



AALAM NEWS

The Newsletter of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts

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www.aalam.org

Increasing Connectivity

This has been another busy year for the Asian-American Lawyers of Massachusetts ("AALAM") since our Fall newsletter, as we continue our efforts to increase connectivity by and among our members and those of other organizations.

On November 29, 2007 at the Boston offices of Burns & Levinson LLP, put together by the Women's Bar Association, AALAM was invited to participate in a Fall Minority Bar Reception with other minority bar associations for networking with other groups to discuss, network and meet on issues of common ground.

December brought with it the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund (the "Dow Fund") 22nd Anniversary Dinner at Chau Chow City in Boston, for which AALAM has been an annual sponsor. Since the mid-1980s, when members of AALAM co-founded the Dow Fund, AALAM and the Dow Fund have shared a commitment to serving the Asian American community. This year, AALAM awarded Paul M. Yee the Community Service Award at the December 7th dinner. AALAM also again co-sponsored the Massachusetts Conference for Women, December 11, 2007.

In addition, on January 31, 2008, AALAM hosted "Speed Mentoring Night" at Zen Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar in Boston. This ingenious and extremely well-attended event, the brainchild of AALAM Director Eunice Chapon and shepherded by AALAM Vice President Tina Matsuoka and Director Victor Diune, consisted of an opening meet and greet reception, followed by five 15-minute mentoring sessions in which law students and junior lawyers were paired up with more senior AALAM attorneys with a variety of backgrounds (large and mid-size law firms, in-house attorneys, government and public sector attorneys and solo practitio-

ners). The sessions were meant to be brief and informative and to create a unique opportunity for one-on-one dialogue with experienced attorneys from different fields and affiliations.

On February 28, 2008, AALAM again co-sponsored the annual Walk to the Hill for Legal Aid at the State House in Boston. In its ninth year, this event of the Equal Justice Coalition is to advocate for adequate budgets to ensure preservation of equal access to the justice system.

On March 31, 2008, Sherin & Lodgen LLP hosted a stellar program organized and moderated by AALAM Treasurer Edward Cheng on Asian-American Attorneys in private practice. Panelists Steve Chow, Burns & Levinson LLP, Meerie M. Joung, Bingham McCutcheon, John Chu, Chu Ring & Hazel and Eunice Chapon, State Street, shared their views on hard hitting issues such as: **Overt Discrimination** - Does it still exist?; **"plum assignments" / star associates** - Successes and frustrations. Does being Asian-American make a difference?; **Stereotypes / Railroadings** - Perceptions of East Asians in connection with litigation or tough negotiations. Do Asian Americans get steered into certain practice areas?; Does being Asian-American make a difference in business generation?; **Firm Culture / Diversity Committees** - Fitting in and knowing expectations; and how to find a mentor.

AALAM is also glad to be invited to share in another mixer and networking event with NAAAP this year and to sponsor the Massachusetts Bar Association's Nancy King Access to Justice Luncheon on Thursday March 6, 2008 at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston.

AALAM, represented by Secretary Joel Buenaventura and Director Victor Diune, was delighted to be invited to be a part of the host



AALAM President Ingrid Chiemi Schroffner

committee for the Boston Center for Community and Justice's ("BCCJ's") flagship LeadBoston program breakfast on March 20, 2008. Boston Bar Association ("BBA") President Tony Doniger was the featured speaker at the event, which aimed to stimulate involvement with BCCJ and with one another in order to advance issues of diversity and social responsibility. AALAM was also honored to be included in the BBA Diversity Leadership Task Force ("DLTF") efforts of the BBA this year.

On the Boston Neighborhood Network front, AALAM's Legal Line call-in television show, hosts, AALAM Directors Stephen Chow, Tina Matsuoka and myself as well, have brought the program through a third season. Recent interviewees on the show include one of AALAM's founding members, Attorney Francis Chin, Dana Lecesce, who heads up the Cyber Protection Program at the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, BBA Council Member John Chu, a Partner at Chu Ring & Hazel LLP, Renee Inomata, a Partner at Burns & Levinson LLP and Founding Member and Member of the Board of Directors of the Asian Women's Connection (committed to empowering and inspiring Asian women professionals (www.awconnect.org) and Matthew Lee, Managing Partner of Tocci, Goss & Lee PC. The topics on the show ranged from cyber crime to entrepreneurship to employment and immigration law issues.

