NAPABA Celebrates the Success of Three Regional Conferences

As NAPABA and its local affiliates have grown over the years, the breadth and depth of the programs and services has also grown. In addition to the Annual Convention, NAPABA also started providing Regional Conferences hosted by local affiliates. Regional Conferences play a very important role for NAPABA and its members. They provide members who attend the Annual Convention an opportunity to network and obtain CLE credits between national conventions. Additionally, for members who are not able to attend the national convention, the Regional Conferences offer a valuable alternative for obtaining many of the benefits of the National Convention in a more limited way. Finally, for many APA lawyers devoted to their affiliates, but who are not familiar with NAPABA and what it has to offer, the Regional Conferences enable them to have a very positive first introduction to the national organization.

NAPABA affiliates, working with NAPABA’s staff and board, hosted three conferences this year – in Atlantic City, Miami, and San Diego. The four host affiliates did a magnificent job. Next year, NAPABA will add at least a fourth Regional Conference – one in the Central Region hosted by NAPABA Minnesota in the Twin Cities. If your affiliate would like to host a Regional Conference, contact your Regional Governor. And if you did not make it to a Regional this year – you should not miss out on the experience next year.

Finally, of course, we hope to see you this November at the National Convention in Las Vegas!

NE Regional Conference in Atlantic City Inspires and Motivates Attendees

by E. Michael Angulo

On April 13th & 14th, APALA/NJ proudly hosted the NAPABA NE Regional Conference in Atlantic City, NJ. The conference theme, ALL IN, resonated throughout the conference. Many members and guests played a memorable round at the beautiful Harbor Pines Golf Club during Friday’s golf outing, then enjoyed the welcome reception/dinner with special guests, Edison Mayor Jun Choi and NJ Department Election ‘07” panelists including Jun Choi, Mayor of Edison, NJ, and NYC Councilman John Liu.

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Greetings! I am pleased to announce that NAPABA has created a new Community Services Committee (CSC). The mission of the new committee is to provide pro bono legal and public services to Asian Americans, and to assist and support our local affiliates in their community service efforts. The new committee will be non-partisan, so that all NAPABA members committed to helping the Asian American community will feel free to participate.

A quartet of extremely capable and energetic co-chairs will serve as the inaugural leadership team of the CSC. Suzan Chau, a judicial clerk to the Honorable Victor J. DiNubile, Jr., in Philadelphia; Kevin Chung, a labor & employment attorney in Littler Mendelson’s San Francisco office; Stephen Lee, a patent attorney with Microsoft in Bellevue, Washington; and Jacquelyn Maruhashi, a staff attorney with the Asian Law Alliance, in San Jose, CA.

All four co-chairs have a history of working in community service. Suzan has volunteered her time in a variety of mentorship and counseling programs. Kevin created and ran the Asian American Bar Association’s law student mentoring program, and has worked to provide guidance and counseling to APA youth for a number of years. Stephen is part of Microsoft’s In House Diversity Committee, and gave of his time and energies to mentor high school and college students in Maryland. Jacquelyn has, for a number of years, assisted APA’s in obtaining public benefits, and works with a non-profit law office that has long served the APA community.

NAPABA’s three regional conferences were all resounding successes. Congratulations to the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey on the Northeast Regional Conference in Atlantic City, to the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida on the Southeast Regional Conference in Miami, and to the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, the Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego, and the South Asian Bar Association of San Diego on the recent California Regional Conference! Impressive work by all of the organizers, panelists and speakers. We look forward next year to our first ever Central Region Conference, which will be hosted by our Minnesota affiliate.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer vacation.
NE Regional Conference in Atlantic City Inspires and Motivates Attendees cont. from page 1

of Transportation Commissioner (and former NJ Acting Governor) Kris Kolluri.

Saturday’s conference panelists provided terrific perspective and expert insight on significant legal and professional issues impacting the legal sector, particularly Asian American attorneys. Over 100 attorneys and friends from NJ, NY, PA, CT, MA and nationwide joined NYC Councilman John Liu and NAPABA President Phil Shinn on Saturday for the Conference’s gala dinner. Our Mistress of Ceremonies, NBC News anchorwoman Denise Nakano, presided over a festive evening that included the induction of APALA/NJ’s Board for 2007-08: Michael Angulo (President), Sudha Kantor (President-Elect), David Kwon (Vice President), Jin Hwang (Treasurer), and Will Shih (Secretary). The Hon. Patricia Medina Talbert administered the swearing-in. APALA/NJ also honored Lora Fong with its 2007 Achievement Award in recognition of Lora’s commitment and effort towards advancing APALA/NJ’s mission.

APALA/NJ is grateful to NAPABA and our NE affiliates for the strong support and attendance that made this year’s conference a resounding success. APALA/NJ would also like to congratulate the Conference Co-Chairs, Ed Sun Kiel and Moly K. Hung, on their terrific work.

By E. Michael Angulo, President, Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey.

Judge Denny Chin, United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York, was the dinner keynote speaker at the 2007 NAPABA Southeast Regional Conference held on April 27 and 28 in Miami Beach, Florida. The event was hosted by the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida, which represents Asian-Pacific American attorneys from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. The Miami Beach Resort and Spa, the beautiful beaches of Miami, and chic South Beach served as a tropical backdrop for the Conference.

