

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.

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## AABA WOMEN ATTORNEYS RETREAT

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, the AABA held its annual Women's Retreat at FosterQuan LLP. Many thanks to the event speakers Magali Suárez Candler, Judy Liu, and Judy Kim and to Sharon Yin for organizing the event. Special thanks to FosterQuan for hosting the Women's Retreat.



**2013  
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

*Social Committee*

**Claudia Gee Vassar**  
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*FosterQuan LLP*

**AABA WOMEN  
ATTORNEYS RETREAT**





AABA

*2013 Holiday Party  
& Toy Drive for  
Asian American Family Services*

Come celebrate the holidays with your fellow AABA members and friends at our annual holiday party and bring joy to others by donating toys to the Asian American Family Services Joy Drive!

**DATE:**

Saturday, December 14, 2013

**TIME:**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**PLACE:**

The Lakehouse at Discovery Green  
1600 McKinney  
Houston, TX 77010  
[www.thelakehousehouston.com](http://www.thelakehousehouston.com)

This event is FREE for AABA members and their families.

Non-members: \$20 per adult/kids under 12 are free.

Payments to be made at the event.

Take advantages of the open green space and bring your footballs, kites and frisbees!

*Joy Drive for Asian American Family Services*

To help the AAFS Joy Drive, we are accepting the following donations: soccer balls, footballs, basketballs, books, school supplies, bath & body products, stuffed animals, dolls, board games, makeup kits and toy cars. *All items should be unwrapped.*

Please RSVP by **December 9, 2013** at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com).

Please contact Social Committee Co-Chair Sandy Huynh at [sandy.huynh@encorecapital.com](mailto:sandy.huynh@encorecapital.com) with any questions.

***Nominations are now being accepted!***

## **AABA 2014 Officer Nominations**

The AABA is now receiving nominations for its 2014 Officers and the 2014-2015 Elected Director.

The following positions are open and subject to vote by the AABA membership:

**President-Elect  
Vice President of Membership  
Vice President of Programs  
Vice President of Community Relations  
Vice President of Development  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
2014-2015 Elected Director**

Any current AABA attorney member in good standing may nominate himself/herself or another attorney member for one of the positions listed above, except that each nominee for President-Elect must have served at least one previous term as an Officer of the AABA.

Please send nominations in writing to AABA President Alice Huang by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 27, 2013 via e-mail at [huangac@gtlaw.com](mailto:huangac@gtlaw.com) or via fax at 617.279.8482.

Voting will begin on Monday, December 2, 2013 and will end at 5:00 PM on Monday, December 9, 2013. The election results will be announced no later than Friday, December 13, 2013.

Feel free to contact Alice Huang (ph. 617.310.5282) with any questions regarding the election process or the duties and responsibilities of Officers and Directors.

We hope you will consider getting involved in the leadership of the AABA and making your contribution to our wonderful organization and legal community.

**Facsimile number for  
Office of Legal Services: (512) 475-3662**

November 1, 2013

Dear Colleague:

The Texas Education Agency is seeking qualified attorneys to act as independent hearing examiners in local school district employment hearings. These examiners will preside over hearings involving the nonrenewal, suspension or termination of educator employment contracts. The examiner will prepare a recommendation for the district's board of trustees to consider.

Hearings are assigned on a regional basis. Examiners are paid by the school district and may charge \$125 an hour up to \$10,000 plus allowable expenses. The number of hearings that an examiner will receive each year varies from year to year and region to region. Please see the chart below. One training session per year in Austin is mandatory and examiners are required to complete specific continuing legal education requirements during the year. Upon selection, examiners will be required to submit to a criminal history check and fingerprinting at their own expense as a condition of continued certification.

We are particularly interested in recruiting attorneys in your organization. We would appreciate any publicity you might be able to give to this opportunity. Additional information is available on our website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>. In the interim, interested attorneys may review Tex. Educ. Code Chapter 21, subchapter F and 19 TAC Chapter 157, Subchapters D and DD. Enclosed please find a copy of our application form, which must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 2, 2013. Should you or any of your members have any questions, please contact Isabel Lozoria Camarillo at (512) 463-0489.

