

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

MARCH 2015

NEWSLETTER

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Law Day Poster Workshop

On February 28, 2015, the AABA and the Houston Bar Association teamed up to help local students prepare posters to submit for the HBA's 2015 Law Day Poster Contest. Judge Alexandra Smoots-Hogan of the 164th Civil District Court was the guest speaker. Congratulations to one of our 1st grade participants on winning an HBA award for her poster! A special thanks to Judge Smoots-Hogan and Janet Brown, who coordinated the event.



2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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MENTORSHIP KICKOFF RECEPTION

On March 5, 2015, the AABA held a reception to kickoff the 2015 AABA Mentorship Program. Law students met their attorney mentors and had the opportunity to network with AABA members. Panel speakers were Gary Ilagan, Judith Kim, and Joseph Tung. Many thanks to the speakers and Haynes and Boone, LLP for hosting the event. A special thanks to the Mentorship and Law School Relations Committee co-chairs, Annie Kwan, Nickie Tran, and Brendon Singh.







On March 21, 2015, AABA members participated in the Law Week 8K Fun Run to raise money for The Center. A special thanks to James Vergara for coordinating this event and our AABA members for helping to raise money for the United Way's THE CENTER.



Meet an AABA Member



Name: **Jennifer C. Chiang, JD/MBA**
Firm/Company: **Chiang Law Firm, PLLC & City of Sugar Land**
Practice Areas: **Commercial Litigation, Real Estate, Probate**

1. If I weren't an attorney, I would be ... teaching. I used to teach test prep, so I would open a test prep center that would serve kids from low-income families.
2. The oddest food I have ever eaten has been ... "Drunken Shrimp" in Ningbo, China. Drunken Shrimp is a euphemism for tiny live river shrimp drenched in a Baiju based red sauce that is very pungent. I convinced myself to eat the shrimp by justifying that it was very fresh ceviche. It was a memorable cultural experience, but I didn't particularly enjoy the shrimp.
3. In my spare time, I enjoy ... Volunteering! I'm a member of the Fort Bend Junior Service League and my current placement is at the Museum of Natural Science Sugar Land. I'm also on the board of the Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation and the Sugar Land Skeeters' Charitable Foundation.
4. If my life were a movie, it would be called ... Accidentally Happy.
5. In my opinion, the best restaurant in Houston is ... Barnaby's. I love everything on Barnaby's menu, especially the Fattoush Salad.
6. The coolest store in Houston is ... Costco.
7. The sports team(s) I root for is/are ... Houston Rockets.
8. My favorite decade for music is the ___'s, and my favorite song is ... I listen to a lot of music from different decades. Right now my favorite song is Uptown Funk by Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson.
9. My favorite quote is ... Despair is inappropriate for a culture as buoyant as our own. - William F. Buckley
10. I recommend reading ... I enjoy business/'pop' economics books like Freakonomics, Thinking Fast and Slow, and Good to Great.
11. Most AABA members probably don't know that I ... I wanted to be a chef when I grew up.

Many thanks to our 2014 Major Underwriters!

Diamond Dragon Underwriter

GARDERE

Platinum Dragon Underwriters

LATHAM & WATKINS^{LLP}

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BRACEWELL
& GIULIANI

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Fostering Global Immigration Solutions

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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
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!**

**Sheel Bedi
Juvie Cruz
Chao Do
Norma Hageney
Jenny Hyun
Punam Kaji
Angela Kao**

**David Kim
Rashmi Parthasarathi
Khanh Vo
Melody Wang
Anthony Hynes
Jeannie Nguyen
Christopher Phram**



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.*



Calls for Nominations for the 2015 IMPACT AWARD

Nominations are now being taken for the 2015 Impact Award, which will be presented at this year's AABA Gala & Silent Auction.

Criteria: Nominees should have made significant contributions to the growth and development of the Asian American legal community in the Greater Houston area.

Nomination Period: Nominations will be accepted through Friday, May 8, 2015.

Please submit nominations to AABA President, Clinton Yu, at cyu@givensjohnston.com.



APIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE & RETREAT

April 17 – 18, 2015

Omni Austin Downtown Hotel - Austin, Texas

We are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of APIS and hope you will join us at this historic event. Register [here](#).

Events include outstanding CLEs and networking opportunities. We will also recognize our members by awarding a Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, an Affiliate of the Year, a Champion of Diversity, an Outstanding Mentor, and a Best Under 40.

In addition, the annual Justice David Wellington Chew Award will be presented to an exceptional individual who has significantly contributed to the APA community in Texas.

The Saturday evening Gala will feature music, dinner, dancing, casino tables, and door prizes.

Please help us recognize a great attorney in your community!
All nominations are due by 5 p.m. CT Monday, April 5, 2015.

The 2015 APIS award nominations forms are linked below:
[Affiliate of the Year Award](#) | [Best Lawyers Under 40 Award](#)
[Champion of Diversity Award](#) | [Justice Wellington Chew Award](#)
[Outstanding Mentor Award](#) | [Pro Bono Award](#)

Also, please consider becoming a 20th Anniversary sponsor, which provides benefits such as recognition in the Texas Bar Journal and the APIS website. Additionally, your company's logo will be displayed throughout the event. Our sponsorship levels can be found on the [sponsorship form](#), due by Friday, April 3, 2015.

For more information, e-mail ann@btfurnishings.com or visit the APIS [website](#)



ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION

state bar of texas

March 10, 2015

Annual APIS Conference and Retreat

April 17-18, 2015

Austin, Texas

the Omni Austin Downtown Hotel

Dear APIS Members,

Our annual APIS Conference and Retreat will take place on April 17-18, 2015, in Austin, Texas, at the Omni Austin Downtown Hotel. This year, we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of APIS, and we hope you will join us at this historic event.

Event programming includes outstanding CLEs, as well as numerous networking opportunities for sponsors and attendees. We will also be recognizing the achievements of our members by awarding a Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award, an Affiliate of the Year Award, a Champion of Diversity Award, an Outstanding Mentor Award, and a Best Under 40 Award. In addition, the annual Justice David Wellington Chew Award will be presented at the retreat to an exceptional individual who has significantly contributed to the APA community in Texas. Nomination forms will be distributed via email later this week.

Our annual Saturday evening Gala will feature music, dinner, dancing, casino tables, and door prizes. [Download the registration information](#) to register for the conference and retreat. The deadline to register is Friday, April 3, 2015.

Also, please consider becoming a 20th Anniversary sponsor, which provides benefits such as recognition in the *Texas Bar Journal* and the APIS website. Additionally, your company's logo will be displayed on slide shows, display boards, and marketing materials throughout the event. Our sponsorship levels can be found on the enclosed [sponsorship form](#), which is due by Friday, April 3, 2015.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, and I look forward to seeing you in Austin!

Best regards,

[Ann R. Chao](#), Chair
Asian-Pacific Interest Section
State Bar of Texas



**ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION 20TH ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND RETREAT | APRIL 17-18, 2015
OMNI AUSTIN DOWNTOWN HOTEL | 700 SAN JACINTO, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Friday, April 17, 2015:

- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm** **Asian Law Students Association Leadership Meeting** (Omni Hotel) – Meet with other APA law students from throughout Texas. Please RSVP to ann@btfurnishings.com if you or your group would like to participate.
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm** **Welcome Social & Registration** (Location TBA) – Kick-off the Annual APIS Conference and Retreat by meeting and mingling with other APA lawyers and law students from across Texas.
- 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm** **Family-Friendly Dinner** (Location TBA) – Join us for a casual dinner with your family and friends. Please RSVP to ann@btfurnishings.com if you are attending and/or bringing guests.

