

Founded in 1984, the AABA's membership reflects all aspects of Houston's Asian-Pacific American legal community, whose mission is to promote the professional development of its members and to serve the Houston community at large.

## FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

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## AABA & NAPABA Dinner

On February 6, 2015, during the ABA's Midyear Conference, the AABA and NAPABA held an Affiliate dinner. Thanks to everyone who attended and we hope that NAPABA and the NLF enjoyed their time in Houston!



## Upcoming Events

- **February 28 @ 11:00 a.m.:** AABA/HBA Law Day Poster Workshop at the Chinese Community Center, 9800 Town Park Drive. Guest speaker Judge Alexandra Smoots-Hogan, Harris County 164th Civil District Court. RSVP at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com). For any questions, contact Janet Brown at [janet.brown@cevalogistics.com](mailto:janet.brown@cevalogistics.com).
- **March 5 @ 6:00 p.m.:** AABA Mentorship Kickoff Reception at Haynes and Boone, 1221 McKinney, Suite 2100. To RSVP or apply to be a mentor/mentee, please see the attached Mentorship Kickoff Application. For any questions, contact Annie Kwan at [annie.kwan@haynesboone.com](mailto:annie.kwan@haynesboone.com).
- **March 7 @ 7:30 a.m.:** AABA "Couch to 8K" Practice Run/Walk at Memorial Park (meet at stretch-deck). Please RSVP at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com) and for any questions, please contact James Vergara at [JVergara@pattersonsheridan.com](mailto:JVergara@pattersonsheridan.com).
- **March 21:** Team AABA's Law Week Fun Run at Sam Houston Park. Adult 8K Run @ **8:00 a.m.** and 1-mile Family Walk @ **8:30 a.m.** For more details on registration, visit [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com).

## 2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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## Judge Jacqueline Nguyen Honored with 2015 Spirit of Excellence Award

On February 7, 2015, during the ABA's Midyear Conference in Houston, Texas, several AABA members attended a reception honoring Judge Jacqueline Nguyen as one of the recipients of the 2015 Spirit of Excellence Award. Judge Nguyen is currently a Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and she is the first Asian-American female to serve as a federal appellate judge. Congratulations to Judge Nguyen from your proud supporters at the AABA of Houston!



## AABA “Fresh off the Boat” TV Watch Party

On February 10, 2015, AABA Members gathered for a viewing party of the TV adaptation of Chef Eddie Huang’s memoir. A special thanks to Foster LLP for hosting the event and to the Social Committee for organizing a night of camaraderie!







# Lunar New Year Dim Sum

On February 21, 2015, AABA Members, friends, and family enjoyed dim sum at Kim Son to celebrate the Lunar New Year. A special thanks to the Social Committee for coordinating the event and bringing everyone together to ring in the new year.



Did you know the AABA of Houston is now on Facebook?  
Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/aabahouston>

## KUDOS CORNER



**The AABA is proud to announce that member Jennifer Chiang has been appointed as Associate Municipal Judge for the City of Sugar Land. Please extend a warm congratulations to Jennifer!**

To have your accomplishments recognized in the Kudos Corner, please send your submissions for consideration to Clinton Yu at [cyu@givensjohnston.com](mailto:cyu@givensjohnston.com).

## Leadership Houston call for nominations

Leadership Houston was formed in 1982 with the goal of bringing together leaders from different communities to increase dialogue, and foster collaboration on projects that would improve the quality of life for all Houstonians. At least two AABA members (Audrey Chang and Judy Liu) are current Leaders or are Leadership alum. To learn more, visit their website at [www.leadershiphouston.org](http://www.leadershiphouston.org).

Corporations and organizations wishing to recommend staff for development via Leadership Houston are welcome to learn about tuition sponsorship [here](#). Please also feel free to directly nominate/self-nominate [here](#) or simply indicate interest [here](#).

Two no-cost orientations will be held where you can learn more about our Signature Program and get your questions answered. [Register today](#) to attend on March 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. or March 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Orientations will be held at the United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77007.

The deadline for class applications is **March 31, 2015**.

