

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 the Houston community.

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## A message from the President



Dear AABA Members,

Following another successful year in 2014, I am pleased to announce that the 2015 AABA calendar has been set in motion offering new and exciting events that will increase networking opportunities, hone your professional development, and give back to the greater Houston community. This year, I also welcome all of our members to assist us in increasing the visibility of the AABA by sharing with me any of your personal achievements and recognitions so that we can include it in our newsletters and growing social media sites on Facebook and LinkedIn. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our future events!

Yours truly,

*Clinton Yu*  
AABA President

## Upcoming Events

- **January 31 @ 2:30 p.m.:** Houston Symphony Lunar New Year Celebration Concert at the Chinese Community Center at 9800 Town Park Drive. Tickets are \$15 and available for purchase at [www.ccchouston.org/symphony/](http://www.ccchouston.org/symphony/).
- **February 6 @ 7:00 p.m.:** NAPABA/AABA Affiliate Dinner at Arnoldo Richards' "Picos" on 3601 Kirby. Dinner is \$25 and please RSVP by emailing Clinton Yu, [cyu@givensjohnston.com](mailto:cyu@givensjohnston.com).
- **February 10 @ 6:30 p.m.:** AABA "Fresh Off The Boat" Watch Party at Foster LLP at 600 Travis Street, Suite 2000. Please RSVP at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com).
- **February 21 @ 12:00 p.m.:** AABA Lunar New Year Dim Sum to be tentatively held at Kim Son, 10603 Bellaire Blvd. Dim sum is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Please RSVP at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com).
- **February 28 @ 11:00 a.m.:** AABA/HBA Law Day Poster Workshop at the Chinese Community Center, 9800 Town Park Drive. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com).

## 2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### *Corporate Counsel Committee*

**Claire Lin**

*Chevron Corporation*

**Rachel Le**

*Occidental Petroleum Corporation*

**Sandy Huynh**

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*Julie Pi Evans Law Firm*

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**Tyrone Lin**

*Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc.*

**Sharon Yin**

*Yin Law Firm*

### *Social Committee*

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*Foster LLP*

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*Thompson & Knight LLP*

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*Law Office of Michele Nguyen*

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*Law Office of Pham & Nguyen Law Group,  
P.C.*

**Nadine Chen**

*Law Office of Kathryn N. Karam, PC*

### *Technology and Web Committee*

**David Hsu**

*David Hsu and Associates*

**James Vergara**

*Patterson & Sheridan LLP*

## 2015 AABA Officers, Committee Chairs, & Directors Meeting

On January 24, 2015, the Officers, Committee Chairs, and Directors of the AABA met at Porter Hedges LLP to hold their annual planning meeting for the year. Daniel Chen, Helene Dang, Christopher Koa, and Gary Ilagan were approved to serve as Directors. A special thanks to Porter Hedges LLP for hosting this event.






# AABA 2015 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING AND KICKOFF DINNER

On January 29, 2015 the AABA held its Annual Members Meeting and Kickoff Dinner at Seasons 52 on Westheimer. The AABA had a great turnout for renewing and newly joining members. Many thanks to Jennifer Fung for organizing this event!





**Based on chef and former lawyer Eddie Huang's best-selling memoir of the same name, "Fresh Off the Boat" is a family sitcom that takes a look at the lives of Asian American immigrants in America. Kick back and relax with your AABA cohorts for a TV watch party with a short discussion after the show! Food and refreshments will be provided.**

**Tuesday, February 10th**

**"Fresh Off The Boat" TV Watch Party**

**Where:**

**Foster LLP  
600 Travis Street, Suite 2000  
Houston, TX 77002**

**Time:**

**Arrive at 6:30 p.m.; Show starts at 7 p.m.  
Food and refreshments provided.**

Please RSVP at [www.aabahouston.com](http://www.aabahouston.com).  
For any questions, contact Sang Shin at  
[sshin@fosterglobal.com](mailto:sshin@fosterglobal.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).



