



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA, INC.

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Celebrating Over Twenty-Five Years of Professional and Community Service

1981 - 2008

APABA-DC President's Address



APABA-DC set forth an ambitious agenda for the 2007-08 term. I am happy to report that we have made great progress in achieving the goals that we set for ourselves to better serve you and to highlight issues that affect our community. We hope that you will continue to support us as we work to support you and our community as a whole.

Services

With respect to the services that APABA-DC provides its members, I am pleased to announce that APABA-DC, for the first time outside of the NAPABA Convention and Southeast Regional Conference, will offer Continuing Legal Education programming at a discounted rate for its members. Our inaugural CLE program, an ethics panel, will take place on May 20, 2008. Also, our in-house counsel committee will hold its inaugural event in May, culminating months of planning and outreach.

Issues

APABA-DC has also made important strides in drawing attention to issues affecting our members. On April 11, 2008, APABA-DC, for the first time, sponsored a panel at the biennial District of Columbia Judicial & Bar Conference. Our panel provided us with an invaluable opportunity to discuss with the legal community at large our hope that an APA judge be appointed to the D.C. federal or local bench. Additionally, we have continued our efforts to bring the D.C. legal market in line with other legal markets that have studied attrition rates for minority attorneys at law firms. Having informally coalesced with our fellow minority bar associations, APABA-DC has requested a meeting with the D.C. Bar to discuss the possibility of conducting an attrition study.

Your Part

Your commitment to APABA-DC is crucial to its success. Not only is it important that APABA-DC provide services for junior attorneys, it is equally important that seasoned and experienced attorneys participate in and shape our programming. While demands on your time may build as your career progresses, your involvement will benefit you and others, and need not involve a major time commitment. You could showcase your expertise by serving on a panel in your field of practice, both providing you with exposure and providing our members with valuable insight and guidance. You could mentor a junior attorney or expand your professional network through participating in the Partner's Forum. Additionally, the longer that you have practiced, the more likely that you will have influence that APABA-DC can leverage in advancing the interests of our community. We encourage all of you, if you desire, to join a committee and submit your ideas for programming.

Once again, thank you for your continued support this year.

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Washington DC Dragon Boat Festival (May 17-18, 2008)

APABA-DC will once again participate in the annual DC Dragon Boat Festival on May 17-18, 2008, at the Thompson's Boathouse Center near the Georgetown/Kennedy Center Waterfront. This year we have 24 paddlers and alternates competing for APABA-DC. Practices for the paddlers are scheduled for April and May. Join in the fun! Come out on the race days to cheer us on!

Recent Events Community Affairs



Vietnamese American Community Service Center Holiday Party.



Marita Etcubanez, Liz Lee and Priya Nair collected and wrapped close to 50 toys for the youth of the Vietnamese American Community Service Center. Marita delivered these gifts to VACSC's holiday party held on December 18, 2007.

APABA-DC organized a holiday toy drive for the youth of the Vietnamese American Community Service Center (VACSC). The VACSC is a non-profit organization that provides cultural, educational, recreational and other programs to promote the cultural heritage and enhance the quality of life of Vietnamese Americans in the District of Columbia. Through its after-school program, the VACSC provides a safe environment for youth, many of whom live in D.C. neighborhoods known for drugs and violence, to access tutoring and participate in field trips and cultural events. For more information about the VACSC, please see their website: www.vacsc.org.

Recent Events Holiday Party



Holiday Dinner (December 11, 2007)

APABA-DC held its annual Holiday Dinner at Gordon Biersch on December 11, 2007. Close to 40 members and friends enjoyed the food, festive décor and good conversation. Many attendees got into the holiday spirit by generously donating unwrapped toys and money for APABA-DC's Toy Drive benefiting the youth of the Vietnamese American Community Service Center.

Recent Events Programs Committee



On January 24, 2008, APABA-DC's Practicing Attorney Resource Committee hosted an evening of "speed networking" at Wiley Rein LLP. Over 30 local attorneys "worked the room" at the event, rotating conversation partners every 6-8 minutes at the ringing of a bell. The evening culminated in a reception generously provided for by Wiley Rein. The Practicing Attorney Resource Committee wishes to thank Wiley Rein LLP for supporting this event for the second year in a row.

APABA-DC Maryland and Virginia Happy Hour & Fundraiser (February 28, 2008)

On February 28, 2008, over 50 APABA-DC, MD and VA members mingled and networked at a joint happy hour held at Cafe Asia. Many members participated in our Fundraiser by introducing non-members and new members to the APABA organizations.



Arthur Stein

Financial Planning Seminar: Insulating Yourself Against Financial Hard Times (March 5, 2008)

APABA-DC organized a Financial Planning Seminar on March 5, 2008 at the law firm, Greenberg Traurig. The seminar titled, "Insulating Yourself Against Financial Hard Times" addressed timely concerns given the current changes in the economy. Arthur Stein, of the West Financial Group, provided practical steps toward financial security and discussed important topics such as investing and refinancing mortgages. The evening concluded with a beneficial question and answer session.