# Meet an AABA Member



Name: **Emily Lee**  
Firm/Company: **Duane Morris, LLP**  
Practice Area : **Corporate**

1. If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . **a professional karaoke singer (ok, not sure if such profession actually exists, nevertheless...).**
2. The oddest food I have ever eaten has been . . . **a cricket.**
3. In my spare time, I enjoy . . . **visiting [www.slickdeals.net](http://www.slickdeals.net).**
4. If my life were a movie, it would be called . . . **"Fresh Off the Boat." Just kidding! But seriously, can't think of one. If there were one, it would not make it to the box office (let's put it that way).**
5. In my opinion, the best restaurant in Houston is . . . **wherever I can get to in Chinatown, FAST!**
6. The coolest store in Houston is . . . **"fit" in Chinatown (\$2 for most things!)**
7. The sports team(s) I root for is/are . . . **The Rockets (even though all the Asian players have left ☹).**
8. My favorite decade for music is the . . . **late 90's/early 2000's**, and my favorite song is . . . **"The Boy Is Mine." – Brandy and Monica. (Seriously, life is all about competitions . . . Just kidding.)**
9. My favorite quote is . . . **"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams." - Dr. Seuss.**
10. I recommend reading . . . **"The Real Roots of Midlife Crisis" *The Atlantic*, December 2014 issue. (Explains why people in their 50's and later are generally happier in their life. Makes one looking forward to life.)**
11. Most AABA members probably don't know that I . . . **am willing to go karaoke anytime, anywhere, under any circumstances.**



**Many thanks to our 2014 Major Underwriters!**

**Diamond Dragon Underwriter**

**GARDERE**

**Platinum Dragon Underwriters**

**LATHAM & WATKINS<sup>LLP</sup>**

**Gold Dragon Underwriters**

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# **Don't forget to Renew your AABA membership!**



The AABA is accepting membership applications and renewals for 2015!

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!**

Luis Arandia  
Phillip Choi  
Michael Chu  
Andrew Chung  
Chris Evans  
Julie Pi Evans  
Robert Givens  
David Hsu  
Stephanie Huang  
James Hurst  
Sandy Huynh  
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Kris Teng  
Dat Tran  
Vi Tran  
Samantha Tran  
Hoang Vu  
Ammad Waheed  
Hsiao-Cheng Wu  
Stephen Yeh  
Sharon Yin





www.aabahouston.com

## Asian American Bar Association of Houston 2015 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 2015 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.

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

# AABA MENTORSHIP KICKOFF EVENT

March 5, 2015 | 6:00 - 8:00 | Haynes and Boone

Haynes and Boone, LLP  
1221 McKinney, Suite 2100  
Houston, TX 77010

Please [RSVP](#) or [submit a mentor/mentee application \(attached\)](#) to Nickie Tran at [ntran@porterhedges.com](mailto:ntran@porterhedges.com). If you cannot attend the event, but would still like to be a mentor/mentee, please also submit an application.

## Panel Speakers:

**Gary Ilagan, *Partner at Munsch Hardt***  
**Judith Kim, *Senior Corporate Counsel at Dynegy***  
**Joseph Tung, *Joseph Tung Attorney at Law***

**6:00 pm: Check-in/Registration**  
**6:15 pm: Networking Tips from Experienced Attorneys**  
**6:45 pm: Networking with Law Students and Attorneys**  
**7:15 pm – 8:00 pm: Mentor/Mentee Pairings**

**Heavy hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic beverages will be served.**

**This event is free and open to all [AABA](#) members, including law student and attorney members. Sign up for [AABA](#) membership at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com).**

**\*\*\*Directions:** Please enter the LyondellBasell building, formerly known as 1 Houston Center, at the street level. Take the elevators (button L) or the escalators to the main lobby. At the main lobby, use the elevator bank for floors 19-32. Haynes and Boone is on the 21<sup>st</sup> floor. We recommend street parking, which is free after 6:00 PM, or the parking garage at 2 Houston Center, which is \$4.00 after 5:00 PM.

**Mentor/Mentee Application – AABA 2015 Mentorship Program**

The goal of the Mentorship Program is to assist law students and new attorneys better define their legal path through the sharing of an experienced attorney's wisdom, experiences, and knowledge about the practice of law. In order to maximize the benefits of this program, Mentees and Mentors will be matched as closely as possible according to their areas of interest and practice, respectively. *Mentors and Mentees are encouraged to schedule a meeting once every other month and to remain in contact with each other regularly throughout the year.*

Mentor Eligibility: Attorneys with more than 1 year of legal experience are eligible to apply to be a Mentor.