Judge Chin spoke about his family’s journey to the United States from China and of his own journey to the bench to become the first Asian-American federal judge appointed outside of the Ninth Circuit. He spoke about the challenges that face him as a judge and some of the interesting cases that have come before him. He appealed to those who have achieved some level of success to help those less fortunate in our community. Judge Chin’s inspirational words drew a standing ovation at the dinner.

The Conference drew approximately 75 NAPABA and affiliate members from the Southeast Region and across the country, including members of NAPABA’s leadership. In attendance were Phil Shinn, President; Les Jin, Executive-Director; Judge Brian Kim, Southeast Regional Governor; and Bettina Yip, Vice President of Programs and Operations. The lunch keynote speaker was Francisco Angones, President-Elect of the Florida Bar, who spoke about the continuing need for diversity in the legal profession and of his love for Miami and its diversity. Angones is the first Cuban-born president of the Florida Bar. Former Florida Governor Bob Martinez spoke about his political successes despite being a minority during an era when minorities had very little political power. Along with other CLE panels, the Conference included a plenary session with a panel of in-house counsel from entities such as Cingular Wireless, Wyndham Worldwide, Norwegian Cruise Line, AutoNation, Inc., and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

Being in Miami Beach, the Conference was not all business. Between the planned events, many attendees relaxed at the hotel pool or simply enjoyed the beach a few yards away while others took the opportunity to explore South Beach. After Judge Chin’s speech at dinner, the attendees partied at ultra-hip SkyBar on South Beach and lounged on the outdoor beds while sipping mojitos—a Miami favorite. Alice Sum, president of APABA of South Florida, was pleased with the way the Conference turned out. “I am very proud of our members for being able to put on such a great conference despite the fact that our organization is only three years old. APABA of South Florida would like to thank NAPABA for its support and guidance and all the guests and speakers for making the conference a huge success.”

Hung V. Nguyen is the new president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida.
In 1993, under the encouragement of the late Honorable Thomas Tang, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, a small group of Asian American attorneys founded the Arizona Asian American Bar Association (AAABA) in Phoenix, Arizona. The attorneys wanted to achieve three main goals: (1) to promote the professional growth of Asian American lawyers; (2) to provide a vehicle and forum for the unified expression of opinions and positions by Asian American lawyers regarding current social, political, economic, legal, and other issues of concern to Asian Americans; and (3) to assist Asian American law students financially and academically by generating a scholarship fund and by providing mentoring.

Since that time nearly 14 years ago, AAABA has grown from about a dozen lawyers to well over seventy-five lawyers. The group continues to pursue those same goals. In 1998, AAABA established its Judge Thomas Tang Law Student Scholarship Fund, which now has an endowment of almost $200,000.00. This past year, AAABA awarded five scholarships to law students at the three law schools in Arizona. AAABA hosts networking events for the law students to meet AAABA lawyers and judges and also provides mentoring opportunities for the law students.

AAABA hosts an annual banquet for over 300 lawyers, judges, and community members to award the law student scholarships and to install its new officers. AAABA uses this banquet to raise funds for the scholarships. Recent keynote speakers for the banquet have included Thomas Mars, the general counsel of Walmart, Steve Sanghi, the CEO and president of Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ: MCHP), Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Jones.

In 2006, AAABA began hosting pro bono legal clinics for the Asian community in Arizona. AAABA coordinates its events with a local Asian non-profit medical outreach organization. These combined legal clinics and medical screenings have been a great success, offering free professional services to the Asian community in a variety of Asian languages.

AAABA also hosts regular meetings for its members, including CLEs, an annual barbecue, and happy hours.

Finally, AAABA remains active in the judicial appointment process and looks forward to promoting additional Asian and other candidates who share AAABA’s goals to the bench. Currently, AAABA’s membership includes four state trial court judges and the presiding judge of the Phoenix Municipal Court.

The past year has been busy and exciting for the NAPABA Amicus Committee. In *LeClerc v. Webb*, NAPABA filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court, supporting a petition for writ of certiorari seeking review of a Fifth Circuit decision that the State of Louisiana may bar non-resident aliens (e.g., persons on a student or H1-B visa) from becoming members of the bar. If the Supreme Court grants cert., we will make a recommendation to the NAPABA Board on the filing of an amicus brief supporting the petitioner on the merits.

In *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1*, NAPABA joined in an amicus brief by the Asian American Justice Center supporting a school district’s use of race as a tie-breaking factor in the assignment of students of high schools within the district. The Supreme Court is expected to issue its decision within the next few weeks.

We have also been monitoring cases throughout the year, looking for cases in which NAPABA’s views as an amicus might be of assistance to the courts. For example, we closely watched the petition for writ of certiorari in *Doe v. Kamehameha*, which sought review of the Ninth Circuit’s en banc decision that a private school may limit its admissions to Native Hawaiians. Ultimately, the parties settled, and the petition was dismissed.

