



Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington DC Area, Inc.

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

SPRING 2009

President's Letter	1
DOJ Honors Program Event	1
2008-09 Board of Directors	2
In-House Counsel Panel	2
Government Attorneys Forum Event	3
AEF Annual Benefit Dinner	3
Real Estate Seminar	4
Lunar New Year Photos	5
Speed Networking Event	8
Community Announcements	8

President's Letter

As members of the APABA-DC community, we have had much to be proud of these past few months.

Several of our members have been appointed or nominated to serve in positions in the current Administration. Notably, President Obama has nominated Ivan K. Fong, former APABA-DC president (1993-1994), as General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and designated Stuart J. Ishimaru as Acting Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Most recently, the President announced the nomination of Florence Pan and Magistrate Judge Marisa Demeo, both endorsed by APABA-DC, as Associate Judges in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. Florence's nomination is particularly significant for the Asian Pacific American community in the District of Columbia because, once confirmed, she will be the first Asian Pacific American to serve on the local bench in the District.

Even as we celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow members, friends, and colleagues, we must remain vigilant in ensuring that the interests and concerns of the Asian Pacific American community in the District are heard and represented.

Just a couple weeks ago, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton announced the formation of her Federal Law Enforcement Nominating Commission, which is responsible



Rosy Lor
APABA-DC President, 2008-2009

for vetting candidates for Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the Office of the U.S. Marshal, and similar federal offices for the District of Columbia. The 17 members of the Commission are well-respected members in the local community and have diverse backgrounds, reflecting balance in gender and including representation of African and Hispanic Americans.

Unfortunately, the Commission lacks representation from the Asian Pacific American community. We have written to Congresswoman Norton to express APABA-DC's disappointment in the lack of Asian Pacific American representation on the Commission and hope to work with her to ensure that a member of our community is included.

While APABA-DC works on this matter, I am pleased to inform you that we are also planning a number of events

and programs for you.

We hosted a Speed Networking event on the 16th; upcoming April events include a Partners' Forum event on the 23rd, and a program on the current real estate market on the 29th. On May 16-17, we will be celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month by competing in the Annual D.C. Dragon Boat Race for the third year in a row.

I hope to see you at these events. Please check www.apaba-dc.org regularly for information about future events and news about the organization

Rosy Lor
<president@apaba-dc.org>

APABA-DC Sponsors Panel For Students On DOJ Attorney General's Honors Program

On April 9, 2009, the Government Attorneys' Forum and the Bar Association of the District of Columbia (BADC) Diversity & Inclusion Committee sponsored an informational panel on the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Attorney General's Honors Program and Summer Law Intern Program at the offices of Howrey, LLP.



Approximately fifty students from D.C.-area law schools – including the Washington College of Law (American University), Georgetown University, and the University of Maryland – joined Department of Justice attorneys in a

lively panel discussion and networking session. The panel featured Deana Willis, Assistant Director of the Office of Attorney Recruitment and Management; Justin Smith, Assistant Section Chief of the Law and Policy Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD); Lana

Continued on page 7.

APABA-DC 2008-2009 Board of Directors



Rosy Lor
President
Internal Revenue Service



Tacie Yoon
President-Elect
Crowell & Moring LLP



Leah E. Frazier
Imm. Past President
Federal Trade Commission



Lei Mei
VP, Communications
Mei & Mark LLP



Margaret Hu
VP, Membership
United States Department of Justice



Grace Wu
VP, Programs
Nixon Peabody LLP



Vacant
VP, Comm. Affairs



Peter Ohr
Judicial Nominations
National Labor Relations Board



David Hsu
Secretary
United States Securities & Exchange Commission



Elbert Lin
Treasurer
Wiley Rein LLP



Sujit Raman
Newsletter Editor
U.S. Attorney's Office



Phong Nguyen
Partners Forum;
Judicial Nominations
Baker Hostetler LLP



Sanya Sukduang
Partners Forum
Finnegan



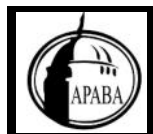
Stephanie Yu
Government Attorneys Forum
Environmental Protection Agency



Kris Dighe
Government Attorneys Forum
U.S. Dept. of Justice



Mimi Rajapakse
Practicing Attorney Resource
National Labor Relations Board



Priya Nair
Practicing Attorney Resource
BNA, Inc.



