



AALAM NEWS

The Newsletter of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts
Volume XVIII, No. 2, September 2002

AALAM Kicks Off 2002-2003 Season With BBQ

We kicked off our 2002-2003 season with a fun cookout on the picnic grounds of Hopkinton State Park on Sunday, August 11, 2002. The weather was picture perfect - sunny, clear blue skies and a nice cool breeze. We had an excellent view of, and access to, the lake and the beach. The picnic tables and grills were situated under a canopy of trees.

Former AALAM Director Tricia Deraska and family were the first to arrive. With water balloons, basketballs, floaters and fishing poles in hand, along with one large bowl of peanut noodles, they successfully secured five picnic tables and two barbecue grills.

Other members and friends arrived soon thereafter. While the adults prepared the food, the kids enjoyed the lake and beach. Food was ready in less than an hour and we feasted on some mean Korean barbecue bulgogi and kalbi, and good ol' American hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken wings and grilled corn. Moreover, there were heaps of hot rice, spicy kimchee, pickled vegetables, large ripe juicy tomatoes, sweet vidalia onions, relish of all sorts, and chips and desserts galore.

Special thanks to all AALAM members who served as "iron chefs" and on our cleaning crew, and to all who brought food and supplies or otherwise helped in the planning of the picnic. Approximately 35 AALAM members, friends and family attended the event with the addition of the newest member at the end of the day - "Fred the Frog".

By Flora Chan



AALAM members enjoying the feast.



AALAM Director Myong Joun waiting for 3rd Helpings.



AALAM members at the Summer Outing at Hopkinton State Park.

Inside this Issue:

AALAM Executive Board Retreat	3
AALAM Poll	5
Announcements	2
Calendar of Events	4
Committee Reports	4
Professional Opportunities	6



AALAM NEWS

September 2002

AALAM

Asian American Lawyers Association
of Massachusetts

P.O. Box 5655
Boston, MA 02114

www.aalam.org
aalamass@hotmail.com

President

Theodore D. Chuang

Vice President

Eunice Kim Chapon

Secretary

Elizabeth E. Nam

Treasurer

Chinh H. Pham

Board of Directors

Flora W.L. Chan
Stephen Y. Chow
Jeffrey D. Hsi
Myong J. Joun
Meerie M. Joun
Sherry Yee Mulloy
Cindy S. Oh
Michelle H. Rhee
Ingrid C. Schroffner
Elaine Tung
Lena M. Wong
G. Perry Wu
Onyen Yong

Newsletter Editor

Ingrid C. Schroffner
Onyen Yong

Professional Opportunities Editor

Elizabeth E. Nam

Webmaster

PlexCom Online Services

Announcements

AALAM to Co-Host Joint Minority Bar Reception for Law Students

AALAM, along with the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys and the other Massachusetts Minority Bar Associations, will host the **Joint Minority Bar Reception for Law Students**. It will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2002 beginning at 5:30 pm. at **Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.**, One Financial Center, Boston, MA 02111. For more information, contact Michelle Rhee at (617) 526-6064 or michelle.rhee@haledorr.com. (see article on page 5)

Student Outreach Committee Visits Boston University School of Law APALSA

On September 12, 2002, **Michelle Rhee**, Student Outreach Committee member, visited with the Boston University School of Law APALSA for the first meeting of the 2002-2003 academic year. At the meeting, she invited the students to join AALAM as student members, to consider applying for the annual Scholarship and to participate in the Mentorship Program. Approximately 25 Asian American law students, mostly first years, attended the meeting.

AALAM Board Member Speaks at Conference

Boston attorneys **Myong Joun**, an AALAM director, and **Howard Friedman** spoke at the **Northeast Regional Conference of the National Lawyers Guild** held at the Western New England College School of Law on September 21, 2002 about how a small two-lawyer firm was able to handle a complex civil rights class action lawsuit. The pair reached a \$10 million settlement with the City of Boston and Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in May 2002 on behalf of more than 5,400 women who were illegally strip-searched.