The NAPABA Amicus Committee is co-chaired by Frank H. Wu, Dean and Professor of Law, Wayne State University Law School, and Kevin M. Fong, partner and head of the Appellate practice at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.
Language is a barrier for many Asian Pacific Americans (APA) in the United States with limited English proficiency. Many APAs are unable to read, speak, write, or understand English well, or at least not sufficient enough to navigate the legal process. During court proceedings, one’s hindered ability to speak fluent English is an obstacle to achieving a fair outcome through the justice system. In many instances, individuals are unable to present the merits of the case and understand the process because of the lack of English proficiency. Even to those proficient in English, utilizing the court system is not easy due to unfamiliarity with legal terminology. Fundamental notions of fairness in the context of dramatic demographic change require that the judicial system do a better job of hearing the voices of all.

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association has been concerned with the issue of language access to legal services for APAs for years. For example, our former President Amy Lin Meyerson and former Policy Director Jiny Kim led workshops in 2005 and 2006 teaching participants how to advocate to their state legislator or Member of Congress for better language access to state courts.

As a minority bar association representing the Asian Pacific American community, NAPABA understands the many barriers in judicial and administrative proceedings for limited English proficient APAs. With our understanding and concern of this issue, NAPABA created the “Increasing Access to Justice for Asian Pacific Americans Project.” The goal of the project is to improve the ability of limited English proficient Asian Pacific Americans to access judicial and administrative proceedings. As part of this project, NAPABA created a report entitled “Increasing Access to Justice for Limited English Proficient Asian Pacific Americans.”

NAPABA’s Report

Our report elaborates on the challenges facing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with limited English proficiency and documents the scope of the problem. The report serves as a resource for advocates or anyone else interested in improving the ability of LEPs to access judicial and administrative proceedings. The findings of our report include:

- The growth of the population with limited English proficiency is increasing sharply throughout our country and, moreover, the greatest rates of change are found in areas that do not have substantial existing immigrant communities.

- There are not enough qualified interpreters available in many courts around the country.

- A number of states have demonstrated it is possible to establish mandatory programs that provide adequate access to judicial proceedings for individuals with limited English proficiency.

From the analysis of our findings, the report concludes with a set of recommendations to be implemented to increase access to justice.

Advocacy / Education

Since the completion of our report, NAPABA has been working to implement the recommendations of our report. We have been able to discuss our project and report with NAPABA affiliates, advocates, legal aid providers, judges, court administrators, community organizers, and others. Through interaction with these stakeholders, NAPABA has made good progress and will continue to accomplish much more. Thus far, accomplishments include:

- More advocates know of resources in their area they may contact to help in efforts to increase access.

- More stakeholders are knowledgeable of the fact that the problem of language access to the justice system is more pervasive throughout the country than previously thought.

Moving Forward - How NAPABA Affiliates Can Help

As NAPABA’s project moves further into the advocacy stage, NAPABA will be working with more and more individuals from around the country to continue to implement the recommendations of our report. Partnerships with these individuals and their organizations are vital to the success of our efforts. Additionally, as we move forward, NAPABA affiliates will be more and more crucial to the success of our project. As a national bar association with 50 affiliates, NAPABA is in a position to greatly contribute in efforts to increase access for APAs. An integral part of this project is working at the state and local levels, where most of the problems are occurring, which makes our affiliates that more important. While some of our affiliates have been very helpful thus far in our efforts, the project cannot reach its peak success without more affiliates playing a role. That is why NAPABA hopes that your affiliate will join us in efforts to increase access to justice. We are here to support any affiliates interested in moving forward in the advocacy process. For any additional information on the language access project, please contact Aleli Samson at 202-775-9555 or policy@napaba.org. If you would like a copy of our report, please visit http://www.napaba.org/napaba/show-page.asp?code=lar. Additionally, if you would like a hard copy of our report, please contact Andre Harrison at our office.

Peter Nadimi is an AmeriCorps VISTA who has spent the last 12 months leading NAPABA’s Language Access Project and working on other advocacy / educational projects.
Since it was formed in 1992, the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), comprised of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), National Bar Association (NBA), National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), and National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), has met every year to further three objectives: (1) to hold a joint meeting in which member bar associations identify issues of common concern and formulate strategies for advocacy on these issues; (2) to visit key legislative and executive branch offices and officials to engage these leaders on CBAC’s issues of common concern; and (3) to facilitate networking among the executive board members of CBAC bar associations through additional events such as receptions and keynote dinners.

This year’s CBAC meetings on May 17-18, 2007 were organized by NAPABA. During this year’s joint meeting among CBAC bar associations, resolutions on a broad range of issues were proposed. NBA proposed resolutions aimed to alleviate the EEOC backlog, improve the recruitment and retention of qualified attorneys for public agencies through support for the John R. Justice Prosecutor’s and Defender’s Incentive Act of 2007, and encourage attorneys of color to pursue careers in environmental law to adequately represent the environmental interests of minority and tribal communities. NNABA proposed a resolution to address the fraudulent self-identification as Native American by undergraduate and law school applicants, which yields inflated statistics on Native American lawyers graduated by ABA-accredited law schools.

NAPABA proposed three resolutions. The first related to language access for limited English proficient populations (LEP) and called for increased funding for language access programs for LEPs, as well as tighter enforcement of existing Legal Services Corporation (LSC) guidelines, regulations, and contractual obligations relating to LEP services. NAPABA’s second resolution was a statement of support for the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, which would extend veterans’ benefits to Filipino WWII veterans as originally promised by the U.S. government. All of the above resolutions by CBAC bar associations were passed with only minor changes.

