



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

Volume 2, Issue 2

President's Letter

Happy New Year!

We bid farewell to 2008, remembering with pride the historical milestones of the year, such as the election of President-elect Barack Obama, the first African American to become President of the United States.

We also reflect upon the economic challenges facing the country, which have reached historic proportions this year, with hope that 2009 will bring with it the innovation and determination we need as a nation to stabilize the economy.

With your help, APABA-DC was able to conclude 2008 on a high note by raising enough money to donate 250



Rosy Lor

APABA-DC President, 2008-2009

books to children who participate in the programs provided by Asian American LEAD and the Vietnamese American Community Service Center. Thank you for sharing the holiday spirit with your generosity.

APABA-DC will be celebrat-

ing 2009 and the Lunar New Year on January 26th at the K Street Lounge. Details on our New Year celebration are included in this newsletter. I hope to see you there.

Please also remember to renew your membership for 2009. Information about membership and renewal can be found at www.apaba-dc.org. You are APABA-DC. APABA-DC needs your support in order to continue the programs, events, and services it provides to you and the community.

Best wishes to you and I look forward to a productive year as we welcome 2009.

Rosy Lor

<president@apaba-dc.org>

Winter 2008-2009

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APABA-DC Celebrates Holiday Season With Annual Dinner and Book Drive

APABA-DC celebrated the holiday season with its annual Holiday Dinner on December 16, 2008.

Grillfish, located in the DuPont Circle area, hosted the event. As part of its Holiday Book Drive, APABA-DC collected approximately 30 donated books between the Friendraiser and the Holiday Dinner, and approximately \$300 in donations. APABA-DC's VP of Community Affairs donated

additional funds to the Book Drive.

As a result, APABA-DC delivered over 250 books to Asian American LEAD and the Vietnamese American Community Service Center. Each book carries inside it a label reading, "Happy holidays from the Asian



APABA-DC members celebrate the end of the year, and the beginning of 2009, at the annual holiday dinner.



Pacific American Bar Association of DC! - December 2008."

APABA-DC would like to thank all those individuals who donated books, money, and their

time in making this a special holiday season for the children at these two organizations.

— Grace Wu

For more photos from the annual Holiday Dinner, please see page 5.

APABA-DC 2008-2009 Board of Directors



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APABA Members Sworn Into U.S. Supreme Court Bar

APABA-DC, in conjunction with APABA-LA, offered its members an opportunity to participate in a group swearing in ceremony at the United States Supreme Court on December 15, 2008.

A member of the Supreme Court Bar, Mr. Raymond Mushal, sponsored the APABA Group. The Group waited in the West Waiting Room which had oil portraits of the most recent USSC Chief Justices. The Supreme Court Clerk, William K. Suter, greeted them and provided the script and format for the ceremony.

Mr. Suter then ushered them into the courtroom and the Group sat on the left side, inside the bar in the order in which their names were called. Once everyone was inside, Mr. Suter announced, "Oyez, oyez, oyez, the Court is now in session!" and everyone rose. Six justices appeared and were seated, in-



cluding Chief Justice Roberts, and Associate Justices Thomas, Kennedy, Ginsburg, Souter, and Alito.

The Court then proceeded with the admission ceremony. It announced Mr. Mushal, and he approached the podium.

Mr. Mushal followed the script to announce the names of the candidates. Each member stood as his or her name was called, and then sat down. After all of the candidates were pre-

sented, Mr. Suter asked all candidates to rise again and to be sworn in.

The Justices congratulated and welcomed the APABA Group before leaving the courtroom. Lisa M. Kitagawa, one of the APABA-LA members who was sworn in, stated "The admission ceremony took about eight minutes to complete, but it took a lifetime to get there."

Members of APABA-DC and APABA-LA had an opportunity to

"The admission ceremony took about eight minutes to complete, but it took a lifetime to get there."

Lisa M. Kitagawa (APABA-LA)

network over dinner at Clyde's (Gallery Place) the night before the ceremony. Both affiliates hope that the success of this year's event will be the beginning of an annual tradition.

APABA-DC would like to thank Ms. Kitagawa for providing the details of the swearing in ceremony and Kris Dighe for requesting Mr. Mushal to sponsor the APABA group.

— Grace Wu

APABA-DC Sponsors Book Reading By Lora Jo Foo

On October 30th, APABA-DC sponsored a Book Reading featuring Lora Jo Foo, who read selections from her latest book, "Earth Passages," a memoir told through vignettes and nature photography. Her reading was accompanied by a display of photographs from her book.

The event was held at Teatism, and copies of "Earth Passages" were made available for sale by Politics & Prose Bookstore. At the conclusion of the reading, Ms. Foo answered questions and signed books for members of

the audience.

Lora Jo Foo is a nationally-recognized civil rights attorney and labor organizer who

member organizations dedicated to eliminating sweatshop conditions in the garment industry. She also is the au-



had worked as a garment worker in San Francisco's Chinatown from the age of 11.

She is a founding sister of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum as well as the founder of Sweatshop Watch, a coalition of

thor of *Asian American Women: Issues, Concerns, and Responsive Human and Civil Rights Advocacy*.

