

### **MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER**

#### www.aabahouston.com

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.

#### 2011 OFFICERS

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#### Daniel H. Chen

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Vice President of Membership DLA Piper

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### Lunar New Year Celebration

On February 20, 2011, the AABA of Houston held its annual Lunar New Year Celebration at Fung's Kitchen. Thanks to everyone who came out to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit!



David Hsu, Chris Lee



Daniel Hu and son

### 2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Social Committee

Claire C. Le Bracewell & Giuliani LLP

Chris Lee Mills Shirley LLP

> Mentorship and Law School Relations Committee

Sandy Huynh Lone Star Legal Aid

Albert Liou Jones Day

Gala Committee

Mai Huynh Texas United Corporation

**Eunice Song** Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

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**Tan Pham** *Baker McKenzie LLP* 

Janine Yee Porter & Hedges LLP

**Michael Dae** Schlumberger Technology Corporation

Jennifer Lin

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Clinton Yu Givens & Johnston PLLC

Nominations Committee

**Daniel H. Chen, Chair** *Nguyen Jazrawi & Chen PLLC* 



### Lunar New Year Celebration



Todd Chen, Erick Wang, Linhuyen Pham



Daniel Zhang and family



Daniel Nguyen and family

# Upcoming AABA Events

### March

Wills Clinic

March 26, 2011 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM VN Teamwork Center *RSVP*:

www.aabahouston.com
Please see attached flyer.

AABA/SAABA Joint Meeting and Informational Session on Redistricting Efforts March 30, 2011

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Greenberg Traurig LLP RSVP:

www.aabahouston.com

### **April**

**APIS Retreat** 

April 15-16, 2011 Barton Creek Resort & Spa Austin, Texas **RSVP**:

Please see attached flyer.

Inaugural Solo/Small Firm Event – Happy Hour

Tentatively set for April 20, 2011 Straits Restaurant (CityCentre) More details coming soon!

Stay tuned for more events!

### Lunar New Year Celebration



Naomi Bang and family



Amy Hwan, Melody Wang, Howard Lin



Claire Le, Daniel Chen

# Career Night and Mentorship Program Kickoff

On March 3, 2011, the AABA held its sixth annual Career Night and Mentorship Program Kickoff at South Texas College of Law. Law students from the University of Houston, South Texas College of Law, and Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law had an opportunity to meet their mentors and mingle with other attorneys in various practice areas.

Special thanks to our panelists, **Joyce Kao Soliman** (*Porter & Hedges*), **Joseph Tung** (*Law Office of Joseph Tung*), **Jenny Hyun** (*Weingarten Realty*), **Richard Tomlinson** (*Lone Star Legal Aid*), and **Gene Wu** (*Harris County District Attorney's Office*) for discussing their experiences as attorneys. And a special thanks to our Mentorship and Law School Committee co-chairs, Sandy Huynh and Albert Liou, for organizing this event!



Sandy Huynh, Albert Liou



Audrey Chang, Daniel Chen



Panelists with moderator Albert Liou



The audience



Joyce Kao Soliman, Joseph Tung



Richard Tomlinson, Gene Wu

## Career Night and Mentorship Program Kickoff



Vic Mendoza, Lynn Nguyen



Melody Wang, Anna Ha, Kate Suh



Ren Phan, Warren Huang, Jenny Hyun, Richard Kim



Sharon Yin, Catharine Yen, Chrystal Quebengco



William Burke, Jonathan Chan



Frank Lin, Diem Ngo



Anna Ha, Kate Suh, Evelyn Wong, Lily Ung Leal, Juvie Cruz



Eunice Song, Mai Huynh

## In Memoriam



March 18th, 1942 - March 12th, 2011

**The Honorable Herbert Wing Gee**, 68, passed away on Saturday, March 12, 2011 in Houston, Texas.

Judge Gee was a founding member of the Asian American Bar Association of Houston. He served on its Board of Directors from 1984-2000, and was President in 1992 and 2000. Judge Gee was also the 2010 Asian American Bar Association Impact Award recipient.