Both NAPABA and HNBA proposed resolutions on comprehensive immigration reform (CIR). In view of the pending immigration bill in the Senate, CBAC focused on passing a CIR resolution that reflected the entire group’s serious concerns about the pending bill’s provisions regarding family reunification and certain timelines for legalization. As the host organization, NAPABA promptly issued a press release and a letter to senators based on the approved resolution. These statements were sent to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee in time for the CIR debate that escalated the following week. To summarize, CBAC’s CIR resolution stated that:

- The compromise reached among the Senators and the White House meant that the legislative process towards immigration reform had overcome a significant barrier and the process was on track.

- The compromise represented the first step towards comprehensive immigration by setting a plan for millions of persons to achieve citizenship.

- The compromise contained provisions that raise serious concerns, including, but not limited to the areas of family reunification and certain timelines.

- CBAC had established a program to monitor the progress of the comprehensive immigration reform legislative process, and that it would be holding America’s elected leaders accountable for a final immigration package that is fair, reasonable, and positive for growing a great America into the future.

This year’s CBAC meetings with key legislative offices included meetings with staff of the four leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, staff of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and chairs and staff of the Congressional Hispanic, Black, Native American, and Asian Pacific American Caucuses. As to key executive branch offices, CBAC met with Wan Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and Fred Fielding, White House Counsel.

In light of CBAC’s concerns with the pending immigration bill, comprehensive immigration reform took center stage and was stressed at each of these meetings. CBAC advocated for the passage of a bill that included fair provisions for family reunification as well as a reasonable path to legalization. As a result, many offices expressed an interest in receiving a formal statement by CBAC on comprehensive immigration reform.

Another issue raised during CBAC’s meetings with legislative and executive branch offices was diversity in the federal judiciary. This is of particular importance to NAPABA, since, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, as of April 2007, out of the 875 authorized appointments, only six active federal judges were Asian American.

Other ongoing social justice issues discussed at the CBAC meetings included language access, the fair treatment of tribal governments (on parity with state governments), and voter fraud. All agreed that follow-up would occur with regard to all of the above issues. In many cases, point persons were designated and specific action items were noted.

To facilitate networking among the CBAC executive boards, a cocktail reception was held on the evening of May 17 and a keynote dinner on May 18. The reception was hosted by the law firm of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan. The dinner featured keynote speaker Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA), who praised CBAC for its work while giving a spirited talk about civil rights advocacy, the DOJ firings, and public service as a female minority. The dinner was sponsored by the Business Law Section of the ABA.
We salute the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. This Bud’s for you.
At the top of the automobile industry is one company.

At the top of that company is one car.

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You’ll soon see the new S-Class on the road. Given its captivating beauty, it will be impossible to miss. Should you wish to view an S-Class up close, simply look in the same place each of its predecessors has been found: at the top.
Fourth Annual NAPABA California Regional Conference held in San Diego Focuses on Judicial Appointments and Calls for Greater Community Involvement

San Diego, CA – June 11, 2007. Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego (FALSD) and Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALSD) hosted the Fourth Annual NAPABA California Regional Conference in San Diego on June 8-9, 2007. The theme of this year’s Conference was “Diversity in Justice ~ Empowerment in the Community” and the Conference’s panels highlighted the judicial appointment process, civic involvement and diversity on the bench, in the bar and in the community.

The weekend began at Salt Creek Golf Club, with the Annual Golf Tournament for the Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law (SCAPAL). The robust offering of panels at the conference provided attendees with difficult choices. Three panels focused on judicial appointments. One such panel featured a conversation between Judge Patricia Y. Cowett of the San Diego County Superior Court and California Judicial Appointment Secretary, Sharon Majors-Lewis and another panel featured William Kopney, Chair of the California State Bar Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (JNE). Judge Lillian Y. Lim of the San Diego County Superior Court moderated another panel that was a virtual “who’s-who” of APIA judges in California and included Judge Dana M. Sabraw, US District Court for the Southern District of California, Judge George H. Wu, US District Court for the Central District of California, Associate Justice Kathryn Doi Todd and Steven C. Suzukiwaka, 2nd District Court of Appeal and Judge Lawrence Cho, Los Angeles County Superior Court. These panels provided valuable information about the road to the bench including the practical aspects of the application process as well as personal insights from judges who had “been there and done it.” Another panel, moderated by Julie Soo, State Chairperson of the California Democratic Party Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, featured APIA elected officials from across California who shared their insights from the political trenches and encouraged greater civic involvement.

Other panels featured former US Attorneys Carol Lam and Debra Yang, APIA rainmakers from Los Angeles and San Diego, and in-house counsel from Wal Mart Stores, Inc., AT&T and Wells Fargo. There was also a diverse panel of General Counsel including Javade Chaudri of Sempra Energy, Alan Tse of LG Electronics MobileComm USA, and Darragh Davis of Petco. The lunch plenary session keynote panel included Ruthe Ashley, member of the California State Bar Board of Governors, former NAPABA President, and candidate for the California State Bar Presidency, as well as Susan Klooz, Vice President and General Counsel Employment Practices Division, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Sean Carter, Diversity Manager for DLA Piper. The lunch panel discussed the successes and challenges of diversity initiatives in the California State Bar, corporate America and large law firms.