Recent Events Women's Forum

The Women's Forum held an event on January 22, 2008, at Bingham McCutchen on Interviewing Tips for Lateral Candidates and Students. The presenters were Mieko Rechka, Legal Recruiting Manager, Bingham McCutchen, Hsinyu Yu, Attorney Recruitment Manager for the Office of Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, and Claire Raj, Assistant Director, Public Interest Specialist Office of Career & Professional Development, American University, Washington College of Law. Each panelist provided an insider's perspective on the process of lateral hiring in the private sector, federal government and public interest organizations. The panelists also provided advice to prospective applicants. The panel was followed by a lively Q & A session.

Announcements New Partners

APABA-DC congratulates Jeffrey Gee on his promotion to partner at Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, PLC and Sanya Sukduang on his promotion to partner at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP.

If you have an announcement for a future newsletter, please contact Sanya Sukduang at sanya.sukduang@finnegan.com.



Jeffrey Gee



Sanya Sukduang

First Annual WCL Asian Pacific Americans and the Law Dinner



APABA-DC was proud to cosponsor the 1st Annual Asian Pacific Americans and the Law Dinner with the Washington College of Law's chapter of APALSA. The keynote speaker, Bill Tamayo, regional attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, highlighted the historical contributions of APAs to the legal field, the legacy of discrimination in the United States, and the ongoing work needed in order to ensure justice and equality for all communities. The dinner honored WCL alumnus and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Vincent Eng, and third-year law student and recipient of the Student Service Award, Amy Tai, for their commitment and dedication

to serving the APA community. The inaugural dinner drew a diverse crowd of over a hundred, which included law students, faculty, community advocates, lawyers, congressional staff, and judges.

A Disciplined Approach to Financial Success

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A DISCIPLINED APPROACH TO FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Tracey Shen & Laura Truncellito,
Financial Planner, Prudential Financial

Over the years in our financial planning practice, we have found five principles to personal financial success:

Principle One: Know Yourself

Ideally, you should consult with a professional financial planner to map out a comprehensive strategy. But with personal commitment and perhaps some sacrifice, you can take several steps on your own to build a successful financial game plan. Calculate your assets – cash, IRAs, mutual funds, real estate, life insurance – and your liabilities, like a mortgage or consumer debt and deferred income taxes on investments. Prioritize your objectives by what's most important to you. Determine your current tax bracket and understand its implications for your strategy.

Principle Two: Start Saving Now

Assuming an average 8% annual return and a retirement age of 65, every dollar saved at age 25 is worth nearly five times as much as a dollar saved at 45! Take full advantage of any employer match in any qualified savings program offered by your employers.

Principle Three: Take Stock of the Market

Although past performance is no guarantee of future results, investments in the stock market have historically produced

A Disciplined Approach to Financial Success, continued

superior returns over time. Mutual funds are probably the best way to start in the stock market. Find one that's well managed and meets the risk profile you will be comfortable with. If you can, sign up for the built-in discipline of a monthly automatic investment program. This will not only allow you to take advantage of dollar cost averaging, but may help you avoid the investment minimums otherwise required by some mutual fund companies. Also, if you choose a fund, plan to stick with it for a while. Remember even the best financial pros have trouble timing the market

Principle Four: Curb Your Credit Cards

If your total monthly debt payments (excluding your mortgage payments) are 20% or more of your monthly take-home pay, you're probably overextended. Analyze your debts and see if any of the interest rates are more than the after-tax return on your invested savings. If they are, it makes sense to pay off these loans out of your savings. If you can't pay off your credit cards in full every month to avoid paying interest, shop around for the card with the lowest available rate.

Principle Five: Be Wise with Windfalls

If you come up with a significant lump sum – a bonus, an inheritance, or maybe even a mid-size lottery win – try to resist the urge to buy the hot sports car you've always dreamed of. Your long-term financial future will probably be a lot rosier, although not quite so dashing, if you plow at least part of it into a mutual fund or an IRA.

Principle Six: Keep Current

Financial markets are a dynamic, fluid environment. That, combined with the impact of major life events such as births, deaths, inheritances, or new jobs, make it imperative that you carefully review your strategy every year or so. Naturally, your review should be rigorous and disciplined, just like any successful game plan.

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AEF Celebrates 15th Anniversary



AEF CELEBRATES 15th ANNIVERSARY BY RAISING OVER \$99,000 FOR PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS

By Taron Murakami, AEF Secretary

The Asian American legal community gathered at the National Press Club on March 28, 2008 for the APABA Educational Fund (AEF)'s Annual Benefit Dinner. AEF celebrated its 15th Anniversary by grossing a record amount of over \$99,300 through an unprecedented number of sponsorships from law firms, corporations, individuals, and other organizations, as well as live and silent auctions held during the Dinner.