Judge Gee served as a Municipal Court Judge in the City of Houston for a decade. He most recently presided over Municipal Court #11 and served as the Associate Presiding Judge. Judge Gee began his legal career in Houston as an Assistant City Attorney in the Municipal Court Section, handling a variety of criminal prosecutions. After his tenure as an Assistant City Attorney, Judge Gee practiced as a solo, and also with the Law Office of Harry Gee, Jr. and as a principal in Gee & Koopman, P.C., practicing immigration and nationality law and other areas, including commercial and real estate transactions, probate, family law, and criminal defense. During his career Judge Gee also served as a municipal court prosecutor for several municipalities, including the cities of Spring Valley, Bellaire, Stafford, Humble, and Mont Belvieu.

Known for his gentle spirit, generosity, warmth, and kindness, Judge Gee will be missed by all who knew and loved him.



### **Job Opening**

Thompson Coe Cousins & Irons:
Houston Office – Insurance Coverage Litigation Atty.

### THOMPSON COE

The Houston office of Thompson Coe Cousins & Irons is seeking attorneys with 3-5 years of experience in insurance coverage litigation. The candidates will join the insurance and coverage litigation section and be principally involved in handling residential and commercial property Hurricane Ike lawsuits on behalf of major insurers. Candidates should have experience with depositions, hearings, and trials. A Louisiana license is preferred but not required.

Please contact:

Houstonemployment@thompsoncoe.com.

### AABA/SAABA Joint Meeting and Informational Session on Redistricting Efforts

Please join the AABA and SAABA in an informational session led by city and state community leaders and elected officials discussing current efforts in redistricting and what we can do to help ensure that the Asian community is accurately represented.

### When:

Wednesday, March 30, 3011 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

#### Where:

Greenberg Traurig LLP 1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 1700 Houston, Texas 77002

#### Registration:

Please RSVP at www.aabahouston.com.

### WILLS CLINIC

### AABA • HVLP • VN Teamwork • Boat People SOS



The AABA is proud to partner with Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, VN Teamwork, and Boat People SOS for the 2011 Wills Clinic. This annual event provides pro bono preparation of a Will, Medical Power of Attorney, Directive to Physicians, HIPAA Release, and Declaration of Guardianship for qualified low-income residents of the Asian-American community.

### Clinic:

Saturday, March 26, 2011 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

VN Teamwork Center 11210 Bellaire Boulevard, #118 Houston, Texas 77072

Breakfast and lunch will be provided!

If you would like to volunteer to be a Witness or Translator at the clinic (*students welcome!*), please contact Alice Huang or Pauline Ha.

### Attorney Volunteers:

- 1) Drafts of the prepared documents are due by no later than **Sunday, March 20, 2011**.
  - Please e-mail all drafted documents in Word format to Pauline Ha of HVLP at Pauline.Ha@hvlp.org.
  - Volunteer attorneys should also print a copy of all drafted documents for the client folder and save a
    copy of the drafted documents on a flash drive. Both the client folder and the flash drive should be
    brought to the Wills Clinic.
- 2) Please **RSVP** on <u>www.aabahouston.com</u> to confirm that you will be attending the Wills Clinic and will be able to meet your client at the appointed time.
- 3) Please e-mail Alice Huang, the AABA Vice President of Community Relations, at <a href="mailto:ahuang@lockelord.com">ahuang@lockelord.com</a> if you cannot make the Wills Clinic.

Thank you to all of the volunteers – this event would not be possible without your participation!