The Conference was capped with a dinner on Saturday night at which Associate Justice Ming Chin of the California Supreme Court was the keynote speaker. Justice Chin spoke of his path to the bench and the Supreme Court and the evolution of the APIA legal community. Justice Chin challenged those in attendance to take action now to make sure that the California of 2020 is served by a diverse legal system with an absolute commitment to high quality equal justice. He also he implored minority lawyers whose work and judgment are respected to actively seek judicial appointment, assume the mantle of judicial responsibility and create a legal system that is “scrupulously fair and accessible to all.” Also at the dinner, Judge Lillian Y. Lim, past recipient of the NAPABA Trailblazer Award, spoke about the efforts to create a state holiday to commemorate Fred Korematsu and honor the contributions that APIAs have made to the civic landscape of California.

Over 100 attorneys and judges from across California and the country attended the Conference, including local bar leaders such as Jill Burkhardt, President of the San Diego County Bar Association. Members of NAPABA’s leadership were also in attendance including Helen Kim, President-Elect; Les Jin, Executive- Director; Bettina Yip, Vice President of Programs and Operations; Gene Woo, Secretary; Paul Hirose, Treasurer; Billy Chan, Regional Governor for Northern California; Paul Estuar, Regional Governor for Central California; and Marty Lorenzo, Regional Governor for Southern California. Former Regional Governors Jerri Malana and Koji Fukumura were also in attendance.

Members of the National Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (NAPALSA) volunteered their time at the Conference. Students attended from several California law schools such as Thomas Jefferson School of Law, UCLA School of Law, University of La Verne College of Law, and the University of San Diego School of Law.

FALSD and PALSD donated all of the proceeds from the Conference to SCAPAL, a 501(c)(3) organization. SCAPAL is the only legal center in San Diego that is dedicated to preserving and protecting the rights of those who do not have adequate access to our legal system in San Diego’s underserved Asian Pacific Islander communities. In addition to providing community legal education through its Community Law School and similar programs, SCAPAL collaborates with the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, FALSD and PALSD to provide pro bono legal services at Legal Aid Clinics.
Regional News

CALIFORNIA (CENTRAL) REGION

In May, as part of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA) hosted a panel discussion “A Question of Patriotism: When National Security and Civil Rights Collide”. Confirmed panelists include: Arif Alikhan (Deputy Mayor for Homeland Security), Eric Seitz (former attorney for U.S. Army Lt. Ehren Watada, court-martialed for refusing to deploy to Iraq), Brian Sun (attorney for Wen Ho Lee) and Chaplain James Yee (former U.S. Army Captain/Muslim Chaplain stationed at Guantanamo). APABA recently co-sponsored a warm up party for the Visual Communications Filmfest, an annual festival devoted to Asian and APA cinema.

The Korean American Bar Association (KABA) recently held its 27th Installation Dinner at the historic Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. Justice Ming W. Chin of the California Supreme Court was the keynote speaker. KABA continues to hold its monthly pro-bono clinic at the offices of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. On May 12th, KABA had its annual Law Day Pro Bono Clinic in Chinatown. Beti Tsai Bergman was honored location, the Empress Pavilion & Bar in San Francisco. KABA held its annual dinner at the Yank Sing restaurant in the Rincon Center on March 16, with attendance of over 700. KABA volunteers participated in McCullum Youth Court on May 9 at the Washington Courthouse in Oakland. AABA is hosted a joint mixer with SABA on May 17 at Steph’s Sports Bar in San Francisco.

The Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association (SCCLA) held its 32nd annual Installation and Awards Banquet on March 23rd at the time honored location, the Empress Pavilion in Chinatown. Betty Tsai Bergman was installed as President along with her distinguished Board of Governors. California State Controller John Chiang served as the keynote speaker and everyone had a fabulous time hobnobbing with dinner guests, who made up a venerable who’s who of dignitaries and powerhouse attorneys in the Asian and legal community. NBC anchorman Ted Chen fought to control the crowd as usual.

The Ventura County Asian American Bar Association (VCAABA) held its second annual installation dinner on March 13, 2007 at the Las Posas Country Club in Camarillo. The event’s guest speaker was the Honorable Ronald S.W. Lew from the Central District of California. The successful event raised funding for scholarship to benefit local law students. VCAABA is looking to host its first annual golf tournament sometime during the summer of 2007.

The Philippine American Bar Association (PABA) held its 21st Annual Installation and Awards Banquet of the Philippine American Bar Association on March 8, 2007 at the legendary Beverly Hills Hotel & Bungalows. Ben Hoflehele was installed as PABA’s new President. California State Controller John Chiang, the highest ranked Asian-American elected official in California, was the keynote speaker.

Other News: On May 24, 2007, the Takasugi Fellowship Foundation had its 8th Annual presentation of the Robert M. Takasugi Public Interest Fellowship Awards, named in honor of the distinguished senior federal judge.

CALIFORNIA (NORTHERN) REGION

The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (AABA) held a joint mixer with the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California (FBANC) and La Raza Lawyers Association on March 7 at Zebulon Café & Bar in San Francisco. AABA held its annual dinner at the Yank Sing restaurant in the Rincon Center on March 16, with attendance of over 700. AABA volunteers participated in McCullum Youth Court on May 9 at the Washington Courthouse in Oakland. AABA is hosted a joint mixer with SABA on May 17 at Steph’s Sports Bar in San Francisco.

The Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley (APBA SV) presented the panel “The State of the In-House World from a Headhunter’s Perspective” on May 9 at the San Jose City Hall. On May 24, APBA SV hosted “Current State of Civil Rights Legislations for API” to discuss current legislative and advocacy affecting the API.

On March 13, in conjunction with the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach and the Manilatown Center, The Filipino Bar Association of Northern California (FBANC) hosted a free legal clinic regarding issues and questions dealing with consumer rights and protection (bills, items purchased, home improvement contractors, home mortgages, car purchases or leases), immigration, family law, employment, criminal law, intellectual property law, such as patenting inventions, and other areas of the law. FBANC held its 27th Annual Installation Dinner on April 20, 2007. FBANC honored Rachel Puno Juliana with the Jose Rizal Award, acknowledging her dedication to the community through the years. Eduardo Angeles, Special Counsel to the City Council of Los Angeles, delivered the keynote address.

On March 10, the Korean American Bar Association - Northern California (KABA) partnered up with the Korean American Coalition (KAC) and the Korean American Professional Society (KAPS) to host a career forum on behalf of Korean American parents, Korean American junior high and high school students. A wide variety of representatives from various professions, occupations and fields shared their insights in having a career in their respective fields. On March 28, KABA held its annual general membership meeting and elections. KABA held a Mixer on April 26, 2007 at The Public in San Francisco. KABA/KAC/KAPS and Korean American Chamber of Commerce co-hosted a Korean documentary movie screening in late May 2007 in San Francisco.

CALIFORNIA (SAN DIEGO & ORANGE COUNTY) REGION

Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALS) and Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego (FALS) hosted the 4th Annual NAPABA California Regional Conference in San Diego on June 8-9, 2007. All proceeds from the conference were donated to the Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law (SCAPAL).
The Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA) held a successful 14th Annual Installation Dinner on May 3, 2007. Orange County Supervisor Janet Nguyen was the keynote speaker and lifetime achievement awards were presented to Dean Parham Williams, retiring dean of Chapman Law School, and Jeannie Luong, long-time supporter of OCAABA and a passionate community service volunteer.

The Orange County Korean American Bar Association (OC KABA) held its 2nd Annual Community Law School on April 28, 2007 at Whittier Law School. The purpose of this annual event is to educate the community and provide an understanding of the basic laws in various areas that may impact their daily lives. This year the event focused on Immigration Law, Leases, Family Law and Criminal Law. Guest speakers included Judge Mark Kim, Judge Tammy Ryu, Irvine Councilman Sukhee Kang and District Attorney Tony Rackauckaus.

CALIFORNIA (SACRAMENTO)/ NEVADA REGION

The Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento Law Foundation (“ABAS Law Foundation”) held its 5th Annual Wine & Food Tasting and Silent Auction at the Pavilions Shopping Plaza on May 3, 2007. A major portion of the proceeds of the event go to the scholarship fund established by the Foundation. The annual event is a fundraiser to support the scholarships offered by the Foundation to law students in the greater Sacramento area law schools since 1999. This year the ABAS Law Foundation awarded $15,500 to nine deserving students: Natalie Johnston, Jina Kim, Karen Kim, Vince Lee, Isabel Liou, Minh-Han Phan, Ramaah Sadisivam, and Steven Tsuyuki.

On May 24, 2007, the Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento (“ABAS”) hosted a reception for the Honorable Helena Gweon and the Honorable Eugene Balanon, both appointed to the Sacramento County Superior Court bench by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 at the California Bank & Trust on Broadway.

CENTRAL REGION

Kenji Yoshino, a professor of law and deputy dean for intellectual life at Yale Law School presented “The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights” on April 27 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Professor Yoshino argued that everyone covers their differences to blend into the mainstream and how that act poses a hidden threat to our civil rights. NAPABA-MN also hosted a reception for all newly admitted APA attorneys, attended by about 40 people. NAPABA-MN co-sponsored a social event with the student APA organizations at St. Thomas University Law School, William Mitchell College of Law and the University of Minnesota Mondale School of Law. About 40 students and 15 attorneys attended.

On February 22, 2007, the Asian American Bar Association of Kansas City (“AABAKC”) sponsored an event for local law students called Nuts ‘N Bolts of Interviewing and Networking. Approximately 25 students from 4 law schools attended. AABAKC board members gave tips on resumes, interviewing, personal appearance and networking.

On April 9, 2007, AABAKC held its quarterly Meet the Leaders Luncheon for its members. The guest speaker was President-Elect of The Missouri Bar, Charlie Harris, who will be the first African-American Missouri Bar president.

NORTHWEST REGION

In February, the Asian Bar Association of Washington (ABAW) was awarded the bid to host the 2008 NAPABA Annual Convention in Seattle. On February 15, the Korean American Bar Association (KABA) held its annual banquet at the Washington Athletic Club. ABAW hosted a reception at Gonzaga University School of Law to honor Judge Kato’s service on the bench. On February 22, the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington (VABAW) held its first membership event of the year, celebrating Lunar New Year (Tet) at the offices of Darby & Darby. On March 7, the ABAW held its first general membership meeting, pulling in over 80 attendants, its largest general meeting ever. ABAW members on March 31 joined together to watch the Final Four at Imo, the culminating event for ABAW’s bracket tournament. ABAW’s first of its series of happy hours, the ABAW Mix N Mingle, took place on April 4 at O’Asian. VABAW hosted a reception at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt to honor Judge Bui as the first elected Vietnamese American judge in Washington State on April 25.