HOUSTON SYMPHONY PRESENTS

# A LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION CONCERT

FEATURING **THE FORBIDDEN CITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
JOINED BY MUSICIANS FROM THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY



The Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra

Saturday, January 31, 2015, 2:30 pm  
Chinese Community Center  
9800 Town Park Drive, Houston, TX

**Tickets:** \$15 for general admission

Tickets available online or in-person at the Chinese Community Center

**ccchouston.org**

**houstonssymphony.org | (713) 224-7575**

*Note: The Full Houston Symphony does not appear on this program.*



**CHINESE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
a multi-ethnic organization serving all Houstonians  
休士頓中華文化服務中心



**Asia**  
Society  
Texas Center



Official Television Partner



Official Health Care Provider



Official Airline

**Houston**  
Symphony  
**Neighborhood**  
**Concerts**



Chinese New Year 2015

The Year of The Goat

[Photo.elsoar.com](http://Photo.elsoar.com)

**We are now accepting applications for  
2015 ILF Civic Fellowship!**



*2014 ILF Civic Fellows with Congresswoman Judy Chu and Grace Meng at the 15th Anniversary Gala*

The International Leadership Foundation (ILF) is pleased to announce that the application process for the 2015 Civic Fellowship Program is open and ongoing until **February 1, 2015**. Every year, ILF's selection committee identifies approximately 30 outstanding Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) college students to spend eight to ten weeks interning at a federal agency in Washington D.C. during the summer.

Students accepted into the program are known as Civic Fellows and will receive a stipend of 2,000 dollars. In addition, they will attend weekly leadership seminars on Capitol Hill, learn networking skills and gain valuable, firsthand working knowledge of the American system of government. Fellows are responsible for their own travel, housing and living expenses.

"ILF has a stellar record of advocating for increased civic engagement and public service from the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community," said Chiling Tong, ILF's Chief Executive Officer. "We need a greater representation of our community in government, and ILF's goal is to train a new generation of successful leaders in their chosen fields and raise our community's profile as engaged, American citizens who deserve to have our voices heard."

Based on the interests and majors of selected Civic Fellowship candidates, ILF will work to place them with over a dozen federal agencies, as well as limited placements in congressional offices and the White House. "The ILF works hard to foster bright young AAPI youth who wish to experience the inner workings behind this great country's national government, and provides effective training classes to enhance leadership skills," said Norman Mineta, former Secretary of Transportation. Mr. Mineta is also the honorary chairman of ILF, while the Honorable Elaine Chao serves as honorary chairwoman. ILF honorary advisors include Mark Keam, the first Asian-born immigrant to serve in Virginia's state legislature and Young Kim, a newly-elected California State Assembly member in Tuesday's election. Ms. Soohyun "Julie" Koo, the former Executive Director for the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) in the Executive Office of the DC Mayor, has been a long-time supporter of ILF and the keynote speaker for their annual Fellow Orientation.

Undergraduate students of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage who are United States citizens and possess a GPA of 3.0 and above are eligible for this fellowship.



Applications **must be submitted by February 1, 2015**. To learn more or submit an application, visit <http://ilfleader.wordpress.com> or [www.ilfleader.org](http://www.ilfleader.org).

*"Through the International Leadership Foundation's Civic Fellowship, I had a transformative summer in Washington, D.C. Not only did ILF support me financially to intern at the Center for American Progress, they provided me with the professional development and social enrichment that I needed as a budding professional in Washington. Whether it was through the four hour tour of monuments and memorials or the reflective CORO leadership session, ILF nurtured my passion for public service and leadership." – Eunice Roh, 2014 Fellow, Vassar College*