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Boston Neighborhood Network show can be viewed on Comcast Ch. 9 or RCN Ch. 15. There is a live call-in number --617-973-4848, in case viewers have questions for the guests.

On a real high note for this year and in anticipation of next year, AALAM won the bid to host the National NAPABA Convention in Boston in 2009! An enormous thanks goes out to the NAPABA bid committee, especially Board member Emily Yu, who put the bid materials together, Victor Diune, and immediate past AALAM President Jeff Hsi, who presented our bid in person with AALAM founding member and past President Paul Lee, at the NAPABA Board meeting in California in February. The NAPABA steering committee members have already hosted a planning meeting to prepare for the Convention.

Last year, this event drew over 1500 attorneys. The Convention takes place annually over four days and is a wonderful way to network and meet Asian attorneys from across the country. We will need the support and expertise of all AALAM members/volunteers to make this a successful event. We welcome all members and friends of AALAM to join us to make this

(Continued on Page Two)

Increasing Connectivity (Continued)

the best NAPABA National Convention ever. The NAPABA steering committee core members are: Paul Lee, Honorary Chair, Victor Diune, Brian Eng, Peggy Ho, Jeffrey Hsi, G. Perry Wu and Emily Yu.

I also want to thank the contributors to the 2009 NAPABA Convention gift bags: Bingham; Brown Rudnick; Burns & Levinson; Choate; EAPD; Foley Hoag; Foley & Lardner; Goodwin Procter; Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds; K&L Gates; Merrill Lynch; Ropes & Gray; Welches; Wilmer Hale; Staples; and the Visitor's Center and Convention Bureau. We are immensely grateful for these gifts, ranging from pens to flash drives and stuffed lobsters, which aided our cause to bring this convention to Boston. Thank you so much!

To top it all off, AALAM held its 23rd Annual Banquet on April 17, 2008 at the Boston Harbor Hotel, featuring the incomparable Attorney General Martha Coakley as the keynote speaker. Also at the banquet, AALAM presented the Honorable Richard J. Chin, Associate Justice for the Massachusetts Superior Court, with the AALAM Founders Award, which is awarded annually to a Massachusetts attorney who has made significant contributions in business, academics, or the community as it relates to the law. AALAM also awarded the AALAM Scholarship, which recognizes a Boston-area law student who has demonstrated both academic excellence and a commitment to the Asian American community.



South Asian Bar Association of Boston (SABA) President Samia Kirmani; AALAM President Ingrid Chiemi Schroffner; AALAM President-Elect, Charlotte Kim; and SABA Immediate Past President, Annapoorni Sankaran.

Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund Dinner

AALAM sponsored the **22nd Dinner Celebration of the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund**, which took place on Friday, December 7, 2007 at Chau Chow City Restaurant in Chinatown in Boston. The keynote speaker was Ryoza Glenn Kumekawa, President of Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, civil rights activist, urban planner, educator and survivor of Japanese American Internment Camp.

Since the mid-1980s, when the Dow Fund was co-founded by AALAM members, the two organizations have shared a commitment to serve the Asian American community. The Dow Fund has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support legal services for Asians, including through the Dow Internships, the Asian Battered Women and Cambodian Outreach Projects and the emergency Asian Immigrant Rights Initiative.

This year at the dinner, **Boston based sole practitioner and longtime AALAM member Paul M. Yee was presented with the AALAM Community Service Award.** During his 33-year legal career, Paul has worked with the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation, the Boston Housing Authority, and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, and, more recently, maintained his own litigation practice. More importantly, he is an unsung hero who, over the years, has handled many cases that other attorneys could not or would not take. He has also been very active in the Asian American Civic Association. AALAM salutes Paul Yee for his outstanding contributions to Boston's Chinatown, Asian, and immigrant communities!



Community Service Award Recipient Paul Yee speaks about his influences and the importance of community service.



(top row, left to right): AALAM Officers and Directors, Romeo Camba, Jeff Hsi, Myong Joun, Tina Matsuoka, Joel Buenaventura, Perry Wu, Geoffrey Why (bottom row, left to right): former AALAM Director Tricia Deraska, AALAM President, Ingrid Schroffner, former AALAM Director Elaine Tung and AALAM Director Gloria Tan.