Co-sponsors of the event included the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, Teatism, Politics &

Prose Bookstore, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance – DC Chapter, the Asia Society-Washington Center, and the International Forum of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

— Marita Etcubañez

"Developing and Maintaining A Harmonious Counsel-Client Relationship"

On October 16, 2008, the In-House Counsel Committee and the Partners Forum sponsored a seminar at Greenberg Traurig LLP entitled "Developing and Maintaining a Harmonious Counsel-Client Relationship: An Insider Perspective."

The panelists included Anand Sharma, partner at Finnegan; Willard Tom, partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; Kris Ikejiri, former in-house counsel at Contract Freighters, Inc; and Atul Saran, VP-Legal Affairs at MedImmune/Astra Zeneca. Ben Roca, in-house counsel at Northrop Grumman, served as moderator.

Atul pointed out that he is both the counsel to his in-house clients and also the client to the outside counsel. He stressed that it was important for outside counsel to understand what the client's goals are and to help them achieve it. The job of

the outside counsel is not to advise that the client cannot do something, but rather to provide alternative solutions



to the issues. Atul also pointed out that outside counsel must understand that he has budgets constraints and that he does not like to be surprised by a bill. He said that he understands

sometimes it is necessary to go over budget, but he would appreciate a call before going over the

budget. He noted that he spends a lot of his time on budget issues.

Kris likes for his outside counsel to come and visit him and the company. This way the outside counsel can

better understand the client's business and goals. Kris also likes his outside counsel to provide estimates for the work to be performed so that he can make sure he stays within his budget. Kris noted that he lacks the time to spend even 45 minutes with outside counsel assessing every last risk to his company.

Anand agrees that it is important to know the client's business so that you can tailor the relationship better. He notes that partners spend a lot of time on non-billable work such as client development, getting to know the client better and running reports for the client.

Will believes that the outside counsel and the in-house counsel should align interests. He often helps on budget issues by offering

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Developing and Maintaining A Harmonious Counsel-Client Relationship, cont.

Continued from page 3.

various billing alternatives such as results based billing. Willard also advised that outside counsel should anticipate in-house counsel's needs and that there should not be any "surprises" on the bills to the in-house counsel.

Ben mentioned the impending "economic crisis," and its effects on maintaining harmonious client-counsel relationships in this type of environment. He asked the group to give some "creative" examples of things that have

been done to maintain this relationship.

Kris mentioned "free" training sessions to his in-house staff and Anand mentioned that the client provided support for document review and production. By assisting in the discovery production, the client was able to reduce the cost.

When asked what the in-house counsels look for in hiring their staff, Kris mentioned that the applicants have to have a "fit" with the organization's culture and a personality that "fits" with the different types of clients in that organization. Atul mentioned that for in-house positions, he assumes that the legal

expertise is already there and wants to hear more about the applicant's passions and understanding of the type of business that their company is in.

Overall the audience gained invaluable in-sights as to what an in-house counsel deals with on a day to day basis and what partners deal with in order to keep their clients happy in this economic environment.

— Phong Nguyen



Lunar New Year Happy Hour!

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, DC Area invites you to a Lunar New Year Happy Hour!

When?

January 26, 2009 (6:30 – 9:30 pm)

Where?

K Street Lounge
1301 K St NW
Washington, DC 20005

(Closest metro stations: McPherson Square and Metro Center)

Why?

To celebrate the Year of the Ox!

Need Other Reason?

Drink Specials: \$4 Domestic and \$5 Cosmos!

Special thanks to **Linda Jeng-Braun** for organizing this event. See you all there!

Please RSVP by January 23rd to Grace C. Wu at programs@apaba-dc.org

APABA-DC Winter 2008 Holiday Party



Photos
by
Kris
Ikejiri



To see more photos from the APABA-DC Holiday Party,
log onto the APABA-DC page on facebook.com!

facebook

Join us on facebook.com!

- (1) Login at www.facebook.com
- (2) Search for "APABA-DC"
- (3) Add us as a "friend" and keep updated with our events!



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

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc. ("APABA-DC") is an organization of over 300 members comprised of attorneys, law professors, law students, government officials, and other interested individuals. We are an organization dedicated to serving our members and advocating for the legal needs and interests of the Asian Pacific American community, the greater Washington D.C. area, and the legal profession.

We want to hear from you!

Newsletter articles (300 words or less) and Announcements (100 words or less) may be emailed to newsletter@apaba-dc.org.

Any opinions expressed in the APABA-DC newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect APABA-DC policy or editorial concurrence.

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The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, DC Area & The South Asian Bar Association of DC invite you to a Joint Happy Hour!

When?

Thursday, February 19 (6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Where?

PS 7's

777 I (Eye) St, NW

(Closest Metro Station: Gallery Place-Chinatown)

Why?

Drink Special: Sabapabatini

Special thanks to Jennifer Hwa and Habib Ilahi for organizing this event. See you all there!

Please RSVP by January 23rd to Grace C. Wu at programs@apaba-dc.org