Tuesday, March 22, 2011

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

# South Texas College of Law

6th Floor Emilie Sloan Reception Hall

### **Lively Panel Discussion**

### PANELISTS:

Prof. Michael A. Olivas, U of H Law Center

Prof. Maurice Hew, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Mr. Bob Price, Legislative Director, Texas Border Watch

### **MODERATOR:**

Naomi Bang, STCL Adjunct/ Clinical Professor, FosterQuan, LLP Chinese Lion Dance

Food, Drinks & Dessert
Provided









### **HOSTED BY:**

Immigration Section, State Bar of Texas; Asian Pacific American Law Students (APALSA-STCL); Catholic Charities; Houston Coalition for Immigration Reform; South Texas College of Law & FosterQuan, LLP





### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorneys 2011:

### RAISING THE BAR IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL APRIL 1-2, 2011 WASHINGTON, D.C.

Join us for the 5th Annual NCVAA to be held in Washington, D.C. Program includes:

- Friday Evening, April 1, 2011: Welcoming Reception
- Saturday Day, April 2, 2011: Presentation of Keynote Speakers and Panels
- Saturday Evening, April 2, 2011: Closing Gala and VABA-DC Scholarships Presentation

Stay tuned for upcoming details on event and registration information at www.ncvaa.org.

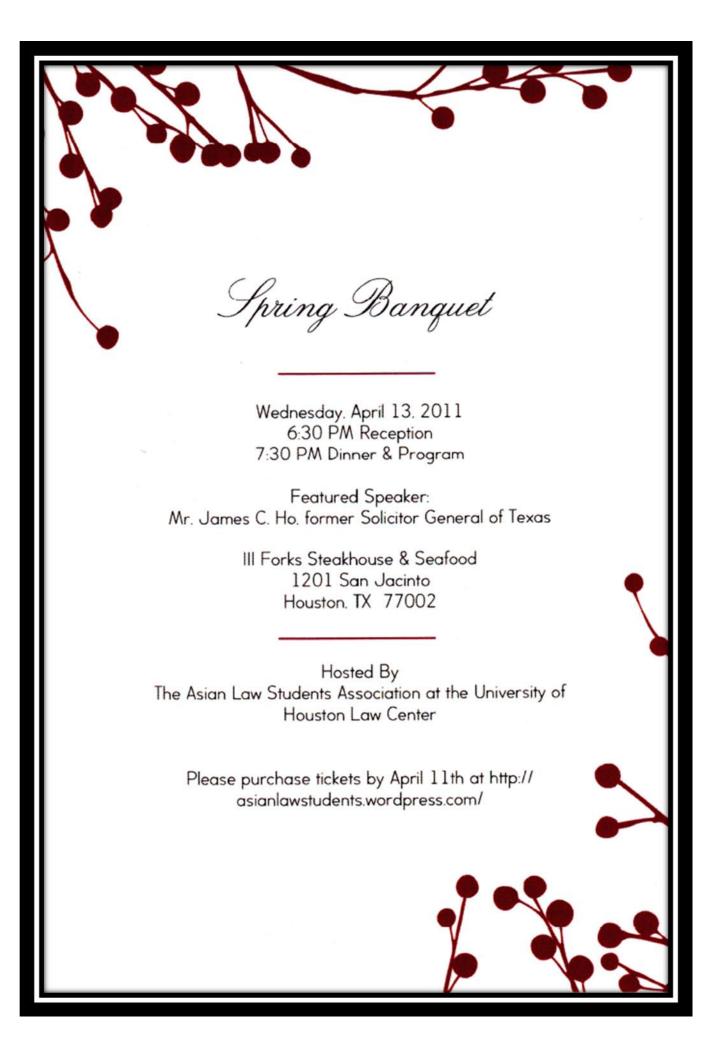
To volunteer or be part of this program, contact Mai D. Phan, Mai-Pham-Robertson, or Nguyen Vu as follows:

Mai Pham Robertson, Co-Chair maiapham@gmail.com

Mai D. Phan, Co-Chair mai@pnallp.com

Nguyen Vu, Program Chair nguyen.vu@bingham.com

Telephone: (408) 975-9321 Fax: (408) 975-9654





### ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION

state bar of texas

### 15th Annual APIS Conference and Retreat

2011 Building Bridges: Creating Dynamic Relationships in a New Decade
April 15 – 16, 2011 - Austin, Texas

### April 15-16, 2011 Barton Creek Resort & Spa

8212 Barton Club Drive Austin, Texas 78735

### For Hotel Reservations:

Barton Creek Resort & Spa 800-336-6158 Group Code: 35834 Special Rate \$195 night Deadline March 15<sup>th</sup>

# Golf Tournament Barton Creek Crenshaw Cliffside Course

Saturday, April 16 1:30pm-6:00pm

Please register using the APIS Retreat Registration form. Contact Michael Wong, mwong@AIMrealestategroup.com Tel: (512) 323-6000 with any questions.