AALAM Hosts Speed Mentoring Night!

On January 31st, AALAM hosted its first Speed Mentoring Night at Zen Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar in Boston. The wonderful event was the idea of long-time AALAM Director, Eunice Chapon, and AALAM Vice-President Tina Matsuoka and fellow AALAM Director, Victor Diune, helped organize the incredibly successful event.

After a meet and greet reception, the mentors took their seats on the 2nd floor of Zen as approximately 40 law school students and junior attorneys patiently waited their turns to spend 15 minutes with 3-5 different at-

torneys. The law students came from New England School of Law, Suffolk University, Boston University, Northeastern University and Boston College. The mentors, most of which had over 10 years of experience in the law, possessed a variety of backgrounds—from small to large firms, in-house counsel, government and public sector attorneys and solo practitioners. The sessions were meant to be brief, yet informative while creating a unique opportunity for dialogue with a wide range of experienced attorneys.



AALAM Director Vince Lau carefully listens to the goals and aspirations of one of the mentees.



Law students and junior attorneys mingle on the first floor of Zen before their numbers were called.



Mentors brace themselves before the first group of students and junior attorneys arrive.

Guide Through Cynicism to Success In Private Practice—Asian American Attorneys Tell All

On March 31, 2008, AALAM sponsored a panel discussion called, *Guide Through Cynicism to Success In Private Practice - Asian-American Attorneys Tell All*. AALAM assembled a panel of Boston Asian-American attorneys including: Stephen Y. Chow of Burns & Levinson, LLP; John Chu of Chu Ring & Hazel, LLP; Meerie M. Joung of Bingham McCutchen LLP; and Eunice Chapon, a director of AALAM. Edward Cheng of Sherin and Lodgen moderated. The panel discussed the impact of being Asian-American on their careers, from their experience as associates, to making partner, to becoming business generators. Specifically, the panel discussed issues such as overt discrimination, assignments of plum cases, stereotypes, and business development. A wide variety of attorneys attended the discussion including students, associates, partners, and in-house counsel.



Panelists (from left to right): Stephen Y. Chow, John Chu, Moderator Edward Cheng, Meerie Joung and Eunice Chapon addressed sensitive and often unspoken issues facing Asian-American lawyers throughout their careers.

AALAM's Legal Line Show —THIRD Season

On the AALAM Legal Line front at Boston Neighborhood Network, the AALAM Legal Line call-in television show is well into its third season. The show is hosted by AALAM Directors Stephen Y. Chow, Tina Matsuoka and Ingrid Chiemi Schroffner. **If you are an AALAM member and are interested in attending a BNN training session to be an AALAM Legal Line host, please contact Steve, Tina or Ingrid. Their contact information is available on the AALAM website.**

On these monthly shows, the *Legal Line AALAM* hosts interview experts on various fields of interest to the Asian American community and others, including family law, cultural considerations, real estate, intellectual property and immigration. A full listing is provided below.

Private Practice Entrepreneurship. Interview of one of AALAM's founding members, Attorney Francis Chin by Stephen Chow.

Cyber Crime and Protection. Interview of Dana Lecesse, who heads up the Cyber Protection Program at the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, by Tina Matsuoka.

Employment and Immigration Law Issues: Employer's Perspective: Renee Inomata, a Partner at Burns & Levinson LLP and Founding Member and Member of the Board of Directors of the Asian Women's Connection (committed to empowering and inspiring Asian women professionals www.awconnect.org) and Matthew Lee, Managing Partner of Tocci, Goss & Lee PC, share their tips and pointers for employers to address and protect themselves regarding employment and immigration law issues, including commentary on recent developments/trends. (30 minutes. Archived 10/17/2007)

Entrepreneur Advising Entrepreneurs. Attorney John Chu, who was once with one of the largest firms, Bingham Dana, left twelve years ago to found Chu, Ring & Hazel LLO. Attorney Chu talks about his experiences in helping grow start-up companies into businesses that have been sold for nine figures and about his own growth in the community. (30 minutes, Archived 11/14/07)

Juvenile Justice --Views of a Judge and Practitioner. The Honorable Jay D. Blitzman of the Middlesex Juvenile Court and Gloria Tan Esq. of the Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard Law School share their perspectives on challenges and initiatives in the juvenile court system. (30 minutes Archived July 19, 2007)

Getting Venture Capital: Paul Tu, Principal of the Massachusetts Technology Development Corporation, the Commonwealth-seeded early-stage technology venture capital investor, explains the process of getting venture funding. (30 minutes. Archived 6/13/2007)

Massachusetts Healthcare Reform: Questions and answers about what the law means for individuals, businesses, and access to healthcare in the Commonwealth.