*"Because of the opportunities that ILF has given me, I feel equipped now, more than ever, to make a difference. My internship at U.S Agency for International Development, which ILF set up for me, has been the highlight of my undergraduate career. As a pre-medical student, I was able to learn of the intricacies of policy, meet multiple influential individuals, and form connections with fellows from all over the nation. My time in Washington DC has helped drastically change my view of the world, which I believe will help me become a better physician. I was one of very few Korean-Americans, and therefore, encourage all of my fellow Korean-Americans to apply to become an ILF for the chance to pursue an amazing opportunity!" – Yuna Kim, 2014 Fellow, University of Southern California*

Would like to know how the Civic Fellowship program went last year and what you will do if you are selected? You will find more stories [here \(blog posts written by the 2014 Civic Fellowship class\)](#)!

*ILF Civic Fellowship Program*

*Press Release in Korean 한국어*

*ILF Civic Fellowship Program Brochure*

*ILF 2014 Newsletter*



**Asian American Bar Foundation of Houston, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 1351  
Houston, Texas 77252**

**AABF Pro Bono Scholarship Spring 2015 or Summer 2015**  
**Scholarship Application Guidelines**

The Asian American Bar Foundation of Houston, Inc. (the “**AABF**”) seeks to award a scholarship to an individual (the “**Recipient**”) who will further their legal education and training while primarily being exposed to the pro bono programs and legal practice at Houston Volunteer Lawyers (“**HVL**”) which generally “educate and serve Asian American lawyers and communities in the greater Houston and surrounding areas” in accordance with the mission of the AABF. The Recipient’s education and training will be supervised by HVL, mainly under the direction of Tyrone Lin and Alissa Rubin Gomez, in a manner that serves the foregoing primary purpose.

The Recipient is expected to further his/her legal education and training during a ten week period (which may occur, at the Recipient’s option, during the spring semester of 2015 or summer 2015) to commence no earlier than February 23, 2015 and to end not later than August 15, 2015 at HVL. The Recipient is expected to devote his/her part-time efforts to further his/her legal education and training at HVL, equivalent to not less than 10 hours per week.

The Recipient will receive a **\$4,000.00** award (payable in two equal installments on dates to be determined). The Recipient shall deliver a report to the AABF summarizing his/her scholarship activities and how the grant was used to further the Recipient’s legal education and training. The award is to be used for the Recipient’s law school tuition and fees, books, supplies, and equipment for law school courses.

The Recipient must be enrolled as a full time law student at an American Bar Association accredited law school. Preference shall first be given to those qualified full time law students enrolled at an ABA accredited law school in the greater Houston area.

All applications must be submitted to the AABF in care of Joyce Kao Soliman at the address below by not later than **February 9, 2015** via U.S. Certified Mail/Return Receipt Requested or via email in PDF format with reply confirmation that the application has been received. If sending your application material via email, you must include “**AABF PRO BONO SCHOLARSHIP**” in the subject line and please send a follow-up email if you do not receive a reply confirmation within 24 hours.

Each Applicant should submit an application package / curriculum vitae containing the following information to the Scholarship Committee:

1. Name of applicant
2. Contact information (name, address, telephone number, e-mail address)
3. Name of school
4. School address and contact information for registrar's office
5. Degree sought
6. Expected graduation date
7. Copy of transcript, GPA and class rank (if available) or other proof of enrollment at an accredited law school
8. Educational background
9. Course work at current or previous schools relevant to AABF's purposes listed above
10. Employment history (if any)
11. Employment experience relevant to AABF's purposes listed above or demonstrating applicant's commitment to public service
12. Community and volunteer experience relevant to AABF's purposes listed above or demonstrating applicant's commitment to public service
13. Independent research or publications relevant to AABF's purposes listed above or demonstrating applicant's commitment to public service
14. Awards, honors, scholarships received
15. Other activities, hobbies, skills, positions held in any organizations, etc.
16. Any other information that applicant desires to provide to assist in the application process
17. Cover letter stating interest in the scholarship and proposed dates (Spring or Summer) for serving the ten week period at HVL
18. Name and contact information of at least one professional or educational reference of the applicant (please do not provide more than three references)

Scholarship applicants are advised to use these application guidelines as a reference and checklist to ensure that all necessary information is provided with the original application package. The Scholarship Committee may contact applicants if additional information is required, but the Scholarship Committee reserves the right to disqualify application packages from consideration if key information is not included. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right in its discretion to select more than one Recipient, to select only one Recipient, or to decline making the award.