Saturday, April 18, 2015:

Discounted Hotel Deadline: March 18
Registration Deadline: April 3

- 8:30 am – 9:30 am** **Registration & Breakfast** (Omni Hotel)
- 9:30 am – 3:00 pm** **CLE Conference** (Omni Hotel) – **5 hours CLE pending** (please register at least 20 minutes prior; includes lunch). Attend practical and informative CLEs presented by leading attorneys from across the State. Lunch will begin at 12:15pm and feature a special presentation and awards ceremony.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm** **Second Annual In-House Counsel Panel** (Omni Hotel) – **1 hour CLE pending**. Explore what these successful in-house counsel have been doing, what keeps them up at night, and what makes them tick. Bring your questions, and contribute to an active conversation among the panelists and attendees.
- 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm** **Museum Exploration & Austin Activities** – Spend the afternoon with your family and friends at the Texas Memorial Museum—with spectacular exhibits, including the largest flying creature ever found, the Texas Pterosaur—and the Bullock Texas State History Museum. Enjoy Austin: go on a downtown bike tour, get a massage, or just relax by the pool. Visit www.austintexas.org for more details.
- 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm** **APIS 20th Anniversary Gala & Awards Dinner** – Join us for an evening of cocktails, dining, cards, dice, and dancing. Additional tickets for this event may be purchased for \$60 per adult. Please RSVP to ann@btfurnishings.com if you are attending and/or bringing guests. Cocktail attire.

JADE PACKAGE – ALL EVENTS

\$ 50.00	Law-students
\$ 75.00	In-House, Gov't, & Public Interest Attorneys
\$ 125.00	APIS/NAPABA Members
\$ 150.00	Non-Members

GOLD – CLE CONFERENCE ONLY

\$ 25.00	Law-student rate
\$ 50.00	In-House, Gov't. & Public Interest Attorneys
\$ 85.00	APIS/NAPABA Members
\$ 110.00	Non-Members

APIS GALA – SATURDAY EVENING ONLY

\$60 per person

2015 APIS membership fee (if not already remitted)

\$15.00 (annual; per person)

****Student Volunteers receive free admission to all events upon commitment to assist for at least one four hour session. For details about time frame and duties, please contact APIS Vice-Chair Andy Chon at andrewjchon@gmail.com for details.**

*Conference fees do not include lodging. Attendees may take advantage of discounted hotel rates at the conference site, Omni Austin Downtown Hotel: \$209.00 per room, per night (before taxes). For reservations, please call 800-THE-OMNI and use code "APIS2015" or visit the reservation page https://ssl.omnihotels.com/Omni?Perseus_state=clear&lang_code=en-us&prop=AUSCTR&group_code=13600111724. **Discounted rate deadline is March 18, 2015.***

For questions or additional information, visit www.texasapis.org or contact:

Ann R. Chao, APIS Chair | (214) 808-6375 | ann@btfurnishings.com

**ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION 20TH ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND RETREAT | APRIL 17-18, 2015
OMNI AUSTIN DOWNTOWN HOTEL | 700 SAN JACINTO, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FEES WORKSHEET

Name: _____ Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ State Bar No: _____

Law Firm/Company/School: _____ Email: _____

<u>Package</u>	<u>Cost</u>		<u># of Tickets</u>		<u>Your Payment</u>
ALL EVENTS on Friday & Saturday	\$150 General Attendee	x	_____	=	_____
	\$125 APIS/NAPABA Members	x	_____	=	_____
	\$75 In-house, Gov't, Public	x	_____	=	_____
	\$50 Law Students	x	_____	=	_____
<u>A la Carte Events</u>	<u>Cost</u>		<u># of Tickets</u>		<u>Your Payment</u>
Saturday CLE Conference Only (includes luncheon)	\$110 General Attendee	x	_____	=	_____
	\$85 APIS/NAPABA Members	x	_____	=	_____
	\$50 In-house, Gov't, Public	x	_____	=	_____
	\$25 Law Students	x	_____	=	_____
Saturday Evening Gala & Awards Dinner Only	\$60 per person	x	_____	=	_____
1-year APIS Membership	\$ 15	x	_____	=	_____
					Total Payment

Please send registration form & payment by mail: State Bar of Texas, Attn: Sandra Carlson, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711-2487 or **by fax:** 512-427-4102

Make checks payable to: State Bar of Texas Asian Pacific Interest Section

To pay by credit card (check): ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

Credit Card No: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____ **CSV #:** _____

Name on Card (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____

**DISCOUNTED HOTEL RATE DEADLINE IS MARCH 18, 2015.
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 3, 2015.**

For questions or additional information, visit www.texasapis.org or contact:

Ann R. Chao, APIS Chair | (214) 808-6375 | ann@btfurnishings.com



**ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND RETREAT
APRIL 17-18, 2015 | OMNI AUSTIN DOWNTOWN HOTEL | AUSTIN, TEXAS**

SPONSORSHIP FORM

**Advertising Materials
Deadline: April 3**

\$5,000 Platinum Sponsor

- Six Complimentary Passes to all events at the Conference & Retreat; Four Additional Guest Passes for the APIS Gala
- Full page, premium-placement advertisement in retreat program and headline recognition during CLE and APIS Gala
- Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor in the *Texas Bar Journal* and on the APIS website
- Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor to local Asian American bar associations across Texas
- Use of firm/company logo in program materials, on the APIS website, and on signs displayed during the Conference

\$2,500 Diamond Sponsor

- Four Complimentary Passes to all events at the Conference & Retreat; Two Additional Guest Passes for the APIS Gala
- Full page advertisement in retreat program given to all Conference attendees
- Recognition as a Diamond Sponsor in the *Texas Bar Journal* and on the APIS website
- Recognition as a Diamond Sponsor to local Asian American bar associations across Texas
- Use of firm/company logo in program materials, on the APIS website, and on signs displayed during the Conference

\$1,500 Gold Sponsor

- Three Complimentary Passes to all events at the Conference & Retreat
- One-half page advertisement in retreat program given to all Conference attendees
- Recognition as a Gold Sponsor in the *Texas Bar Journal* and on the APIS website
- Recognition as a Gold Sponsor to local Asian American bar associations across Texas
- Use of firm/company logo in program materials, on the APIS website, and on signs displayed during the Conference

\$1,000 Silver Sponsor

- Two Complimentary Passes to all events at the Conference & Retreat
- Half page advertisement in retreat program given to all Conference attendees
- Recognition as a Silver Sponsor in the *Texas Bar Journal* and on the APIS website
- Recognition as a Silver Sponsor to local Asian American bar associations across Texas
- Use of firm/company logo in program materials, on the APIS website, and on signs displayed during the Conference

\$500 Bronze Sponsor

- One Complimentary Pass to all events at the Conference & Retreat
- Quarter page advertisement in retreat program given to all Conference attendees
- Recognition as a Bronze Sponsor in the *Texas Bar Journal* and on the APIS website
- Recognition as a Bronze Sponsor to local Asian American bar associations across Texas
- Use of firm/company logo in program materials, on the APIS website, and on signs displayed during the Conference

\$150 Friend of APIS/NAPABA Sponsor

- Recognition in retreat program given to all Conference attendees
- Recognition as a Friend Sponsor in the *Texas Bar Journal* and on the APIS website
- Recognition as a Friend Sponsor to local Asian American bar associations across Texas
- Use of firm/company logo in program materials, on the APIS website, and on signs displayed during the Conference

Law Firm/Company: _____ Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please Select Your Sponsorship Level: _____ Platinum _____ Diamond _____ Gold _____ Silver _____ Bronze _____ Friend of APIS

Circle Payment: _____ Check Enclosed _____ AMEX _____ MasterCard _____ VISA

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to "Asian Pacific Interest Section, State Bar of Texas."

Remit Sponsorship Form and Payment to: Sandra Carlson, State Bar of Texas Accounting, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711-2487.


Remit Logo/Advertisement to: Sadaf Usmani, *Secretary*, at susmani@luminexcorp.com (Subject Line: "APIS Logo")

For additional information, visit www.texasapis.org or contact: Ann R. Chao, *Chair* (214.808.6375; ann@btfurnishings.com)



**NIGHT
MARKET**

March 27 | 6:30 – 9:30 pm | FREE

Sponsored by:  American First National Bank

THE OTHER SIDE

Chinese and Mexican Immigration to America

EXHIBITION ON VIEW
MARCH 28 – JULY 19, 2015

Asia Society Texas Center
1370 Southmore Boulevard | 713.496.9901 | AsiaSociety.org/Texas



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