Mentee Eligibility: Law Students and Attorneys out of law school less than 1 year are eligible to be a Mentee.

Check one box:    ☐ I am applying as a **Mentor**.                      ☐ I am applying as a **Mentee**.

Please note: To participate in the Mentorship Program, submit a completed form by **Friday, February 27, 2015.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (for Attorneys) \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

State Bar Number (for Attorneys) \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Experience (for Attorneys) \_\_\_\_\_

Law School (include Graduation Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Check current practice setting (Mentors):                      ☐ Large/mid-size firm                      ☐ Solo/Small Firm  
or setting(s) of interest (Mentees):                                      ☐ In-House Counsel                      ☐ Government/Public Interest

Current Practice Areas (Mentors) or Areas of Interest (Mentees) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Goals & Expectations from the Mentorship Program \_\_\_\_\_

**Save the Date for Mentor/Mentee Kickoff Event:**

Haynes and Boone, LLP  
1221 McKinney Street #2100  
Thursday, March 5, 2015  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

- ☐ Yes, I can attend the event  
☐ No, I cannot attend the event, but I want to participate in the mentorship program

**Please mail or e-mail your completed form to:**

Nickie Tran  
Porter Hedges LLP  
1000 Main, 36th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Tel: (713) 226-6743  
E-mail: ntran@porterhedges.com



# LAW DAY POSTER CONTEST

sponsored by

**Houston Bar Association**

**AABA** *of Houston*

You are invited to participate in the 2015 Houston Law Day Poster Contest! Selected posters will be displayed in Houston Downtown court houses and office buildings.



Cash prizes  
will be awarded for  
K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 for  
winners of the  
Houston-wide  
Poster Contest and  
will go on to State!

**Saturday, February 28, 2015**

**11:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Chinese Community Center  
9800 Town Park  
Houston, Texas 77036**

**Cost: Free!**

**Grade Levels: K-8<sup>th</sup> grades may  
participate**

Poster materials, art supplies, raffle prizes, and lunch will be provided for all participants. The special guest speaker will be 164th Civil District Court Judge Alexandra Smoots-Hogan.

The theme for the 2015 Poster Contest is “Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law.” Completed posters will be submitted to the Houston Bar Association for entry into the official Poster Contest.

For questions about this event, please email  
[janet.brown@cevalogistics.com](mailto:janet.brown@cevalogistics.com).



## *The Other Side: Chinese and Mexican Immigration to America*

*Exhibitions at Asia Society Texas Center*

**Asia Society Texas Center**

March 28, 2015 – July 19, 2015



Hung Liu, *Jin Jin Shan (Old Gold Mountain)*, 1994, installation view, USC Pacific Asia Museum, 2014, fortune cookies with support structure and train tracks. Dimensions variable.

### Sponsorship Proposal

**February 2015**

*Deadline for recognition March 3, 2015*



## About Asia Society Texas Center

*Global Mission with a Local Purpose*

With 11 locations throughout the world, Asia Society is the leading educational organization promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among the peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States. Asia Society Texas Center executes the global mission with a local focus, enriching and engaging the vast diversity of Houston through innovative, relevant programs in arts and culture, business and policy, education, and community outreach.

## Exhibitions at Asia Society Texas Center

Exhibitions at Asia Society Texas Center have pride of place in a 40,000 square-foot building designed by Yoshio Taniguchi and opened to the public in April 2012. Since then, over 50,000 visitors have come to the Texas Center to view exhibitions that have spanned cultures, centuries, and a variety of artistic forms. Exhibitions are an especially important aspect of Asia Society's public offering, helping to further the organization's mission by promoting mutual understanding through the celebration of Asia's rich artistic talents and traditions. Asia Society's exhibitions also offer visitors a unique, innovative, and relevant opportunity to explore cultural creativity that otherwise would not be readily available.

