



# AALAM NEWS

The Newsletter of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts  
Volume XVIII, No. 4, January 2003

## AALAM Honors Paul Lee at Dow Fund Dinner with 2003 Community Service Award



AALAM President Theodore Chuang, Community Service Award recipient Paul Lee, and Dow Fund President Frederick Dow.

On December 6, 2002, AALAM honored **Paul W. Lee**, a partner and **Goodwin Procter LLP** and a past president of both AALAM and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), by presenting him with the 2002 AALAM Community Service Award.

As is traditional, the award was presented at the annual Dinner Celebration of the **Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund**. The Dow Fund, an AALAM affiliate, was established in 1985 in the memory of Harry H. Dow, the first Asian American lawyer admitted to the Massachusetts Bar, with the mission of increasing the Asian American community's access to the legal system. The dinner was held at Chau Chow City Restaurant in Chinatown.

In presenting the award, AALAM President Theodore D. Chuang described Lee as "a pioneer in the Asian American legal community in Massachusetts who has demonstrated throughout his career a commitment to serving the interests of the Asian American community at the local and national levels" and someone who has "championed issues of importance not just to Asian American attorneys, but to the Asian American community as a whole."

In addition to serving as president of NAPABA and AALAM, Lee is one of one two Asian Americans on the ABA's Board of Governors, is a longstanding supporter of the Dow Fund, and was a founding member and longtime Board member of the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC), a community-based organization that develops physical community assets, including affordable housing, with an emphasis on preserving and revitalizing Boston's Chinatown.

Chuang said of Lee, "Paul Lee's example, of demonstrating that a successful legal career in the private sector can and should be matched by an unflinching commitment to community service, serves as both an inspiration and a challenge to the vast majority of Asian American attorneys in Massachusetts whose professional lives do not directly encompass community service. His example challenges us to always remember that to truly do well, one must also do good."



Su Joun, AALAM Directors Myong Joun and Jeffrey Hsi at the Dow Fund Dinner.

In accepting the award, Lee thanked AALAM, the Dow Fund, and his wife and children, who were in attendance. Lee also expressed his admiration for two of his partners at Goodwin Procter LLP, former AALAM President **Rebecca Lee** and **Marian Tse**, both of whom have worked with him on community projects within the Asian American community. Lee also noted the particular honor of receiving the award at the Dow Fund dinner, which he has attended all seventeen times it has been held.

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## AALAM

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## Announcements

### *AALAM January Membership Event*

#### **"Marketing Yourself and Your Practice in the Current Economy"**

The legal industry has been affected by the economic downturn, the 9/11 tragedy and accounting scandals. Just recently three venerable law firms announced their plans to disband. Layoffs of associates continue to spread like wildfire and an increasing number of them are being passed up for partnership. *Can your legal practice survive in today's environment?*

Join us at **5:30pm** on **January 21, 2003** to discuss the current legal climate in New England with **Thomas E. Dwyer**. As past president of the Boston Bar Association and founder of **Dwyer & Collora**, Tom has been practicing law for 20+ years. He founded Dwyer & Collora in 1980 with just one other attorney. Today his firm consists of 24 attorneys with clients based throughout the Eastern United States. Tom is a graduate of Boston College and Suffolk University Law School.

The discussion will take place at **Choate, Hall & Stewart** (53 State Street) on the 36<sup>th</sup> Floor. If you plan on attending, please RVSP with **Carolyn Hunt**, [chunt@choate.com](mailto:chunt@choate.com), (617)248-4874 by January 17. Please bring photo identification for entry into the building. Refreshments will be provided.

### *9<sup>th</sup> National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law and Public Policy sponsored by Harvard APALSA*

This year's conference will be held on **February 28 – March 1, 2003**, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Entitled **Mapping the Frontier: The Expanding Boundaries of the Asian American Movement**, the Conference seeks in general to explore the new boundaries of the APA discourse, and to identify, define and situate "Asian America" in the fluid realities of the 21st century. Panel topics include:

- The New Leadership of the Asian Pacific American Community
- Disrupting the Black-White Paradigm: Asian Americans and Critical Race Theory
- Urban Revitalization and Asian Pacific American Communities
- Gender Roles of Asian-American Men and Women
- Representation of Asian-Americans in the Legal Profession
- Immigration and Criminal Law : A New Challenge

For more information, contact **Steve Choi** at [schoi@law.harvard.edu](mailto:schoi@law.harvard.edu).