AALAM Board Member in the Probate Arena

AALAM board member **Ingrid C. Schroffner** recently co-authored materials with noted probate practitioner **Brian D. Bixby**, Esq. for a Massachusetts Bar Association seminar on "**How to Handle a Will Contest**," which took place on September 17, 2002 at the MBA. Also, Ingrid, as Co-Chair of Programs for the BBA Family Law Steering Committee, organized a panel presentation on "**Evaluating Removal in Massachusetts**," which took place at the Boston College Law School Barat House on September 12, 2002. The panel featured Probate and Family Court Judges **Robert W. Langlois**, two well-known practitioners, **David Cherney**, Esq. and **Francis Russell**, Esq., and oft-used expert **John Daignault**, Psy.D. The panel was introduced and moderated by Boston College Law School Professor **Alan Minuskin** and well-attended, including in the audience Probate and Family Court Judge **Edward M. Ginsburg**, who also teaches at the B.C. Law school.



AALAM Executive Board Retreat

On the afternoon of Friday, **August 2, 2002**, the AALAM Executive Board held a Retreat in Newton, Massachusetts. This was the third straight year in which the Board held a Retreat, with the first two having taken place in September 2000 and September 2001 in Lexington.

The highlights of this year's Retreat were as follows:

Administration: The Board spent the first part of the Retreat reassessing AALAM's administrative needs for the upcoming year. Among other things, the Board reviewed the proposed 2002-2003 budget; decided to expand the scope of membership recruitment efforts, especially as to newly admitted attorneys; agreed to evaluate a number of proposed upgrades to the organizational Website and e-mail distribution network; and allocated responsibilities for the production and publication of the organization's bimonthly newsletter, the *AALAM News*.

Events: The Board then scheduled and planned AALAM's program events for the period through January 2003, including the August 11, 2002 Summer Picnic and BBQ; the September 19, 2002 General Membership "Kick-Off" Meeting; the October 2, 2002 Joint Minority Bar Fall Reception for law students; and the October 16, 2002 General Membership Meeting. The Board also agreed that AALAM would begin sponsoring after-work social events each month at a set location to be determined. Finally, the Board voted to explore the possibility of

hosting an organizational banquet in late February or early March 2003.

Committees: The Board spent the remainder of the afternoon planning the activities of its four committees – the brand-new Advocacy/Contributions and Endorsements/Appointments Committees and the longer-established Community Service and Law Student Outreach Committees. On the Advocacy/Contributions front, the Board began reviewing a draft policy relating to outside requests for AALAM participation in amicus briefs and position statements on pending legislation, and approved guidelines concerning charitable contributions made by and on behalf of AALAM. With respect to Endorsements/Appointments, the Board began reviewing a draft policy that would establish criteria and procedures regarding outside requests for endorsements and appointments. As for Community Service, the Board agreed to pursue, among other initiatives, the idea of having AALAM join forces with the Asian American Civic Association and Greater Boston Legal Services to sponsor a Legal Workshop sometime next spring. Lastly, with regard to Law Student Outreach, the Board voted to "stay the course" with AALAM's highly touted campus visits and scholarship and mentorship programs.

These (and other) fruits of the Executive Board Retreat will hopefully become evident for all to see during the upcoming membership year!

AALAM Hosts Summer Intern Lunch

On **July 24, 2002**, AALAM hosted its annual lunch for summer associates, law clerks and interns. Approximately 40 AALAM members and summer interns attended the event and enjoyed Asian food and informal conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. The attendees heard welcoming remarks from Theodore Chuang, President of AALAM, who spoke about AALAM and the benefits of practicing in Boston. **Hale and Dorr LLP** generously sponsored the event.





AALAM NEWS

September 2002

Committee Reports

AALAM Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee is planning a 2003 Spring Legal Workshop to be held in Boston's Chinatown. If you are interested in helping or speaking at the workshop please contact **Flora W.L. Chan** at caymuscs@yahoo.com.

If you would like to join the committee or have any suggestions or ideas, please contact any one of the following committee members: **Flora W.L. Chan**, **Sherry Yee Mulloy** at smulloy@mbbf.com, or **Lena M. Wong** at lena.wong@appct.state.ma.us.