### **Sponsorships**

If you or your firm/organization are interested in sponsoring the retreat, please email Michele Wong Krause at <a href="mailto:mwong@airmail.net">mwong@airmail.net</a>

#### **Questions about the retreat:**

Michele Wong Krause, Chair Phone: (214) 373-6565 Fax: (214) 750-9990 mwong@airmail.net

### Friday, April 15

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** APIS MEETING

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. STUDENT MEET AND GREET

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. WELCOME RECEPTION

Meet other APA lawyers, in-house counsel and leaders of the Asian legal communities

### Saturday, April 16

8:30 - 3:00 p.m. CLE PROGRAM\* (TBA)

**12:00 – 1:15 p.m.** AWARDS LUNCHEON AND CLE

Speaker: James Ho, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP & Former Solicitor General of Texas

**1:30 – 6:00p.m.** GOLF SCRAMBLE

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. NETWORKING RECEPTION

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. DINNER and PROGRAM

Lawrence P. Tu, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Dell, interviews Don H. Liu. Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Xerox Corporation

9:30 - 11:30 p.m. POKER AND POOL

\* 4 CLE credit hours pending



### ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION

state bar of texas

### 15th Annual APIS Conference and Retreat 2011:

### Registration Form

April 15 - 16, 2011 - Austin, Texas

JOIN THE SECTION FOR \$15 TO RECEIVE A DISCOUNT ON REGISTRATION FEES!			
2011 APIS membership fee (if not already remitted) \$ 15.00	Saturday only (Add \$25 if after April 1, 2011)  \$ 115.00 In-House, Government, Public		
ALL Events except Golf Scramble (Add \$25 if after April	Interest & Students		
1, 2011)	\$ 135.00 APIS Members		
\$ 125.00 In-House, Government, Public Interest & Students	\$ 175.00 Non- Members		
\$ 150.00 APIS Members	Golf Scramble at Barton Creek Crenshaw		
\$ 195.00 Non- Members	Cliffside Course		
Friday Evening Only	\$ 75.00 In-House		
\$ 10.00 In-House, Government, Public Interest, & Students	\$ 150.00 APIS Members		
\$ 15.00 APIS or AAABA Members	\$ 190.00 Non- Members		
\$ 25.00 Non-Members	Please provide your handicap		
Make Checks payable to: State Bar of Texas APIS Section			
Name			
Bar Number (if applicable):			
Firm Name/Court:			
Address for Bar-Related Mail:			
City/State Zip:			
Phone:	Fax:		
E-Mail:	<del></del>		
Pay by credit card: Visa Maste	erCard AMEX Discover		
Account No Exp. Date:			
Name on card (Please print):			
Signature:			
<b>Send completed registration forms and payment to:</b> State Bar of Texas, Accounting Department Director, Michele Schweitzer, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487, <b>Fax: 512.427.4102</b>			



### Women and Minority Scholarship Application

The Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of Texas will award two \$2,500 scholarships, each to a woman and/or minority law student. Any woman or member of a recognized minority group, including but not limited to African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans who intends to practice IP law in the State of Texas, is eligible to apply. Applicants must be enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school in Texas at the time the application is submitted. Thus, persons who have been accepted to law school but have not yet started classes at the time the application is filed are ineligible. However, persons who have graduated at the time the scholarship is awarded are eligible for the scholarship.

The purpose of this scholarship is to facilitate and encourage women and minorities to enter the practice of intellectual property law in Texas, and to become active members of the State Bar IP Section, by assisting these students with their financial needs. Selection criteria of the scholarships include: merit, scholastic performance, and financial need. Consideration is also given to extracurricular activities both inside and outside law school.