### *Save the Date: NAPABA NE Regional Conference*

The **2003 National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Northeast Regional Conference** will take place on **Saturday, May 3, 2003** in Hartford Connecticut. The Conference, which will be hosted by the **Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (CAPABA)** will bring together members of affiliated Asian American bar associations from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. CAPABA is interested in having AALAM suggest ideas and panelists for the Conference. To assist with the Conference, or for more information, contact **Theodore Chuang** at (617)748-3173 or [chuang@post.harvard.edu](mailto:chuang@post.harvard.edu).

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued on page 4

## AALAM November Membership Meeting

On Wednesday, **November 20, 2002**, AALAM held its November membership meeting at the law offices of **Perkins, Smith & Cohen, LLP**, 1 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The guest speakers were **Paul Watanabe** and **Michael Liu** of the **University of Massachusetts Institute for Asian American Studies**.

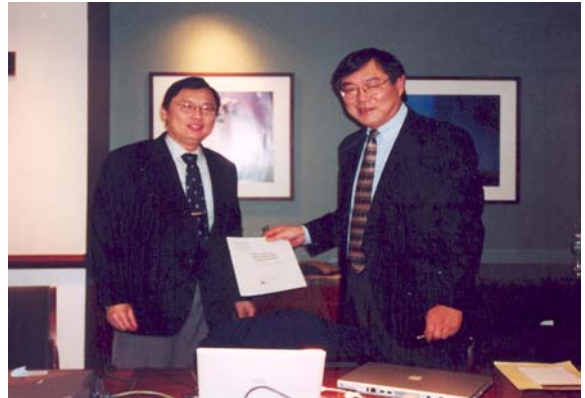
Aided by an impressive power point presentation, Paul Watanabe and Michael Liu discussed their recent groundbreaking study **“Asian American Voter Registration in Massachusetts: A Preliminary Report on Ten Cities and Towns (2002).”** This is the first study of its kind on Asian American voters. Voter registration and turnout studies are commonly done on other racial groups. Asians are not typically surveyed because of the language barriers. In addition, race is not a variable on the census list and Asians are difficult to identify just by studying the list.

Watanabe and Liu concentrated on ten cities and towns in Massachusetts which have a higher percentage of Asians than other Massachusetts cities and towns. The study found a big “voter registration gap” between the number of Asian Americans who can register to vote and those who actually do. During the period of time that researchers studied, only about 25.4% of the Asian population was registered to vote as compared to the 61.4% of the total population which were registered to vote.

Watanabe and Liu, using some census data for the state as a whole, determined that one of the reasons for the difference in voter registration is that only 50% of Asians in Massachusetts are citizens while 92% of the total population is citizens. Massachusetts has a largely immigrant population. On the national level, the percentage of Asians born in the United States is only about 25% compared with other ethnicities (e.g. 75% Blacks, 70% Latino).

The researchers also analyzed data limited to U.S. citizens of legal voting age. The numbers still reflected that Asian American voting-age citizens register at a lower rate (50.5%) than the total population (69.5%)

The study proposes increased naturalization and voter registration campaigns in order to affect the participation of Asian Americans in the political process. Copies of the study can be obtained from the University of Massachusetts, Institute for Asian American Studies.



Michael Liu and Paul Watanabe



AALAM members enjoying the presentation

## NAPABA Hosts 14<sup>th</sup> National Convention

The **National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)**, of which AALAM is an affiliate member, hosted its **14th Annual National Convention** during the weekend of November 7-9, 2002 in Atlanta, Georgia. Under the theme, **“Fulfilling the Dream: Asian Americans on the Move,”** the Convention featured keynote speakers, panel discussions and CLE programs, the presentation of the annual NAPABA Trailblazer Awards, the annual Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition, and the Installation Banquet.

The banquet keynote speaker was **Larry D. Thompson**, Deputy Attorney General of the United States, who briefed the Convention on aspects of the Bush

Administration’s War on Terrorism. Thompson also exhorted NAPABA members to consider devoting a portion of their careers to public service. Despite a distinguished career as an attorney at the Atlanta law firm of King & Spalding, Thompson stated that his most rewarding professional experiences have come during his service with the Justice Department, both as Deputy Attorney General and as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia in the 1980s.

Other keynote speakers during the Convention included **Debra W. Yang**, the United States Attorney for the Central District of California (Los Angeles) and first Asian American to hold that position; and **Justice Robert Benham** of the Georgia Supreme Court.

