life insurance business. You will work across divisional lines advising internal clients on issues related to taxation of insurance products, tax analysis of transactional matters, employee benefits, tax compliance, and tax procedural items. The ideal candidate will be a JD admitted to the bar with 2-3 years of related experience. A strong academic record is required, along with excellent oral and written communication skills. A CPA license or LLM in Taxation is preferred, but we will also consider candidates with a tax law background. To apply on-line for this position, visit http://careers.peopleclick.com/Client_AIG/BU1/External_Pages/NewCandidate.asp.

**OCA Summer Internship in Washington, D.C.**

OCA, a national Asian Pacific American organization dedicated to ensuring social justice for APAs, is seeking motivated and qualified students for its highly successful summer internship program. The internship will last approximately ten weeks, and a stipend will be provided. Summer interns will work full time and will be placed at a federal agency, non-profit, or congressional office that matches their interests. Interns may also be placed at the OCA National Center to work first-hand with one of the largest APA organizations in the country. In addition to their placement, summer interns will be heavily engaged in many OCA activities and will be involved with several grassroots organizing projects. Interns will build on the success of a collaborative “Toolkit Project,” for which interns will work together and research a guide for college students determining best practices from across the country on important APA college issues such as hate crimes and bias, coalition, and Asian American Studies. In addition, OCA’s summer brown bag lunch series will inform and engage interns on important issues in the APA and civil rights community. In the past, interns have met with Congressional Representatives, APA staffers, and members of the APA Congressional Caucus. OCA will also bring the interns to its annual national convention, the largest APA conference in the country, to be held in Sacramento, CA from June 28 - July 1, 2007. The convention will feature prominent speakers and entertainment and will engage the entire community on pertinent issues. Applicants are strongly encouraged to make sure they are able to attend this signature event.

Please visit our website at www.ocanational.org for more details. Deadline to apply is March 15. OCA will be interviewing and selecting the 2007 OCA Summer Internship class by April, and a firm commitment is required at that time. Interns will be responsible for travel and housing while in Washington.

**NAPABA to Compile Database of APA-Owned Law Firms**

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is undertaking a project to compile a database of APA-owned law firms. Currently, there is no such national database, and NAPABA has received calls specifically requesting referrals to an APA-owned law firm. Please contact Andy Le at nlstaff@napaba.org if you are interested in being included in this database. “APA-owned” means a 50% or more owned APA partnership or firm; solo practitioners count in this number as well.

If you would like to publicize job opportunities, community news, or personal SIDEBAR news, please contact AABA Secretary Julie Pi Evans at juliempi@earthlink.net.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Yellow Magazine 2nd Anniversary Party ~ March 10, 2007
Please join Yellow Magazine as the publication which showcases fashion, luxury, and lifestyle celebrates its 2nd Anniversary. The celebration will occur from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at The Lake on Post Oak, 3040 Post Oak Boulevard (enter off Hidalgo, adjacent to the Galleria between Richmond and Alabama). Complimentary valet service. Music will be provided by DJ Josh Zulu, and food will be provided by a variety of local restaurants and caterers. Door prizes donated by Mindy Lam, Lulu Tan, Debbie Porter, Dolly’s Travel, and SilverShake.com.

DAYA 11th Anniversary Celebration & Fundraiser ~ March 10, 2007
DAYA is in the process of establishing Houston’s first transitional housing facility for South Asian women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. In the last few years, there has been a marked increase in the demand for DAYA’s services. With this increased demand, DAYA has recognized the need to establish a culturally sensitive shelter/home for South Asian families in crisis. Most DAYA clients who leave their abusers tend to have few, if any, funds with which to support themselves. Mainstream shelters offer short-term assistance, but are overcrowded and do not address culture-specific issues such as language, understanding of family systems, and religion. DAYA clients often choose to remain in their abusive situations rather than enter mainstream shelters. DAYA’s proposed transitional home will provide a broad range of individualized services such as culturally sensitive counseling, food preparation, case management, and employment counseling. This year’s celebration will focus on raising funds for this facility. The fundraiser is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Old Stafford Civic Center. For more information, visit www.dayahouston.org or call 713.981.7645.

Asian Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon ~ March 14, 2007
You are cordially invited to the Asian Chamber of Commerce’s Monthly Luncheon, scheduled for March 14th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. at the Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 West Alabama. This month’s keynote speaker is Jimmy Lee, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the President’s Advisory Commission on AAPI. Door prizes will be awarded, and the cost is $30 for ACC members and $35 for non-members. Reservations may be made online at www.asianchamber-hou.org or by contacting Faye Chin at the Chamber office at faye@asianchamber-hou.org or 713.782.7222.