AALAM Advocacy Committee Report

The Advocacy Committee was recently established to formulate criteria and protocol for all requests for AALAM participation in amicus curiae briefs, position statements on pending legislation and charitable contributions.

Recently, the **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law** requested that AALAM sign on to an amicus brief in support of seven same-sex couples challenging Massachusetts laws that deny them the fundamental right to marry. The Committee made a preliminary recommendation to the Board of Directors that AALAM sign on, pending a review of a draft of the brief. The Board hopes to take a final vote and make a decision shortly. If you have any thoughts or comments on this issue, please let us know (see the Poll on page 5). We will keep you posted in future newsletters.

The Advocacy Committee recommended, and the Board approved, to buy a \$100 ad for the Silk Road Gala in November. See the Calendar of Events for more details about the Gala.

If you are interested in participating on the Advocacy Committee, please contact **Myong J. Joun** at (617) 742-4100, mijoun@civil-rights-law.com or **Cindy Oh** at (617) 570-1853, coh@goodwinprocter.com.

AALAM Student Outreach Committee

The 2002-2003 academic year promises to be a busy and exciting one for the Student Outreach Committee. The Committee's mission is to help Asian American students at Massachusetts law schools succeed in law school and to advise them on career options and professional opportunities in Massachusetts. To further this mission, the Committee has several programs, including a Mentorship Program, an annual Scholarship and a series of panels and informal lunches where practitioners are invited to discuss their careers with students.

During the fall, Committee members will visit various Asian American student organizations at the area law schools to talk about AALAM, the Committee and the events open to interested students. In October, AALAM, along with other minority bar organizations, will host a fall welcoming reception for first year law students of color. The reception will take place 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 2, 2002 at **Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo**, One Financial Center.

Also during the fall, both students and AALAM members will be invited to participate in the **AALAM Mentorship Program**. During the Mentorship Program, AALAM members serve as mentors to law students for the 2002-2003 academic year. A kickoff reception where mentors and mentees may meet each other will be held in the spring.

Beginning in October and November, applications will be accepted from students interested in **AALAM's Annual Scholarship**. The Scholarship is awarded each year to one or more deserving law students. Materials and more detailed information about these programs may be found at AALAM's website at www.aalam.org.

As always, the Committee would love to have additional members join us. If you are interested in participating in the Student Outreach Committee, please contact **Michelle Rhee** at (617) 526-6064 or michelle.rhee@haledorr.com.

Calendar of Events

Please check our website www.aalam.org for updates on events and other current AALAM information.

September 26, 2002 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm	AALAM Executive Board Meeting Bingham McCutchen LLP, 150 Federal Street, Boston, MA Contact: Theodore Chuang, (617) 748-3173, theodore.chuang@usdoj.gov
October 2, 2002 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Joint Minority Bar Reception for Law Students Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C., One Financial Center, Boston, MA Contact: Michelle Rhee: (617) 526-6064, michelle.rhee@haledorr.com
October 16, 2002 TBA	AALAM October General Membership Meeting Topic and Place TBA Contact: Elizabeth Nam, (617) 248-5241, enam@choate.com
TBA 5:30 – 7:30 pm	AALAM Monthly Social Event TBA Contact: Elizabeth Nam, (617) 248-5241, enam@choate.com



AALAM POLL

In an effort to promote feedback and participation from our membership, we are conducting the first AALAM Poll.

SHOULD AALAM SIGN ON TO AN AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGES?

AALAM received a request that we sign on to an amicus brief in support of seven same-sex couples challenging Massachusetts laws that deny same-sex couples the right to marry. We want to hear your opinions.

CASE HISTORY

The case was filed on behalf of seven same-sex couples challenging Massachusetts laws that deny them the right to marry. The trial court ruled against the same-sex couples. The court based its denial of marriage licenses on a legal conclusion that having and raising children is central to the purpose of marriage, despite acknowledging that 4 of the 7 couples in the case have children and that Massachusetts law allows same-sex couples to jointly adopt. The couples appealed this decision and seek direct appellate review by the Supreme Judicial Court.