Thank you for your assistance in this recruitment process.

Sincerely,

Christopher Maska  
Director, Division of Hearing and Appeals

Att.

Total IHEs: 82

Total cases assigned in 2013: 269\*

Region / # of cases:

Dallas - 169	Houston - 82	Beaumont - 2	S. Texas - 4
El Paso - 3	Austin - 1	Lwr Tx. Coast - 5	San Antonio - 2

\* 1 case assigned to a non IHE

HEARINGS OFFICE USE ONLY

Certification granted \_\_\_\_\_

Certification denied \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY**  
**Application for Certification as an**  
**Independent Hearing Examiner**

***GENERAL INFORMATION***

1. Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Office Address(es) designated for the purposes of accepting appointments as an independent hearing examiner and from which proximity to hearings locations will be determined for travel purposes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Office Telephone Number(s) designated for the purposes of accepting appointments as an independent hearing examiner and communications concerning hearings: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Office Facsimile Number(s) designated for the purposes of accepting appointments as an independent hearing examiner and communications concerning hearings: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Office email address designated for purposes of receiving communications from the agency: \_\_\_\_\_
6. State Bar of Texas License Number: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Year Licensed by the State of Texas: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Have you been convicted, given probation (whether through deferred adjudication or otherwise) or fined for a felony, a crime of moral turpitude or a crime that directly relates to the duties of an independent hearing examiner in the public school setting?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If your answer is yes, provide full details of the criminal action, including cause number, copies of judgment, probation orders, stipulations of evidence, and judicial confession on a separate sheet.

9. Please describe the areas of your practice for the last three years, assigning a percentage of your time you spent on an annual basis to each area of law you practice.

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10. Please describe your experience in the last three years in the area of litigation, specifying cases in which you spent a total of 10% of your practice taking substantial responsibility for taking part in the various processes of a contested evidentiary proceeding and in which at some point you personally propounded and/or defended against questions put to a witness under oath.

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***REPRESENTATIONS AND ASSURANCES***

(Initial at the end of each representation or assurance to signify that you are making the statement)

1. I represent that I and the law firm with which I am associated do not serve as an agent or representative of a school district, a teacher in any dispute with a school district, or an organization of school employees, school administrators, or school boards. \_\_\_\_\_

2. I represent that I am of good moral character and have not been convicted, been given probation (whether through deferred adjudication or otherwise), or fined for a felony, a crime of moral turpitude, or a crime that directly related to the duties of an independent hearing examiner in a public school setting. \_\_\_\_\_

3. I represent and assure that I am currently licensed as an attorney by the State of Texas and that I am a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas. \_\_\_\_\_

4. I represent and assure that within the last five years, my State of Texas bar license has not been reprimanded, either privately or publicly. \_\_\_\_\_

5. I represent and assure that within the last five years, my State of Texas bar license has not been suspended, either probated or otherwise. \_\_\_\_\_

6. I represent and assure that within the last five years, my State of Texas bar license has not been revoked. \_\_\_\_\_

7. I represent and assure that I have engaged in the practice of law on a full-time basis, as defined by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, for at least five years. \_\_\_\_\_

8. I represent that during the three years immediately preceding this application, I have devoted a minimum of 50% of my time practicing law in some combination of the following areas, civil litigation, administrative law, school law, or labor law, with a total of 10% of my practice involving substantial responsibility for taking part in a contested evidentiary proceeding, convened pursuant to law, in which I personally propounded and/or defended against questions put to a witness under oath. \_\_\_\_\_

9. I represent, if certified, I will seek and receive credit for three hours of continuing legal education in the area of school law and seven hours of civil trial advocacy during the calendar year in which I am certified. \_\_\_\_\_

10. I represent that I currently maintain an office or offices within the state of Texas.  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. I represent that the telephone and facsimile numbers and the email address listed above provide messaging services during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. \_\_\_\_\_

12. I agree to attend meetings of independent hearing examiners in Austin, Texas, at my expense. \_\_\_\_\_

13. I agree to comply with all reporting and procedural requirements established by the commissioner of education. \_\_\_\_\_