Marita Etcubañez
Women's Forum
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center



Tessie Abraham
Women's Forum
Office of Congressman Lee Terry



Susan Kim
In House Counsel Committee
Affiliated Computer Services, Inc.



Benjamin Roca
In House Counsel Committee
Northrup Grumman



Taron Murakami
APABA Educational Fund (AEF), *ex officio*
Seyfarth Shaw LLP



Paul T. Kim
NAPABA South-east Regional Governor

Institutional affiliations are provided for identification purposes only.

In-House Counsel Committee Hosts Panel

On March 11, 2009, APABA-DC's In-House Counsel Committee presented a panel discussion on "How To Get An In-House Counsel Job," from an insider's perspective.

The event was held at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) on Pennsylvania Avenue and was hosted by Bill Fang, Deputy General Counsel at EEI.

The panel included in-house counsel, Sharon Alavi, Corporate Counsel at Network Solutions, and Matthew Benz, Manager-Regulatory Affairs at France Telecom, and legal recruiters Diana Rubin, Managing Director of Ma-



lor, Lindsey & Africa, and Nancy Palermo, President and Principal of Garrison & Sisson. Benjamin Roca, Senior Counsel at Northrop Grumman, moderated.

Through a lively exchange, the audience members received valuable advice about how to seek a position as in-house counsel,

and what skills are particularly attractive to a potential employer. In light of the current economy, employers are in a position to select from a large pool of qualified candidates. In one instance, over 300 resumes were submitted for a single opening advertised on the Association of Corporate Counsel's web-

site. So what is a job-seeker supposed to do?

Nancy Palermo stated that "people hire the people they like," and to this extent, a friendly demeanor is always an asset in the interview process. This may seem obvious, but part of the interview proc-

Continued on page 6.

"People hire the people they like..."

Nancy Palermo
Garrison & Sisson, Inc.

Government Attorneys Forum Sponsors EEOC Report Discussion

On March 16, 2009, the Government Attorneys Forum sponsored a program at Drinker Biddle and Reath LLP entitled "A Discussion on the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Work Group Report on Federal Asian American and Pacific Islander Employment."

Speaking was Ms. Jacinta Ma, Senior Advisor to Acting EEOC Chair Stuart J. Ishimaru. Ms. Ma also has served as a Legal and Policy Advocacy Associate at The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

The report, which is publicly available at

www.eeoc.gov/federal/report/aapi.html, was released in 2008 and addresses concerns about the representation of Asian Pacific Americans in federal sector employment, and formulated recommendations.

Ms. Ma discussed how the Work Group assembled its data, and some of the findings. In particular, there is a wide level of representation of the APA community depending upon the agency. Additionally, while some federal agencies have a substantial APA workforce, there appears to be a lack of APAs in upper management levels.

Ms. Ma entertained quite a few questions from the audience of over thirty. Some of

the questions concerned the "bamboo ceiling" APAs seem to face in the public sector, as well as the private sector. Other members of the audience talked about their own personal observations and

experience. After her presentation, Ms. Ma stayed and continued speak with attendees about the work of the Commission and what the future may hold.

— Kris Dighe

Programs Committee Update

It's the Year of the Ox, and APABA-DC organized a Happy Hour to celebrate Lunar New Year on January 26, 2009. More than fifty people celebrated at K Street Lounge, including Congressman Mike Honda. (Photos at pg. 5).

Thanks to David Chung, owner of the K Street Lounge, for offering space for this celebration and providing drink specials all night. The open layout and access to the entire bar offered a relaxed atmosphere which allowed friends to catch up and an opportunity to network as well!