This application should be completed and returned either by (1) mail to the SBOT IP Section's Women and Minority Scholarship Selection Committee, c/o Bhaveeni D. Parmar, Law Office of Bhaveeni Parmar PLLC, 4447 N. Central Expressway, Suite 110-295, Dallas, Texas 75205; or (2) email to Bhaveeni D. Parmar at bhaveeni@parmarlawoffice.com (entire applications only (e.g., applications including the recommendations, essays, and transcripts)).

Applications must be postmarked or time stamped by no later than May 2, 2011. The scholarships will be awarded at the IP Section's meeting during the 2011 State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting.

Please print or type in black ink.

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME:			
SSN:			
AGE:	_ D.O.B.:		
MAILING ADDRESS:			
HOME PHONE:	ALTERNA	TE PHONE:	
ETHNIC BACKGROUND:			
African American A	sian American	Hispanic	Caucasian
Native American		Other (p	lease specify)
MARITAL STATUS: Single	Married		
NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS:			

### II. **EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION** LAW SCHOOL NAME: GPA: (cumulative) \_\_\_\_\_ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE NAME:\_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE: \_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_ GRADUATION DATE: \_\_\_\_ GRADUATE DEGREES (College, Degree, Date):\_\_\_\_\_ Please also attach a copy of all college, graduate school (if any) and law school transcripts. If your law school transcript does not yet include your grades for the Spring 2011 semester, please separately provide information on all grades you have received to date and supplement with remaining grades as soon as possible after you receive them. LAW SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: III. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ESSAY Please attach (1) at least two letters of recommendation and (2) a typewritten essay of no more than two pages addressing the following: Why you plan to pursue a career in intellectual property law in Texas; and Any qualifications that you believe are relevant for your consideration for this scholarship. (Optional) Any issues of financial need that you would like the Committee to consider. AFFIRMATION OF APPLICANT: I have reviewed the information listed in this application for omission and errors. To the best of my knowledge the information is complete and accurate as reported. I understand that the IP Section's Women and Minority Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right to investigate all information stated in this application.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_

### GET TO KNOW YOUR AABA LEADERS!



Name: Judy Liu

Firm: CenterPoint Energy

**Practice Areas:** Litigation

AABA Position: Chairperson of the

**AABA Board of Directors** 

If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . a baker.

The oddest food I have ever eaten has been . . . deep-fried strips of pork fat in China.

In my spare time, I enjoy . . . baking, ballet, and baseball.

If my life were a movie, it would be called . . . tough question—still thinking about this one.

In my opinion, the best restaurant in Houston is . . . Dolce Vita.

The coolest store in Houston is . . . Central Market.

The sports team(s) I root for is/are . . . the New York Yankees.

My decade for music is the 80's and my favorite song is . . . "Don't Stop Believin".

**My favorite quote is** . . . From a conversation between Samwise Gamgee and Gandalf in J.R.R. Tolkien's The Return of the King – Sam asks "Is everything sad going to come untrue? What's happened to the world?" "A great shadow has departed," said Gandalf, and then he laughed, and the sound was like music, or like water in a parched land . . ."

Most AABA members probably don't know that I . . . am a huge Lord of the Rings fan.

You forgot to ask me about . . . my trip to Antarctica later this year!

### GET TO KNOW AN AABA MEMBER!



Name: Mark Lee

Firm: American General Life – Deputy General Counsel

**Practice Areas:** Tax, some IP and regulatory.

If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . a politician.

The oddest food I have ever eaten has been . . . Blake's Bar B Q Man Versus Food challenge (I won free lunch for a year).

In my spare time, I enjoy . . . golf.

If my life were a movie, it would be called . . . "Ikiru."

In my opinion, the best restaurant in Houston is . . . any sushi happy hour.

The coolest store in Houston is . . . Golf Galaxy.

The sports team(s) I root for is/are . . . the Texas Longhorns (all sports).

My decade for music is the \_\_\_\_\_ and my favorite song is . . . none really, I am tone deaf.