14. I agree to comply with all requirements of the commissioner regarding allowable fees and costs to be charged as an independent hearing examiner. \_\_\_\_\_

15. I understand that certification as an independent hearing examiner expires on December 31 of each calendar year and that reapplication is required to continue as an independent hearing examiner. \_\_\_\_\_

16. Upon directive from the agency and as a condition of continued certification, I agree to submit all information required for the mandatory national criminal history check for inclusion in the Department of Public Safety's education clearinghouse database; information will include, but is not limited to social security number, date of birth, Texas drivers' license number, home address and current email address. \_\_\_\_\_



***CONTINUING DUTIES***

(Initial at the end of each statement to signify that you will perform the duties described)

1. If selected as a certified examiner, I acknowledge that I have the continuing duty to disclose to the commissioner grievance matters which result in the reprimand, either publicly or privately, suspension, either probated or otherwise, or revocation of my bar license. I acknowledge that failure to report these matters at any time constitutes grounds for rejecting an application or removal as a certified examiner. \_\_\_\_\_
2. If selected as a certified examiner, I acknowledge that I have the continuing duty to disclose criminal matters that result in conviction, probation (whether through deferred adjudication or otherwise) or fine for a felony, a crime of moral turpitude or a crime that directly relates to the duties of an independent hearing examiner in the public school setting. I acknowledge that failure to report these matters at any time constitutes grounds for rejecting an application or removal as a certified examiner. \_\_\_\_\_
3. If selected as a certified examiner, I acknowledge that I have the duty to attend agency-sponsored training sessions in Austin, Texas and to attend three hours of continuing legal education in school law and seven hours of continuing legal education in civil trial advocacy, including seminars in evidence, discovery and civil procedure each year in order to maintain my certification. \_\_\_\_\_

***RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY***

I hereby authorize appropriate institutions to furnish relevant documents and information necessary in the investigation of this application, including information regarding grievances maintained by the State Bar of Texas and my sworn attestation below releases all institutions from liability for providing information to the Texas Education Agency. \_\_\_\_\_

***VERIFICATION***

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who, being by me duly sworn, stated as follows:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and personally acquainted with the facts herein stated:

Each and all of the answers, representations, assurances and agreements made in this Application for Certification as an Independent Hearing Examiner is true and correct and based upon my personal knowledge. I will comply with all representations and requirements of the commissioner with regard to my certification as an independent hearing examiner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICANT

SWORN TO and subscribed before me on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

My commission expires:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC,  
State of Texas

PRINTED NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

# HOUSTON LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

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(713) 237-9429

HLRS is accepting applications from all licensed attorneys, but is seeking: Spanish Speaking, Federal Worker's Comp., Civil Appeals, Patent Law, Property Tax and Immigration attorneys. HLRS is also seeking attorneys in Galveston & Brazoria counties, Baytown, Clear Lake/Friendswood, 59 North and East Freeway areas.



HLRS is certified as a lawyer referral service as required by the State of Texas under Chapter 952, Occupations Code. Additionally, HLRS is one of the select few programs that meet the standards established by the American Bar Association.

# Get to Know an AABA MEMBER!



**Name:** Bob Rapfogel

**Law School:** Rapfogel Law Firm PLLC

**Practice Areas of Interest:** Transactional Corporate, Securities and M&A, and Texas Public Information Act/FOIA Matters

**If I weren't an attorney, I'd try to be . . .** a physicist or architectural photographer.

**The oddest food I have ever eaten has been . . .** natto, which I tried in Japan years ago. Turns out, pungent fermented soybeans is not for me!

**In my spare time, I enjoy . . .** live music. The last few years, I've been playing guitar, bass and harmonica with Backspace, a classic rock band of mostly other lawyers. Every year, we do a themed show at Fitzgerald's in the Heights to raise money for different charities. This year, on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we're playing the best of the 70s benefitting Evelyn's Park Conservancy. I know it's a shameless plug, but anyone who loves 70s rock and/or Houston parks should definitely try to make it! (More info at [fitzlivemusic.com](http://fitzlivemusic.com) under "Backspace on the Run" and at [facebook.com/Backspace Houston](https://facebook.com/BackspaceHouston).)