APABA-DC also hosted a joint Happy Hour with the South Asian Bar Association of DC (SABA) on February 19, 2009.

This second annual joint Happy Hour took place at PS 7's and featured APABA and SABA's signature drink, the Sabapabatini. APABA-DC looks forward to co-hosting additional programs with SABA in the future.

— Grace Wu



APABA-DC Educational Fund Celebrates 16 Years Of Achievement

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (AEF) held its annual benefit dinner on March 26, 2009, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Over 200 members of the Asian Pacific American community attended the dinner this year. The dinner was hosted by Sherri Ly of Fox 5 News. Sunil Mansukhani, Executive Director of the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission, was the recipient of AEF's 2009 Community Service Award. Michelle Rhee, Chancellor of the District of Columbia Schools, delivered the keynote address. Ms. Rhee discussed some of the challenges facing the District of Co-

lumbia school system and her efforts to improve public education in the District of Columbia.



Dinner emcee Sherri Ly (Fox 5 News) presents Michelle Rhee, Chancellor of the D.C. Schools and AEF Annual Benefit Dinner keynote speaker, with an award.

At the dinner, AEF President Taron Murakami announced the creation of the AEF Bar Assistance Grant. This grant seeks to

provide financial assistance to recent law school graduates who are preparing to take the bar

exam prior to embarking on a legal career at a public interest or government organization that benefits either the Asian

Pacific American community and/or the metropolitan Washington, DC community-at-large. It consists of a \$1,500 stipend to be used for bar-related expenses and a reduced-fee course certificate for a BAR/BRI review course in the Eastern region, courtesy of a donation from BAR/BRI Bar Review.

The dinner featured silent and live auctions. Items for bid included airline tickets courtesy of Southwest Airlines, tickets to Capitals, Nationals, and Wizards sporting events, and artwork donated by Galerie Brigitte. An open bar featuring Anheuser-Busch products was do-

Continued on page 4.

AEF Celebrates 16 Years Of Achievement, cont.

Continued from page 3.

nated by Anheuser-Busch through Jim Ho, Senior Manager, Asian Marketing & Community Relations.

AEF thanks APABA-DC and its many supporters for making this one of the most successful fundraising years ever, despite the difficult economic times. "The AEF Board is excited that it will be able to offer its public interest fellowships and the new Bar Assistance

Grant this year when the need is so great," said AEF President, Taron Murakami. "Thank you to all our supporters for your generosity."

AEF is looking forward to distributing this year's fellowships to deserving law students and recent law graduates. (Since its inception, AEF has awarded over \$120,000 in such fellowships).

Applications for all of the 2009 fellowships, including the Bar Assistance

Grant, will be accepted until April 30, 2009.

In addition, AEF is looking for five enthusiastic individuals to serve on the 2009-2011 AEF Boards.

The application deadline is May 1, 2009. Applications are available at AEF's newly re-designed website: www.aefdc.org.

— David Johnson



2009 AEF Community Service Award honoree Sunil Mansukhani, with Sherri Ly.



The 2009-2010 Board of Directors of the APABA-DC Educational Fund (AEF).



Tacie Yoon (APABA-DC President-Elect), Judge Brian Kim, and AEF President Taron Murakami at the 2009 AEF Annual Benefit Dinner.



Real Estate Seminar

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, DC Area invites you to a discussion on the current real estate market

*Are you planning to purchase your first house? What do you need to know?
Is now a good time to buy an investment property?*

*Is now a good time to sell your house?
What home improvements will add value?*

*How much money will you qualify for?
How should you structure your mortgage?
Are you hoping to re-finance on your current property?*

When? April 29, 2009 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Where? Nixon Peabody LLP
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 900, Conference Room 9G
Washington, DC 20004

(Closest metro stations: Gallery Place/Chinatown; Federal Triangle)