My favorite quote is . . . "Lead, follow, or get out of the way." -Thomas Paine

**Most AABA members probably don't know that I**... am the youngest original member of the AABA (the AABA was founded the year I passed the bar).

**You forgot to ask me about** . . . my two straight "A" children, who both play lacrosse and have their brown belts in Shotokan karate (and their not so Tiger mom, Alice).

### Many thanks to our 2011-2012 Major Underwriters!

### Platinum Dragon Underwriter

GARDERE

### **Gold Dragon Underwriters**















## Asian American Bar Foundation of Houston, Inc.

### Contribution Form

	The AABF is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal
Name(s)	Revenue Code and all contributions are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.
Street Address	AABF Fellow annual giving levels:
City, State & Zip Code	<ul> <li>Presidential Circle \$2,000+</li> <li>Sponsor \$1,000 - \$1,999</li> <li>Benefactor \$500 - \$999</li> <li>Patron \$250 - \$499</li> </ul>
Area Code & Telephone Number	• Donor \$ 100 - \$ 249
Email Address	
Contributions and pledges in any amount	• • •
Enclosed is my/our Gift	Payment on existing PledgePledge
in the amount of \$	_·
Payment can be made by check payable to A Discover card. For payment by credit card,	ABF or by American Express, Visa, Mastercard or please complete the following section:
Name as it appears on credit card (please pri	nt):
Credit Card Acct#	Expiration Date
Signature	Date
Please send contributions to: AABF, P.O. B	ox 1351, Houston, Texas 77252.

# It's that time of year again... Renew your AABA membership!



The AABA is accepting membership applications and renewals for 2011!

You may apply for membership online at <a href="https://www.aabahouston.com">www.aabahouston.com</a> 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!

**Brian Albert** 

**Steve Bae** 

Curocom Energy LLC

**Stacy Campos** 

**David Chang** 

Chevron

**Rina Chang** 

The Dow Chemical Company

Adam Corral

**Helene Dang** 

Foster Quan LLP

Gladys Jessica Diaz

Solo Practitioner

Georgina Gustilo

Baylor College of Medicine

**Alice Huang** 

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP

Marylauren Ilagan

Novak Druce & Quigg LLP

Dae Kim

Richard Kim

**Harvey Liu** 

Meri Maguire

**Jose Martinez** 

**David Nguyen** 

Lynn Nguyen

**Natalie Nguyen** 

Riley Nguyen

**Kay-Linh Pham** 

Southwestern Energy Company

Jinfeng Qie

Alexandra Smoots-Hogan

Harris County, Judge 164<sup>th</sup> Civil District

**Eun Suh** 

Jones Day

Michael Truong

**Charlene Tsang-Kao** 

Solvay North America LLC

**Evelyn Wong** 

Michael Wong

Harris County Sheriff's Office

Catharine Yen

Jane Zenzi

**Daniel Zhang** 

Harry Gee, Jr. & Associates



### www.aabahouston.com

# Asian American Bar Association of Houston 2011 Membership Application/Renewal

☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$0	\$25 Public Interest Attorney • Government Attorney • Judge • Solo Practitioner		
Bar Nu	mber and Jurisdiction		
Last Na	nme	First Name	
Employ	ver		
	s		
City		State ZIP	
Office #	<b>#</b>	Home #	
		E-Mail	
	of Practice		
	hool and Graduation Year		
	nge(s) Spoken		
	ou like to receive the AABA Newsletter by E-Ma		
	ou like your business contact information publis		
•	consent to the receipt of notice of meeting thro	, <u> </u>	
	•	ions you might have:	
. 10000	group and any comments of programming caggood	ione you might have.	
Please	indicate any committees on which you would be	interested in serving:	
		Social/Networking Community Relations/Pro Bono Counsel Mentorship/Law School Relations	
	Make checks payable to <b>AA</b>	<b>BA</b> and submit application and fee to:	

Send any inquiries concerning AABA membership to membership@aabahouston.com.

AABA ATTN: Membership P.O. Box 1554 Houston, TX 77251

<sup>\*</sup>Transitional attorneys refers to those attorneys currently not employed.