### *The Other Side: Chinese and Mexican Immigration to America* March 28, 2015 – July 19, 2015

Through the works of several contemporary artists, *The Other Side: Chinese and Mexican Immigration to America* will offer viewers a humanized perspective on complex immigration issues often overshadowed by mass media and politics. The exhibition explores recurring issues of immigration, border relations, and labor practices that have persisted throughout U.S. history and remain timely today. The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, 1929 National Origins Act, and the 1943 Magnuson Act that succeeded them, all created lasting implications that still resonate among immigrant populations throughout the country. The themes explored in this exhibition are particularly relevant in Houston, a city that leads the way in ethnic diversity nationally, and in Texas, where border security is among the state's most contentious issues.

The exhibition features innovative works by Hung Liu, Zhi Lin, Margarita Cabrera, and Tony de los Reyes, including large-format paintings, sculptures, video, and installations. Each artist, through their chosen mediums, visually depicts the ramifications of exclusionary policies and the hardships experienced by Chinese and Mexican immigrants. While the works on display employ different styles and references, and span different historic periods, geographic locations, cultural influences, and gender perspectives, they are bound together by the common threads of memory, history, identity, and humanity.



## Media Advisory

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Houston, TX 77204-5017  
Fax 713/743-8199



UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

Media Contact:  
Melissa Carroll  
713/743-8153  
mcarroll@uh.edu

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 24, 2015

#### UH HOSTS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ‘IMMIGRATION POLICY AND AMERICA’S FOREIGN RELATIONS’

The University of Houston (UH) will host a roundtable discussion, “Immigration Policy and America’s Foreign Relations,” at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, Mar. 3 in the UH Student Center Theater, room 103. The event is free and open to the public.

Panelists include:

The Honorable Christopher Ashby, former U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay was directly involved with efforts to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas. After his tour in Uruguay, he became president international of NIC Computer Company based in Palo Alto, California. Prior to his appointment as ambassador, he worked in international banking for 24 years as country manager for Jakarta, Spain and Portugal for Chemical Bank. He ran the bank’s business with the United Nations in New York. In 2012, he served as chief financial officer of Spring Branch Hospital.

Alberto “Beto” Cardenas, counsel with Vinson & Elkins LLP, represents businesses affected by America’s immigration laws and advises corporate and academic clientele seeking resolution on statutory and regulatory issues. He has extensive experience in drafting legislative solutions on diverse matters and in his tax policy practice assists clients with issues pending before government entities. Prior to joining the firm, he was general counsel to U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and counsel to the chancellor and director of federal regulations for Texas Tech University System.

The Honorable Marty McVey, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and president of McVey & Associates, was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a director of USAID Board for the International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) in 2011. His responsibility with the agency includes providing guidance to the federal government on investments in training, research and technology transfer to developing countries. He is chairman for the Haitian Reconstruction Task Force. McVey is founder and shareholder of 14 private equity business in real estate, alternative energy services and healthcare sectors.

Gordon Quan, managing partner for the immigration law firm Quan Law Group, grew up in Houston’s East End in a predominately Hispanic neighborhood. After working as a teacher in an inner-city school, Quan became an attorney, where he has practiced law for more than 30 years. A former Houston City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem, Quan helped the City of Houston create an Office for Immigration and Refugee Affairs. He is a founding member of the Texas State Bar Association’s Immigration Section and the Asian Bar Association of Houston.

Moderator: Art Rascon, anchor, KTRK ABC-13

The event is sponsored by the Center for International and Comparative Studies in the College of Liberal Arts at UH.

**WHAT:** “Immigration Policy and America’s Foreign Relations” Roundtable Discussion

**WHEN:** 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday, Mar. 3

**WHO:** Free and open to the public.  
For more information, contact Jonathan Slapin at 713-743-3905 or [jslapin@uh.edu](mailto:jslapin@uh.edu)

**WHERE:** University Theater, Student Center, room 103  
For directions, click [http://www.uh.edu/maps/buildings/?short\\_name=UC](http://www.uh.edu/maps/buildings/?short_name=UC)  
Public parking is available in the UH Welcome Center Garage  
For directions, click [http://www.uh.edu/maps/buildings/?short\\_name=wc](http://www.uh.edu/maps/buildings/?short_name=wc)  
Entrance 1 off Calhoun Road

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**About the University of Houston**

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best colleges for undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth-largest city, UH serves more than 40,500 students in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region in the country.