A panel discussion featuring Katharine London, Executive Director, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Cost Council;

Quentin Palfrey, Chief, Healthcare Division, Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General; and Celia Wcislo, Assistant Director of I199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and Member of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Board. (1 hour. Archived 5/23/2007)

The Landlord side of Housing Court issues. Boston Attorney Frank A. Flynn of Downing and Flynn describes issues that may arise for landlords and provides pointers and practical tips about how they can be addressed. Topics covered include evictions, injunctive relief, security deposits, criminal activity, inspections, self-defense, remedies and collections. (April 25, 2007)

Women of Color Lawyers: Annapoorni Sankaran (SABA President), Professor Caryn Mitchell-Munevar (New England School of Law), and Jack Cinquegrana (BBA President) discuss issues facing women of Color attorneys and what Law Firms, Schools, and Bar Associations can do to support them. (March 21, 2007)

Tenants' Rights: Boston attorney Harvey S. Shapiro discusses legal issues relevant to tenants in Massachusetts. (30 minutes. Archived 1/24/2007)

Entrepreneurship: A discussion of Asian-American entrepreneurship and networking with Dongsup "Sam" Kim, business attorney and partner of the Boston law firm, Gesmer Updegrave LLP. (30 minutes. Archived 11/29/2006)

GBLS's Asian Outreach Unit: Cynthia Marks from the Greater Boston Legal Services discusses the special services offered to low-income Asian residents in and around Boston. (30 minutes. Archived 9/20/2006)

All About Patents: With Joon Chung, Patent Attorney with Hamilton, Brook, Smith and Reynolds, PC. (30 minutes. Archived 8/23/2006)

Alfred Ah Kong Ku'ahi Wong: Commissioner of the MA Asian-American Commission; President, Boston Hawaiian Club; Co-Chair, Greater Boston Cultural Exchange Committee; East Coast Director, Koani Foundation; talks about how his organizations are working to increase diversity in government, upcoming events of cultural significance and how he came to be called The Dancing Commissioner by Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey (30 minutes. Archived 7/19/2006)

Identity Theft: Panel discussion with Pam Kogut of the MA Office of the Attorney General and Mark Spencer and Onyen Yong of EvidentData, Inc. (30 minutes. Archived 4/19/2006)

Asian-American Commission Reform: Interview with Leverett Wing. (30 minutes. Archived 3/22/2006)

Corporate Law: Interview with Jan-Yung Lin of Goodwin Procter, LLP about the legal aspects of entrepreneurship and setting up new companies. (30 minutes. Archived 2/22/2006)

Immigration Law: Immigration law practitioners Vincent Lau, Esq (new AALAM Director) and Susan Ellison (Guest Lecturer at Boston College Law School) discuss the ins and outs of immigration law and how the system works. (30 minutes. Archived 1/25/2006)

Sam Yoon, Boston's First Asian-American Elected Official: Interview with the new Boston City Councilor. (30 minutes. Archived 12/21/2005)

Le Dieux 2005 Award Recipient Attorney Hung Tran: Attorney Tran succeeded with the client security board on claims where individuals in the Asian community had been defrauded through funds misappropriation by an attorney who had been supposed to assist them with legal services. (30 minutes. Archived 11/23/2005)

Cultural Considerations in the Practice of Family Law: Interview of Boston College Law Professor Carwina Weng. (30 minutes. Archived 10/19/2005)

Flora Chan: Describes how the Asian-American Lawyer's Association outreach programs got started. (30 minutes. Archived 9/14/2005).