HISD Lunar New Year Celebration ~ March 22, 2007
Houston Independent School District and the Asian Advisory Committee invite you to a celebration of the Lunar New Year on Thursday, March 22, 2007, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at Kim Son Restaurant, 10603 Bellaire Boulevard. Individual tickets are $25, and sponsorship opportunities are available. Net proceeds will benefit the HISD’s Asian Activities. For more information, please contact Sabrina Nguyen at snguyen1@houstonisd.org or 713.556.7220.

Asian Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Mixer ~ March 28, 2007
This breakfast mixer is scheduled for 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn West Belt, 6855 West Sam Houston Parkway South (near Bellaire). Cost of the breakfast buffet is $10.00. For reservations, contact Faye Chin at faye@asianchamber-hou.org or 713.782.7222.

Cultural Milestone Exhibit at Blaffer Gallery through March 31, 2007
Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of the University of Houston, is pleased to present the exhibition One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now, on view through March 31, 2007. The title is drawn from the 1978 Blondie hit. The show features new paintings, sculptures, installations, and video works by 17 emerging Asian-American artists born in the late 1960s and 1970s, including Michael Arcega, Xavier Cha, Patty Chang, Binh Danh, Mari Eastman, Ala Ebtekar, Chitra Ganesh, Glenn Kaino, Geraldine Lau, Jiha Moon, Laurel Nakadate, Kaz Oshiro, Anna Sew Hoy, Jean Shin, Indigo Som, Mika Tajima, and Saira Wasim. One Way or Another presents a fresh generation of artists with highly divergent points of view who use a broad array of practices and media to address a new generational sense of identity. Capturing a particular moment in the American cultural landscape, the exhibition focuses on new work by artists whose lives and experiences are firmly rooted in the United States, suggesting new meanings for the “Asian American” experience.
NEW MEMBERS
The AABA welcomes the following new and renewing members!

Teresa Lee Brown
Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, LLP

Allison Chen
Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP

Daniel Chen
Nguyen Jazrawi & Chen, PLLC

Eileen Cheng
Lyondell Chemical Company

Hugh U. Chong
Hugh U. Chong, P.C.

Michael Chu
United States Attorney’s Office, District of Nevada

Charles Kulkarni
Jackson Walker, P.C.

Lennette Lee
Baker Botts, LLP

T. Chyau Liang
Osha Liang, LLP

Y. Ping Sun
Yetter & Warden, L.L.P.

Leslie Tan
Taylor & Taylor

S. Margie Venus
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Hoang Vu
Andrews & Kurth LLP

Debbie Yee
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

David Brogden
South Texas College of Law

An Duong
South Texas College of Law

Ngamy Hoang
South Texas College of Law

Reid Nakaya
University of Houston Law Center

Chrystal Quebengco
South Texas College of Law

Jaime Takaki
South Texas College of Law

Membership Announcements
It’s not too late to sign up for 2007 AABA Membership! Membership benefits include:

AABA 2007 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
Early this summer, the AABA will publish its 2007 Membership Directory, which will be distributed at the fall Corporate Counsel Dinner, as well as to various corporate legal departments and to all AABA members. The Membership Directory will feature AABA members by name, practice area, and language proficiency. Directory submissions will be collected through the month of April.

AABA SPRING 2007 “BROWN BAG” MANDARIN CHINESE CLASSES
The Asian American Bar Association of Houston is pleased to offer Mandarin Chinese classes that will meet once a week over lunch in downtown Houston. Two different classes are being offered, with one class meeting on Tuesdays and a separate class meeting on Thursdays. Classes begin May 6th and will meet for twelve weeks. These classes will be taught by an instructor with over 20 years of experience teaching Chinese and are aimed at beginners with a focus on teaching conversational Mandarin skills. Class sizes will be kept small, and enrollment is limited. The AABA would like to extend special thanks to Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and Yetter & Warden, L.L.P. for providing conference rooms for the classes.

These classes are currently open only to AABA members, and registration is almost closed. Cost of the class is $180.00, and final, non-refundable payment must be made prior to the start of the classes to confirm your place. For more information on the Mandarin classes and/or to become a member of the AABA, contact Vice President of Membership Judy Liu at membership@aabahouston.com or 713.207.5465.
Asian American Bar Association of Houston
2007 Membership Application/Renewal

☐ $0  Law Student • Retired Attorney
☐ $25  Attorney with less than 3 years in practice • In-House or Non-Profit Counsel • Solo Practitioner • Auxiliary Member*
☐ $50  Attorney with 3 to 8 years in practice • Judge • Government Attorney
☐ $75  Attorney with 8+ years in practice

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) ___________________________

How would you like to receive the AABA Newsletter?  ☐ E-Mail  ☐ Fax

Would you like your business contact information published in the 2007 AABA Directory?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

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  ☐ Communications
☐ Community Relations/Pro Bono  ☐ 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 Judy Y. Liu at 713.207.5465.

*Auxiliary membership is open to attorneys who neither reside nor practice in the Greater Houston area.