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*NAPABA – continued from page 3*

On Friday evening, NAPABA hosted its annual Trailblazer Reception at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Center. The nine award recipients, designated by geographical region, are selected based on their tenacity, vision, creativity, and courage in making substantial and lasting contributions to their own communities and to the Asian Pacific American community at large. This year's recipients included Northeast Region awardee, **Judge Randolph M. Subryan** of the Superior Court of New Jersey, the first Asian American judge in the state of New Jersey.

The panel discussions and CLE programs ranged from a panel of judges providing tips for litigators on courtroom presentation, to a panel on how in-house counsel select outside counsel, to a panel on civil rights issues in the post-September 11 era, to a discussion on Asian American political empowerment. Among the featured panelists were U.S. Rep. **Mike Honda** (D-Cal.); **Judge Denny Chin** of the U.S. District Court for the

Southern District of New York; **Paul Igasaki** of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; partners at such law firms as Shearman & Sterling, Milbank Tweed, Fried Frank, Morrison & Forester, and Irell & Manella; and the general counsels of corporations such as NBC, Knight Ridder, IKON Office Solutions, Gateway Computers, and Fannie Mae.

In addition to the substantive programs, the Convention, as always, provided a unique opportunity for networking and fellowship among Asian American attorneys from around the United States. In particular, the Friday and Saturday evening post-event parties allowed attendees to get acquainted and reacquainted with each other.

AALAM members attending the Convention included AALAM President **Theodore D. Chuang**, who represented AALAM at a Bar Leader's Forum on Thursday afternoon; former AALAM President **Rebecca Lee**; and **Vivian Hsu**, who did AALAM proud by emerging victorious in a "Battle of the Sexes" charity tennis match (to benefit the NAPABA Law Foundation) against a trash-talking Texas attorney, **Wilson Chu**.

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*DOW FUND – continued from page 1*

Finally, Lee noted that although the legal profession sometimes suffers from a negative public perception, he is proud of the fact that attorneys consistently engage in public service at a higher rate than other professions and urged others to continue that commitment.

Also at the dinner, the Dow Fund presented its Justice in Action Award to the **New England Chapter of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)**, a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths and is dedicated to pursuing social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. On two occasions, AFSC has assisted the Chinatown community by designing, conducting, and monitoring community referenda on land use issues. In 1993, it organized a referendum in which residents overwhelmingly expressed opposition to a New England Medical Center garage development on "Parcel C," which was ultimately reserved for community development. In August 2002, AFSC organized a similar referendum on the issue of the proposed Liberty Place housing development, in which residents again expressed opposition to the project.

The keynote address for the dinner was delivered by **Dr. Rolland C. Lowe**, a San Francisco physician who was the first Asian American president of the California Medical Association. Lowe spoke of his experiences during the McCarthy anti-communist era in the 1950s when he and his wife suffered persecution because of their membership in the Chinese American Democratic Youth League, which the FBI believed to be sympathetic to the People's Republic of China. The story of Dr. Lowe

and many other Chinese Americans who faced such persecution was the subject of a 2001 documentary, "The Chinatown Files," excerpts of which were shown at the dinner.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS – continued from page 2*

## **2003 AALAM Scholarship Information**

**A**AALAM is pleased to announce its **sixth annual AALAM Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000 which will be awarded to one law student for the 2002-2003 academic year. The scholarship is awarded each academic year to an Asian-American law student who demonstrates leadership potential, maturity and responsibility, a commitment to making a contribution to the Asian-American community and other indicia of excellence, whether personal, professional or academic.

To apply for the scholarship, potential candidates must be enrolled at a law school in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the 2002-2003 academic year, must complete and return the [AALAM Scholarship application form](#) on or before Wednesday, March 5, 2003 to: **Jeffrey D. Hsi, Esq.**, Fish & Richardson P.C., 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110, along with all required submissions, and must submit one (1) letter of recommendation from a person not related to the candidate. Application forms are available at AALAM's website at [www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org). The scholarship award will be announced in the Spring of 2003 in connection with an AALAM membership event. For more information, please contact Jeffrey D. Hsi, Esq. at (617) 542-5070.