**Application packages must be postmarked no later than February 9, 2015, and mailed via U.S. Certified Mail/Return Receipt Requested to the following address or sent by email in PDF format** with reply confirmation that the application has been received. If sending your application material via email, you must include "AABF PRO BONO SCHOLARSHIP" in the subject line, and please send a follow-up email if you do not receive a reply confirmation within 24 hours.

Joyce Kao Soliman  
Porter Hedges LLP  
1000 Main Street, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
[jsoliman@porterhedges.com](mailto:jsoliman@porterhedges.com) and with a copy by email to: [cthan@bickerstaff.com](mailto:cthan@bickerstaff.com)

For additional information, please contact Catherine Than (ph. 713.984.9997) or Joyce Kao Soliman (ph.713-226-6685).





ABA Judicial Division  
Standing Committee on Diversity in the Judiciary  
and  
Texas Southern University  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Present:

**2015 ABA Judicial Panel:  
“Path to the Bench—How to  
Become a Judge”**

**Moderator:**

Hon. Vanessa A. Gilmore  
United States District for the Southern District of Texas

**Panelists:**

Hon. Rebecca Huddle  
Texas First District Court of Appeals

Hon. James E. Graves  
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

**Location:** Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
3100 Cleburne St  
Houston, TX 77004  
Rooms 105-107

**Date:** Wednesday, February 04

**Program:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Reception:** 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

This event is **FREE** of charge. To RSVP, contact Amanda Banninga at [amanda.banninga@americanbar.org](mailto:amanda.banninga@americanbar.org).



Thurgood Marshall School of Law

3100 Cleburne Street  
Houston, TX 77004  
Phone 713.313.1142  
[www.tsulaw.edu](http://www.tsulaw.edu)



## Strategies for Avoiding, Taking and Defending an In-House Counsel's Deposition

***Don't Miss This Complimentary CLE Program***

***Presented by the ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section's Corporate Counsel Committee  
Co-Sponsored by the Business Litigation, Appellate Advocacy, and Trial Techniques Committees***

**Thursday, February 5, 2015**

**3:00-5:00 pm**

**Hilton Americas Hotel**

**1600 Lamar Street**

**Houston, Texas**

**Complimentary Reception Immediately Following Program**

Don't miss this program that will inform you about the growing practice of seeking the depositions of in-house counsel.

Our speakers bring a broad and diverse spectrum of practical experience in navigating the many different ways in-house attorneys end up in the deposition hot seat and what they can do to avoid it. Topics to be covered include:

- ▶ Actions that may give rise to an in-house counsel deposition
- ▶ Motions for protection and other options for seeking judicial intervention
- ▶ Intersection of the in-house counsel's role with the attorney-client privilege and work-product exemption

Our panel includes:

**Bill Kruse**, Vice President – Law & Counsel, Regulatory Compliance Officer, GALLUP, Washington, D.C. (Moderator)

**John D. Gilleland, Ph.D.**, Vice President – DecisionQuest, Inc., Chicago, IL

**Adam T. Schramek**, Partner – Norton Rose Fulbright, Austin, TX

**Marcy Hogan Greer**, Partner – Alexander Dubose Jefferson & Townsend LLP, Austin, TX



# **Disciplining One's Kids: What's "Reasonable" under the Law?**

**A free CLE Program co-sponsored with the  
Juvenile Justice Committee, Criminal Justice Section**

**Friday, February 6                      3:00 – 4:30 pm  
Room 310B, George R Brown Convention Center  
1.5 CLE credits**