AEF Celebrates 15th Anniversary, cont.

The 15th Anniversary Dinner was hosted by NBC4 news anchor, Eun Yang. She presented AEF's 2008 Community Service Award to Professor Carol Izumi, Clinical Director at the George Washington University Law School. Professor Izumi is also a founding member of AEF. The Honorable William Tong, Connecticut state representative and the first Asian American to be elected at the state level in Connecticut's history, delivered the keynote address. Representative Tong, childhood friend of APABA-DC Board Member Woo Lee, spoke about the importance of giving back to our communities and "signing up" for the challenge.

In a special presentation, Jim Ho, Senior Manager, Asian Marketing & Community Relations at Anheuser-Busch, recognized past recipients of the AEF Anheuser-Busch Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship and presented AEF with a check for \$7,000. Secretary Norman Y. Mineta participated in the presentation.

Mona Sahaf, a lawyer at Hogan & Hartson, provided live musical entertainment during the cocktail hour, when guests bid on the many silent auction items. AEF Board members Vasu Muthyala and Betty Chia encouraged the audience to bid on items during the live auction, which included tickets to the Washington Nationals, a Nintendo Wii, and a Vietnamese painting donated by Galerie Brigitte.

AEF would like to thank the numerous sponsors of this year's Dinner for helping AEF to achieve its best fundraising year ever, including the many APABA-DC members who reached out to their firms and organizations. "The outpouring of support we received in honor of AEF's 15th anniversary is truly humbling," said AEF President Sujit Raman. "We are incredibly grateful that so many entities and individuals have come together to celebrate AEF and to promote so generously its mission."

The AEF Board is looking forward to distributing this year's fellowships to deserving law students. Applications will be accepted until April 30. (Since its inception, AEF has awarded over \$100,000 in such fellowships). In addition, AEF is looking for four enthusiastic individuals to serve on the 2008-2010 AEF Board. The application deadline is May 2.

For applications and for more information about AEF, please visit our website: www.aefdc.org.

APABA-DC Congratulates Grace Chung Becker and Jessie K. Liu

On November 15, 2007, President Bush nominated Grace Chung Becker to head the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. She is currently serving as Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division. Ms. Becker previously served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the division. Prior to this position, she served as Associate Deputy General Counsel at the Department of Defense and as a prosecutor with the Department of Justice. Earlier in her career, Ms. Becker clerked for Judge James L. Buckley on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Ms. Becker received her bachelor's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Wharton School of Finance. She received her JD from the Georgetown University Law Center.

APABA-DC Congratulates Grace Chung Becker and Jessie K. Liu, cont.

Jessie K. Liu is a deputy assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, where she oversees the Appellate and Housing and Civil Enforcement Sections. She previously served as counsel to the Deputy Attorney General and deputy chief of staff in the National Security Division, as well as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. Prior to her service in the Department of Justice, she was an associate at Jenner & Block, LLP and a law clerk to the Honorable Carolyn Dineen King, then Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She received her bachelor's degree from Harvard University and her JD from Yale Law School.

We congratulate both Ms. Becker and Ms. Liu, both members of APABA-DC, on their leadership positions in the Department of Justice and appreciate their contributions to the enforcement of civil rights.

Calendar of Events

April

- 4/24/08: Thursday: (6:30-8 p.m.): PAR Committee Meeting (Teaism, DC)
- 4/27/08: Sunday (2:30 p.m.): Dragon Boat Race Practice (Anacostia Community Boathouse)
- 4/30/08: Wednesday: Government Attorney Forum and Federal Bar Association Joint Happy Hour (Buffalo Billiards)
- *Law Schools-Final exams from 4/28/08-5/10/08

May

- First week (lunch): Women's Forum Work-life Balance Roundtable Lunch
- 5/01/08: Thursday: (6:30-8:30 p.m.): APABA-MD Dinner (Sam Woo, Rockville, MD)
- 5/02/08: Friday: Deadline for AEF Board Applications
- 5/06/08: Tuesday: (6:00 p.m.): BOD Meeting
- 5/10/08: Saturday: (11:30am): Dragon Boat Race Practice (Anacostia Community Boathouse)
- 5/13/08: Tuesday: Movie: "The Cats of Mirikitani" (Wiley Rein Main Conference Center)
- 5/17/08: Saturday: NAPABA Regional Affiliates Dinner
- 5/17-18/08: Saturday & Sunday (all day): Dragon Boat Race-2 Days
- 5/20/08: Tuesday: Professional Responsibility for Government Attorneys CLE
- 5/22/08: Thursday: Dragon Boat Race Celebration Dinner (Buco Di Beppo)
- Last two weeks: In-house Counsel Forum Kick-off Event
- *Law Schools-Final exams from 4/28/08-5/20/08



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