## Committee Reports

### AALAM Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee is the process of planning with **Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), Asian American Civic Association (AACA) and the Economic Justice Project (EJP)**, a legal workshop for the Chinese communities in the Greater Boston area. The workshop will be held on **April 7, 2003** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at AACA's offices on 200 Tremont Street in Boston. The workshop is expected to provide attendees with information on (1) Citizenship and Naturalization, (2) Health Insurance and Benefits, (3) Credit and Loans, (4) Employment Rights/Employment Discrimination, (5) Home Ownership/Home Insurance and (6) Starting a Business.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Community Service Committee is seeking attorney and law student volunteers to assist with the Spring Workshop. If any attorneys are interested in making a presentation on any of the above topics (being bilingual in Mandarin is desirable, but not required), or if you are interested in assisting with publicity or with the set-up of the workshop on April 7, please contact:

1. For general inquiries, contact Flora Chan at [caymuscs@yahoo.com](mailto:caymuscs@yahoo.com).
2. To volunteer to set-up or publicize the program, please contact Brad Chin at [aggie96whoop@hotmail.com](mailto:aggie96whoop@hotmail.com).

3. To volunteer for any one of the following workshops please contact the person listed below:

Starting a Business Workshop  
Flora Chan - 617-320-6577  
[caymuscs@yahoo.com](mailto:caymuscs@yahoo.com)

Home Ownership/Home Insurance Workshop  
Theo Chuang  
[theodore.chuang@usdoj.gov](mailto:theodore.chuang@usdoj.gov)

Health Insurance and Benefits Workshop  
Lena Wong - (617) 725-8106  
[lena.wong@appct.state.ma.us](mailto:lena.wong@appct.state.ma.us)

Employment Rights/Employment Discrimination Workshop  
Tina Matsuoka - (617) 727-2200, ext. 2920  
[tina.matsuoka@ago.ma.state.ma.us](mailto:tina.matsuoka@ago.ma.state.ma.us)

Credit and Loans Workshop  
Geoffrey Why - (617) 727-2200, ext. 2571  
[geoffrey.why@ago.state.ma.us](mailto:geoffrey.why@ago.state.ma.us)

Citizenship and Naturalization Workshop  
Sherry Yee Mulloy - (617) 523-8300, ext 246  
[smulloy@mabbf.com](mailto:smulloy@mabbf.com)

## Calendar of Events

Please check our website [www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org) for updates on events and other current AALAM information.

<b>January 16, 2003</b> 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>AALAM Board of Directors Meeting</b> Choate, Hall & Stewart, 53 State Street, 36 <sup>th</sup> floor, Boston , MA Contact: Carolyn Hunt at (617)248-4874 or <a href="mailto:chunt@choate.com">chunt@choate.com</a> ,
<b>January 21, 2003</b> 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	<b>AALAM January Membership Event:</b> <b>“Marketing Yourself and Your Practice in the Current Economy”</b> Choate, Hall & Stewart, 53 State Street, 36 <sup>th</sup> floor, Boston , MA Contact: Carolyn Hunt at (617)248-4874 or <a href="mailto:chunt@choate.com">chunt@choate.com</a> ,
<b>February 28 – March 1, 2003</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Pacific American Conference on Law &amp; Public Policy</b> Harvard APALSA, Cambridge, MA Contact: Steve Choi at <a href="mailto:schoi@law.harvard.edu">schoi@law.harvard.edu</a>
<b>April 7, 2003</b> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>AALAM Community Service Workshop</b> Asian American Civic Association, 100 Tremont Street, Boston, MA Contact: Flora Chan at <a href="mailto:caymuscs@yahoo.com">caymuscs@yahoo.com</a>
<b>May 3, 2003</b>	<b>NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference</b> Hartford, Connecticut Contact: Theo Chuang at (617)748-3173 or <a href="mailto:chuang@post.harvard.edu">chuang@post.harvard.edu</a>

# AALAM NEWS

January 2003

## CONTRIBUTE TO THE AALAM NEWS

If you have an announcement or article for inclusion in the AALAM News, or would like to write articles or otherwise assist with the production of the newsletter, contact any of the following:

Ingrid C. Schroffner: (617) 345-3235, [ischroffner@b-l.com](mailto:ischroffner@b-l.com)  
Onyen Yong: (617) 619-4042, [onyen.yong@suf.state.ma.us](mailto:onyen.yong@suf.state.ma.us)

## *Professional Opportunities*

For employment and professional opportunity announcements, visit the AALAM website, [www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org), under "Professional Opportunities":

If you have a job announcement you would like posted on the AALAM website, send the announcement, preferably by e-mail, to: Elizabeth E. Nam, Esq. at [eliznam@hotmail.com](mailto:eliznam@hotmail.com)



### AALAM

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## Membership Reminder!!!

Have you forgotten about your membership dues?? You must be a dues-paying member in order to continue receiving this newsletter and future e-mail announcements from AALAM. Go to [www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org) for information.

*Thank you!*