AMICUS BRIEF

The amicus brief to which AALAM is being asked to sign on focuses on the history of discrimination in the institution of marriage (race, national origin, gender, and now sexual orientation) and argues the need for heightened scrutiny since the discrimination is based on sexual orientation and gender. As a minority group, AALAM has been asked to sign on to the brief on the grounds that another minority group is being singled out for denial of a fundamental right - the right to marry - which the rest of society enjoys.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

Should AALAM sign on to the amicus brief? Why or why not? Should AALAM support this on the principle of equality? Please send your thoughts and comments to: aalamass@hotmail.com.

Your response may be selected for publication in an upcoming issue. We will honor any request to withhold your name.

AALAM General Meeting 2002

On Thursday, September 19, 2002, beginning at 5:30 p.m., AALAM commenced its 2002–2003 year with its annual meeting at the offices of **Choate, Hall & Stewart**. The meeting was kicked off with cocktails and refreshments, as members and potential members mingled. Thirty people turned out for the event, including former AALAM President, **Paul Lee**, and Judge **Jack Lu** of the Boston Municipal Court.

After introductory remarks by AALAM President **Theodore Chuang** AALAM committee chairs spoke briefly on past and future events of their respective committees: Programs, Theodore Chuang; Banquet, Eunice Chapon; Social, Elizabeth Nam; Community Service, Flora Chan; Student Outreach, Michelle Rhee; Newsletter, Onyen Yong and Ingrid Schroffner; Advocacy, Myong Joun; and Endorsements, Perry Wu. Those interested in assisting with any of the committees should contact one of the co-chairs for the committee(s). All committees are soliciting volunteers. Specifically, the Newsletter committee is seeking those interested in being writers to contribute to the newsletter.

AALAM Members Meet Judges from China

On Friday, August 16, 2002, AALAM members (**Flora W.L. Chan, Hon. Fernande R.V. Duffly, Frank A. Flynn, Kay Hodge and Paul Yee**) attended a banquet for a group of judges from the Supreme People's Court (highest level in the judicial branch) and Higher People's Court of the People's Republic of China. The purpose of the Chinese judges' visit was to learn about the Massachusetts judicial system. Several Massachusetts justices are traveling to China this month to set up moot court programs in Nanjing, Chengdu and Beijing. Below is a brief summary on the moot court program, provided by the McCormack Institute. For more information about the banquet or the China-Massachusetts judges' exchange, contact the McCormack Institute or Massachusetts Judges Conference.

In partnership with the Massachusetts Judges Conference, a private organization of 350 Massachusetts judges, the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs will run a U.S State Department funded "Comparative Moot Court Pilot Project: Judges Working with Judges" in China in the fall of 2002, and again in the spring of 2003. Leading judges, prosecutors, attorneys, and legal educators from Massachusetts will participate in a total of three weeks of moot courts where the participants will be introduced to aspects of the American judicial procedure that make courts trusted arbiters, and to fundamental legal principles of American jurisprudence. The moot courts will provide training models upon which the Chinese can base continuing education for judges, prosecutors, and attorneys. The moot court sessions will be video taped and these tapes will be distributed throughout the Chinese court system.



AALAM NEWS

September 2002

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
Onyen Yong: (617) 619-4042, onyen.yong@suf.state.ma.us

Professional Opportunities

The following employment and professional opportunity announcements are posted on the AALAM website, www.aalam.org, under "Professional Opportunities":

- Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Referral Paralegal, Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association
- Deputy Director of Labor and Employee Relations, Gatti and Associates
- Risk Manager, Fidelity Investments
- Senior Attorney, IMS Health
- Law Clerks (2003-2004), The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Clinical Instructor/Attorney, Harvard Law School

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., Choate, Hall & Stewart, enam@choate.com, Tel: (617) 248-5241, Fax: (617) 248-4000



AALAM

Asian American Lawyers
Association of Massachusetts
P.O. Box 5655
Boston, MA 02114

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

for information.

Thank you!