NORTHEAST REGION

The Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley (AABADV) boasted record attendance at its annual Lunar New Year Banquet on February 23rd at the Golden Phoenix Restaurant in Philadelphia. AABADV also co-sponsored with the Philadelphia Bar Association, a Mayoral Candidates Forum on April 10th to discuss key issues of importance to the residents of Philadelphia and our membership.

For the Fall 2006 elections, the Asian American Law Association of Massachusetts (AALAM) co-sponsored with the Asian American Legal Defense Fund, workshops to assess compliance with the settlement terms (requiring bilingual ballots, translation of voting materials and interpreters) reached in the 2005 lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice against the City of Boston for violation of the Voting Rights Act, U.S. v. Boston, C.A. No. 05-11598 (WGY).

November brought a broad-ranging career panel moderated by AALAM Director Vincent Lau and comprised of recognized Asian lawyers with diverse roles in the Massachusetts legal communities. This event was co-sponsored with the South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston.

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In March, AALAM again co-sponsored the “Walk to the Hill” for Civil Legal Aid to advocate for adequate budgets to ensure preservation of equal access to the legal system.

On May 8, 2007, Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (CAPABA) and the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut co-hosted a celebratory event for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Connecticut. The celebration was well attended by over 100 Connecticut APA leaders and their guests, including guest speakers, Connecticut Chief State’s Attorney Kenneth Kane and Connecticut State Representative William Tong, the state’s first Asian American state legislator.

CAPABA has been working with the Asian Pacific American Coalition of Connecticut for an Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission in Connecticut.

These efforts have assisted in the successful passage of Proposed H.B. No. 6002 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION with the Connecticut Legislature’s Appropriations Committee on April 30, 2007. On April 9, 2007, CAPABA members participated in the Annual Career Panel at Western New England College School of Law, hosted by the MultiCultural Law Student’s Association. Panelists provided real life insight on what law students and young lawyers should expect in various sectors of the legal profession.

On March 24, 2006, CAPABA participated in the first “Citizenship Day” in Connecticut, which was organized and sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. The event brought together attorneys, paralegals, and interpreters to assist legal permanent residents in the preparation of naturalization applications, and to advise those with questions about naturalization. On February 22, 2007, CAPABA celebrated the Lunar New Year during its quarterly Open Membership Meeting.

During the first five months of 2007, the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) sponsored or co-sponsored over 30 events for its members, including nearly 20 hours of free continuing legal education.

AABANY also sponsored an annual dinner, attended by over 100 people at the Taiwanese Economic and Cultural Office at which the Taiwanese ambassador spoke. AABANY also co-sponsored an Asian Heritage Month event co-hosted by the Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan in the rotunda at the New York County Supreme Court attended by over 200 people. In addition, AABANY has been active on judicial affairs.

AABANY submitted a 30-page amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court in the Lopez-Torres case, a case that the high court will hear in October which deals with the selection of Supreme Court justices in New York. AABANY testified before committees of the New York legislature on judicial selection. In addition, AABANY has published several pieces on the need for higher judicial compensation, has spoken several times on the subject, and has co-sponsored several events dealing with the issue. AABANY has also been active in pro bono and community affairs.

AABANY has also sponsored several events aimed at law students. AABANY also sponsored a program on Legal Nuts and Bolts of Becoming a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit and provided free advice in Chinatown at the Renaissance Economic Business Corporation.

AABANY also sponsored several programs aimed at law students. AABANY hosted an interview workshop spearheaded by the Hon. Marilyn Go that was attended by over 40 law students.

AABANY also hosted programs for law students to observe several judges.
including the Hon. Denny Chin, the Hon. Marilyn Go, and the Hon. Kiyo Matsumoto. AABANY also has launched a program to review the resumes of law students in which several dozen law students are currently participating. In addition, AABANY authored the 2007 Thomas Tang Moot Court problem for NAPABA and submitted a proposal to NAPABA for the formation of a NAPABA Litigation Committee.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Several Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA) members traveled to Miami to attend the SE NAPABA Regional Conference in April. GAPABA is gearing up to host the SE Regional Conference in 2008 and planning is underway. If you have any inquiries about next year’s conference, please contact Han Choi at han.choi@troutmansanders.com. On June 13, 2007, GAPABA held its annual summer associate event at the Peachtree Club. Summer associates and law clerks from private law firms and public interest groups had an opportunity to meet GAPABA partners, associates and in-house counsel.

The Tennessee Asian Pacific American Bar Association (TAPABA) incorporated as a state-wide nonprofit organization on May 1, 2007. The officers of TAPABA will be meeting with the executive director of the Tennessee Bar Association to discuss ways in which the two bar associations can collaborate in the future. The new officers chosen at the inaugural Board meeting on March 24, 2007 are: President Teresa Chan; Vice President Jon Stanley; Secretary Kaz Kikkawa; and Treasurer Ling Guan.