**If my life were a movie, it would be called . . .** "A Checklist for Every Occasion".

**In my opinion, the best restaurant in Houston is . . .** (considering vegetarian options) Max's Wine Dive for their Chicken Fried Tofu.

**The coolest store in Houston . . .** I've discovered recently is Vinyl Edge Records. I've been trying to restore a vintage Bang & Olufsen receiver that has a record player, and went to Vinyl Edge to get some LPs to play on it. You can literally spend hours browsing everything there, and I eventually did find some great Arlo Guthrie and Neil Diamond records!

**The sports team(s) I root for is . . .** the Dynamo playing home games at their new stadium.

**My favorite decade for music is the 1960's, and my favorite song is . . .** "Visions of Johanna" by Bob Dylan.

**My favorite quote is . . .** "Study hard what interests you the most in the most undisciplined, irreverent and original manner possible" by Richard Feynman.

**I recommend reading . . .** any book by Malcolm Gladwell, Phillip Roth, Calvin Trillin, Brian Greene, Richard Feynman, or any other book that challenges, inspires, amuses or interests you.

**Most AABA members probably don't know that . . .** I've trained my very neurotic dog to use the TV remote.



## *Get to Know an AABA MEMBER!*



**Name:** S. Grace Ho

**Firm:** Vinson & Elkins LLP

**Practice Areas:** Labor, Employment, & OSHA

**If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . .** a private investigator.

**The oddest food I have ever eaten has been . . .** tuna casserole topped with cornflakes and artificial cheese.

**In my spare time, I enjoy . . .** spending time with my daughter and husband.

**If my life were a movie, it would be called . . .** Proof.

**In my opinion, the best restaurant in Houston is . . .** Uchi, if money and time were no objects, and Catalina Coffee, if cappuccinos were food.

**The coolest store in Houston is . . .** ph design shop.

**The sports team(s) I root for is/are . . .** Not applicable!

**My favorite decade for music is the early and middle 1920's, and my favorite song writer is . . .** Gillian Welch.

**My favorite quote is . . .** "Repetition makes us feel secure and variation makes us feel free" – Robert Hass on meter in his essay "Listening and Making."

**I recommend reading . . .** Gish Jen.

**Most AABA members probably don't know that . . .** continue to eat scallops and play with dogs even though I am allergic to both.

**Many thanks to our 2013 Major Underwriters!**

**Diamond Dragon Underwriter**

**GARDERE**

**Platinum Dragon Underwriters**

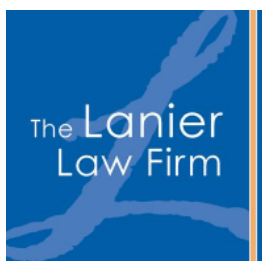
BRACEWELL  
& GIULIANI

Locke  
Lord<sup>LLP</sup>

**Gold Dragon Underwriters**



**FULBRIGHT**  
& Jaworski L.L.P.  
*Attorneys at Law*



® | 💡 | ©  
**WONGcabello**

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



**The AABA is accepting membership applications and renewals for 2013!**

**You may apply for membership online at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com)  
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!**

**Paul Kim  
Jenny Hyun, *Weingarten Realty***



www.aabahouston.com

## Asian American Bar Association of Houston 2013 Membership Application/Renewal

- ☐ \$50 General Member  
☐ \$25 Public Interest Attorney  
☐ \$25 Government Attorney • Judge  
☐ \$25 Solo Practitioner  
☐ \$0 Law Student • Retired Attorney • Transitional Attorney\*

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) Spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive the AABA Newsletter by E-Mail? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like your business contact information published in the 2013 AABA Directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No

***By completing this membership application, I hereby consent to the receipt of notice of meeting through electronic means.***

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 ☐ Community Relations/Pro Bono  
☐ Solo and Small Firm ☐ 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 Claire Lin at (713) 372-9218 or Claire.Lin@chevron.com.

*\*Transitional attorneys refer to those attorneys currently not employed.*