Light appetizers will be served

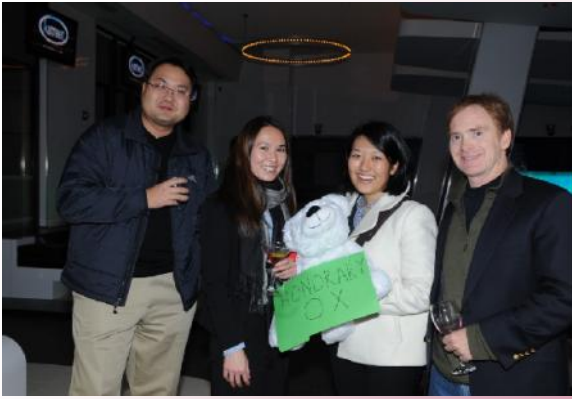
Please RSVP by April 24 to Grace C. Wu at

programs@apaba-dc.org

APABA-DC Lunar New Year Happy Hour

January 26, 2009

Photos by
Kris Ikejiri



To see more photos from the APABA-DC Lunar New Year Happy Hour,
log onto the APABA-DC page on facebook.com!

In-House Counsel Committee Hosts Panel, cont.

Continued from page 2.

ess is also evaluating whether you will fit within the corporate employer's culture and be able to easily adjust to their corporate philosophy. Companies will also want to make sure that you project the confidence needed to advise corporate clients and that you possess the talent to quickly and effectively provide necessary legal advice.

The panel stressed the fact that finding an in-house counsel position begins with understanding the business that you would support as an in-house counsel. By researching a company beforehand, and understanding its business practices and needs, you can demonstrate to an interviewer that you've taken the time to understand their corporate strategy and are better equipped to apply legal expertise to the issues of clients at their company.

Another requirement of being an in-house counsel is to provide legal advice on a wide



variety of issues. This requires you to research unfamiliar areas of law and present these concepts to business directors. Business managers need to make decisions based on their understanding of the law as their counsel presents it. As corporate counsel, you are expected to offer a succinct presentation of the law

without legal jargon or academic arguments.

The importance of pursuing networking opportunities was a predominant theme the panelists stressed in all examples of finding an in-house counsel position. In this economy, networking is a requirement. The contacts you make socially or professionally can identify non-advertised positions or provide a personal introduction that can bring your application to the forefront. Each of the panelists found their job opportunity through social contacts. Ms. Alavi shared her story of running into a previous supervisor at a wedding, which gave Ms. Alavi the opportunity to mention her current job search and career goals. Shortly thereafter, the former supervisor told Ms. Alavi about a position at his company, and he also provided a recommendation for her when she applied.

Ms. Rubin stated that you never know when or where you will meet someone -- or may meet someone who knows someone -- who can provide you with that in-house position you desire. Ms. Rubin and Mr. Roca also suggested preparing an "elevator speech." Because

that crucial contact may appear at any time, you should practice and be prepared to deliver at a moment's notice, a 30-second synopsis of your skill set and the type of opportunity you are seeking.

As to additional resources, Ms. Palermo recommended the online tool "LinkedIn,"

and mentioned the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's website, www.mcca.com, and www.inhouseblogs.com as useful job search resources. Ms. Rubin provided her own list of tips that she has developed over her extensive career in various law-



related fields.

When it comes to working with recruiters, both of the recruiter panelists suggested that a job-seeker submit their resume to several recruiters. Because many companies retain just one recruiter to fill their hiring needs, you will maximize your opportunities by applying to several different recruiters.

However, by the same token, it is important to make sure that multiple recruiters do not submit your resume multiple times to the same company. It could create a negative impression about you with a potential employer, and may cause some headaches for the company to properly compensate the source of your resume.

Because we are in a buyer's market, you should be careful about requesting a part-time or flexible work schedule. Ms. Palermo mentioned that because so many candidates are competing for a small number of openings,

part-time or work-at-home options are very rare these days. If you need a flexible schedule, you need to be flexible yourself and consider accepting a full-time position at the outset. After you've established yourself and demonstrated your value to the company, you can discuss the possibility of a more flexible work schedule. Another flexibility consideration is your willingness to commute or transition within a current position. This will likely broaden your job opportunities, especially

since many large companies are generally spread across the country.