SOUTHWEST REGION

On May 19, 2007, the Arizona Asian American Bar Association (AAABA) members joined the Arizona Pacific Community in Action in putting on a “Community Wellness Event,” which featured a Pro Bono Legal Clinic and health screenings for the local Asian Pacific American community.

On April 21, 2007, the Phoenix Museum of History, at its annual “Phoenix History Ball,” honored the Judge Thomas and Dr. Pearl Tang Family for their significant contributions to local history. The late Judge Thomas Tang was one of the founding members of AAABA.

On April 13, 2007 APABA Colorado hosted the 2007 Minoru Yasui Annual Banquet at the King’s Land Restaurant and featured the presentation of the following Minoru Yasui Community and Scholarship Awards: Paul Chan - Minoru Yasui Award; David Lee - Aisenberg Award for Leadership; Diana Fan - CU Scholarship; and Vivian Chu - DU Scholarship.

The Dallas Asian American Bar Association (DAABA) reported that on May 19, 2007, the Asian Pacific Interest Section of the State Bar of Texas (APIS) presented its yearly CLE and networking retreat, entitled “Policy, Progress, and Empowerment” in Dallas, Texas at the Westin Galleria. APA representatives from around the state participated in this fun and informative annual event, featuring various networking opportunities and CLE panels, as well as a keynote address by Karen Narasaki, President and Executive Director of the Asian American Justice Center, and presentation of the Justice David Wellington Chew award to Kathleen Wu. The program was followed by an evening corporate counsel reception and wine tasting at the Highland Park home of Professor Xuan-Thao Nguyen.

On May 6, 2007, the Asian American Bar Association of Houston (AABA) hosted “Dim Sum with Judges,” an opportunity for AABA lawyers to interact with the local judges at the state and federal level in Houston. It was a well attended event with over fifty individuals and 15 members of the judiciary attending.

On Thursday evening, April 19, 2007, AABA presented its second annual Career Night for law students at the South Texas College of Law. The event was co-hosted by the Asian Pacific Interest Section of the State Bar of Texas and provided a panel discussion on “Making the Most of Your Summer Legal Experience.”
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is proud to partner with the

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and its affiliate

organizations to advance diversity and excellence in the legal profession.

Wal-Mart salutes the strong leadership provided by the

NAPABA Board of Governors, Officers, Regional Governors, Executive Director,

the entire staff and many volunteers who help make Wal-Mart’s

partnership with NAPABA a success. Wal-Mart looks forward to continuing to advance

our mutual goals in the legal profession and in the communities we jointly serve.
NAPABA Direct Membership 2006 - present

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GOLD
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Janet Shawn dela Mercado
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Young Kim
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Chung Lee
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People in the News

**Ruthe Catolico Ashley** was presented with the Distinguished Community Service Award by the Philippine American Bar Association (LA). Ms. Ashley, a former President of NAPABA, serves as the Diversity Officer with the External Affairs division of CalPERS.

NAPABA-MN board member **Thanh Bui** recently joined the legal department of General Mills, Inc.

The **Hon. Margaret Chan** and the **Hon. Karen Lin** were inducted as judges on the Civil Court and Housing Court respectively in New York.

**Theo Cheng**, former AABANY board member, was appointed by Governor Spitzer to the Commission on Increasing Diversity in the State Government Workforce.

**Christine Chi**, AABANY board member, became a partner at Dewey Ballantine.

The **Honorable Nina F. Elgo**, CAPABA Director, was awarded the Connecticut Bar Association’s Young Lawyer’s Section Diversity Award.

**Hon. Randall Eng, Jaya Madhaven, and John Lansden** were all appointed as administrative judges in New York.

**Venora Hung**, a 2L law student at the University of Minnesota Mondale School of Law was just selected as a member of University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

**Judge Kenneth Kato** retired as Chief Judge for the Washington Court of Appeals, Division III.

**Michael Korniczky** became the position of General Counsel of Graham Packaging.

**Paul W. Lee**, former President of NAPABA and founding member of AALAM, received a “Spirit of Excellence” award from the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity for his work in promoting diversity in the legal profession.

**Grace Manno**, Counsel for Comcast Corporation, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.

Former NAPABA-MN Board member, **Rachel Paulose**, was confirmed as the 40th U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota. She is the first South Asian, the youngest, and the first woman in Minnesota to hold this office.

**Lynette Sarno**, AABANY board member, became a partner at Seyfarth Shaw.

AALAM Directors **Geoffrey Why** and **Tina Matsuoka** and founding member Paul Lee were sworn in as Commissioners of the newly formed Asian American Commission in a ceremony attended by Governor Deval Patrick.

**Hon. George Wu** was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the federal bench in the Central District of California. (More about this historic confirmation in an upcoming issue.

**Lai Sun Yee**, Immediate Past President of AABANY was appointed to serve as Assistant Deputy Secretary for Criminal Justice in New York.

**Carol Lam** received the San Diego County Bar Association’s highest award, Outstanding Attorney of the Year for 2007. Lam is a former US Attorney and current Senior Vice President and Legal Counsel at QUALCOMM Incorporated.

**Judge Lillian Y. Lim**, San Diego County Superior Court, was honored as San Diego County Bar Association’s Outstanding Jurist for 2007.