AALAM Hosts Its 23rd Annual Banquet At Boston Harbor Hotel

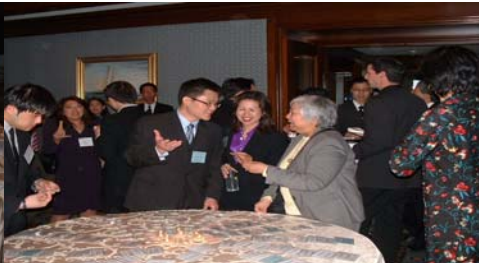
On April 17th, AALAM held its 23rd Annual Banquet at the Boston Harbor Hotel with the incomparable Massachusetts Attorney General, Martha Coakley, as the keynote speaker. Also at the Ban-

quet, Superior Court Justice Richard Chin, longtime member and a role model to many, as well as the first Asian Pacific American jurist to be appointed (in 1989) in the history of the Common-

wealth, was presented with the AALAM Founders Award. Drawing on his personal experience, Judge Chin's acceptance speech was both moving and inspirational. AALAM also presented Harvard Law



Name tags patiently await their owners.



AALAM Director Weber Hsiao tries to explain to Caroline Chang how her nametag was misspelled!



Honorable Justice Fernande R.V. Duffy graces the banquet with her presence.



AALAM President Ingrid Chiemi Schroffner, AALAM Directors Weber Hsiao and Victor Diune share a special moment.



AALAM Director Eunice Chapon debates Hillary vs. Obama.



AALAM Director Lisa Yee greets Honorable Justice Richard Chin and his wife, June. Justice Chin was the recipient of AALAM's Founders Award.



Boston Harbor Hotel provided the perfect ambience for the night with great service, fantastic cuisine and serene views of the harbor.



Keynote Speaker Attorney General Martha Coakley delivers a compassionate speech on the state of the sub-prime mortgage / housing crisis.



AALAM Founders Award Recipient, Justice Richard Chin, Founders Award Presenter, Hon. Justice Duffy, AALAM President, Ingrid Schroffner, Keynote Speaker, Attorney General Martha Coakley, AALAM Vice-President Tina Matsuoka.



AALAM Director Jeffrey Hsi, Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee, presents Ming Zhu with a larger-than-life check. It is reported that Ming was forced to pay an extra T fare to transport it.



Banquet Co-Chairs and AALAM Director Weber Hsiao and AALAM Member Sarunna Jin deserve our praise for planning the banquet. By the way...the Hotel would like their table settings returned!



Paul Dullea, BBA Director of Community Affairs; Vivian Tseng, BBA Council Member; Gina Walcott-Torres, Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, John Chu, BBA Treasurer.



AALAM
Asian American Lawyers
Association of Massachusetts

NEW ADDRESS
P.O. Box 6254
Boston, MA 02114

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FOR 2008-2009

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Professional Opportunities

For employment and professional opportunity announcements, visit the AALAM website at www.aalam.org under "Professional Opportunities."

If you have a job announcement you would like posted on the AALAM website, send the announcement to: Jeff M. Seo at [jmseo@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:jmse@bidmc.harvard.edu)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On February 17th, AALAM Director, Gloria Tan, gave birth to a beautiful healthy girl named Sarah. Congratulations Gloria!
- As of April 22nd, AALAM President, Ingrid Chiemi Schroffner, became Assistant General Counsel at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, located at One Ashburton Place, 11th Floor, Boston.
- Recently, AALAM Vice-President, Tina Matsuoka, announced her plans to move to the Washington D.C. area this summer. We will miss you Tina!
- Would you like to make an announcement in the newsletter? Then send them to AALAM at [jmseo@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:jmse@bidmc.harvard.edu)

2009 NAPABA NATIONAL
CONVENTION IS COMING
TO BOSTON!

For information on how you can become involved, please contact the Convention Co-Chairs, Jeffrey Hsi (jhsi@eapdlaw.com), Victor Diune (victor_diune@ml.com), or Peggy Ho (Peggy.Ho@lpl.com).

REMINDER

OUR AALAM Membership Registration Database is up and running!

Please complete the AALAM Membership Application using the link below:

<http://www.aalam.org/member/Join.php>

Newsletters will be sent by email only, so please make sure to register your information on the AALAM website, even if you have already sent in the hard copy of your Membership form. If you have already paid your dues, there is an option for that on the website. Your assistance with bringing our membership database up-to-date is greatly appreciated!