Another type of recruiter the panelists discussed is an executive search firm, which limits its searches primarily to management positions. If you use an executive search firm as opposed to a legal recruiter, make sure the executive search firm has a legal department. Ms. Palermo mentioned three in the Washington, D.C. area that she would recommend. Also keep in mind these firms will not generally carry listings for mid-level in-house positions; they focus mainly on looking for talent at the Deputy GC and GC levels only.

If you would like further information regarding this panel discussion, or if you are interested in participating in this or other related activities, please contact the APABA-DC In-House Counsel Committee co-chairs, Benjamin Roca and Susan Kim, at in-house@apaba-dc.org.

— Benjamin Roca

APABA-DC Hosts DOJ Honors Program Event, cont.

Continued from Page 1.

Pettus, a Trial Attorney in the Environmental Crimes Section, ENRD; and Lauren Sun, a current honors attorney in the Antitrust Division.

Deana and Justin discussed the electronic application process for the honors program and summer law internship program, how to craft a compelling application, and the application review and interview process from the hiring committee's perspective.

Lana and Lauren then shared their experiences as honors program attorneys, which generally entailed significant responsibility and hands-on training.

The evening culminated in an informal networking session that followed the panel discussion, during which the law student attendees took advantage of the opportunity to meet and speak with the panelists and three additional current and former honors program attorneys:

- **Eric Beckenhauer**, Federal Programs Branch, Civil Division;
- **Jessie Moats**, Environmental Crimes Section, ENRD; and
- **Stephanie Talbert**, Environmental Defense Section, ENRD.

The Government Attorneys' Forum thanks Neil Dennis, Chair of the BADC Diversity & Inclusion Committee, and associate with Howrey, LLP, for hosting and co-sponsoring this program.

— Stephanie Yu



Clockwise, from top left: Lauren Sun, Neil Dennis, Justin Smith, Erick Beckenhauer, Jessie Moats, Lana Pettus, Stephanie Talbert, Tacie Yoon, Deanna Willis, Stephanie Yu





Community Announcements

Ivan K. Fong has been nominated by President Obama to serve as General Counsel of the Department of Homeland Security. Ivan served as APABA-DC President in 1993-1994.

Janet Shih Hajek has been elevated to Of Counsel with the law firm of Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Janet is a former President of APABA-DC (2005-2006) and is the current Co-Chair of the NAPABA Regional Conference Committee.

Stuart Ishimaru has been nominated by President Obama as Acting Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Stuart has served as an EEOC Commissioner since 2003.

Chris Kang has been appointed Special Assistant to President Obama for Legislative Affairs. Until January 2009, Chris served as APABA-DC Vice President for Community Affairs.

Mark Keam, former APABA-DC president (1999-2000), is running for the Virginia House of Delegates. The special election takes place June 9, 2009. For more information, go to www.markkeam.com.

Florence Pan has been nominated by President Obama to a judgeship on the D.C. Superior Court. Florence is currently Deputy Chief of the Appellate Section in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.



Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao (R-La)

American University's Washington College of Law hosted its second annual Asian Pacific American Law Students Association dinner, on March 17, 2009. APABA-DC co-sponsored the event. **Representative Anh "Joseph" Cao** (R-La) served as keynote speaker. APABA-DC President **Rosy Lor** was honored as the recipient of the 2009 WCL APALSA Distinguished Service/Alumni Award. Congratulations, Rosy!



The Practicing Attorneys' Resource Committee of APABA-DC met for a planning dinner on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at Gordon Biersch in downtown Washington, D.C. In attendance were: (pictured clockwise from left) Mimi Rajapakse, Annette Kwok, Amy Yeung, Tacie Yoon, Justin Pan, Philip Olaya, David Hsu, Tim Farrell (not pictured), and Priya Nair (not pictured).