## **Speakers:**

**Dr. Carla Adkison-Johnson, PhD, Western Michigan University**

**Howard Davidson, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law**

**Dr. Elizabeth Gershoff, PhD, University of Texas, Austin**

**Mary Scanlon, JD, Dallas, Texas**

**Linda Britton, JD, Commission on Youth at Risk (moderator)**

The case involving Adrian Peterson in which he was indicted for striking his four year old son with a switch and then pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of reckless conduct raises issues that are unresolved in the legal system. Many, but not all, psychological studies conclude that a spanking has a detrimental impact on children, and opinion polls continue to show that a substantial majority of parents, regardless of race, as well as many school districts, use corporal punishment. Every state statute allows parents to strike their child. This session will explore the gap between what is recommended versus actual practice, perceived differences in cultural standards, and how these cases become so messy for prosecutors and defense attorneys when they end up in court.

**You do not need to be an ABA member to attend!**

ABA programs ordinarily receive CLE credit in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, GU, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MN, MS, MO, MT, NH, NM, NV, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, VI, WA, WI, WV, and WY. These states sometimes do not approve a program for credit before the program occurs. This course is expected to qualify for 1.5 CLE credit hours in 60-minute-hour states, and 1.8 credit hours in 50-minute-hour states. This transitional program is approved for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys in NY. Attorneys may be eligible to receive CLE credit through reciprocity or attorney self-submission in other states. For more information about CLE accreditation in your state, visit [http://www.americanbar.org/cle/mandatory\\_cle.html](http://www.americanbar.org/cle/mandatory_cle.html).



## Meet an AABA Member



**James Vergara**  
Patterson & Sheridan LLP  
Patents

1. If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . a screenwriter.
2. In my spare time, I enjoy . . . **running and watching stand-up comedy.**
3. If my life were a movie, it would be called . . . **James Vergara: A Life Well-Lived.**
4. In my opinion, the best restaurant/bar in Houston is . . . **Uchi.**
5. In my opinion, the most underrated restaurant/bar in Houston is . . . **Luna Pizzeria.**
6. A deserving charity I recommend giving to is . . . **the American Cancer Society.**
7. The sports teams I root for are . . . **the Houston Rockets and the Chicago Bulls.**
8. My favorite decade for music is the . . . **80s, and my favorite song is . . . Rio by Duran Duran.**
9. My favorite quote is . . . **"Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!"**
10. I recommend reading . . . ***Infinite Jest* by David Foster Wallace.**
11. Most AABA members probably don't know that I . . . **lived in the countryside of Japan for 3 years.**

### Kudos Corner



Congratulations to Juvie Cruz, who was recently promoted to Senior Associate at Pagel, Davis & Hill! Juvie was also reelected as President of the Filipino Young Professionals of Houston for 2015. Please extend a warm congratulations to Juvie!

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

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

**Diamond Dragon Underwriter**

**GARDERE**

**Platinum Dragon Underwriters**

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

**Gold Dragon Underwriters**

BRACEWELL  
& GIULIANI

FOSTER  
Fostering Global Immigration Solutions

JONES  
DAY<sup>®</sup>

Locke  
Lord<sup>LLP</sup>

PORTER  
HEDGES<sup>LLP</sup>

® | 💡 | ©  
WONGcabello

# **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!**

**Nadine Chen  
Daniel Chen  
Caroline Cho  
Helene Dang  
Jennifer Fung  
Dan Hinde  
Daniel Hu  
Warren Huang  
Amy Hwan  
Gary Ilagan  
Kathryn Karam**

**Judith Kim  
Claire Lin  
Sharon Michaels  
Daniel Nguyen  
Daniel Peterson  
David Smith  
Catherin Than  
Nikki Tran  
James Vergara  
Ying Wang  
Paul Yin  
Geraldine Young**





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.*