



AALAM NEWS

The Newsletter of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TOWARD A GREATER UNITY OF PURPOSE

Dear AALAM Members and Friends,

In the past two years, the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts (AALAM) has grown significantly, and with your help and support, we have achieved some memorable milestones.

In November 2009, AALAM hosted a very successful National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) convention at the Westin Hotel Copley in Boston. Despite one of the worst economic recessions in history, we set new attendance records for the NAPABA Convention with over 1200 attendees. From November 17 to 21, Asian-Pacific American attorneys from all over the country gathered in Boston at the NAPABA convention, which included distinguished keynote speakers such as the Honorable Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Harold Koh (U.S. State Department Legal Advisor) and Preeta Bansal (General Counsel of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget), innovative CLE programs and numerous social events. Congratulations again to the 2009 NAPABA Host Committee and its tireless co-chairs, Victor Diune, Peggy Ho, Jeffrey Hsi, and Emily Yu!

On April 21, 2009, AALAM marked another milestone, honoring its founders and celebrating its 25th anniversary at the Hong Kong restaurant in Harvard Square. Past AALAM presidents presented gifts to six of the nine original founders who were able to attend this event, which was a special opportunity for many friends, supporters and members of AALAM to gather and celebrate 25 years of growth, progress, and friendship.

Other significant milestones in the past two years include the appointment of several Asian-American attorneys to the judiciary as well as an appointment to a senior state government position. Judge Paul Yee was appointed to the Quincy District Court, Judge Angel Kelley Brown to the Brockton District Court, and Judge George Phelan to the Probate and Family Courts for Nantucket County. On February 22, 2010, AALAM organized an "Elevation Celebration" to celebrate these recent judicial appointments, as described more fully below/on page two. In addition to these notable judicial nominations, Geoffrey Why, a longtime AALAM board member, was appointed as the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable. We are proud to celebrate these distinguished appointments and achievements.

Additionally, AALAM continued to hold our traditional events along with organizing some new activities for our members. Each September, AALAM members and supporters gathered at our annual Fall Kickoff event, generously hosted at Bingham McCutcheon's offices, to renew existing friendships and make new connections. We gathered again each July at AALAM's annual summer associate and intern lunch, generously hosted at Goodwin Procter's offices, to mix and mingle with Asian-American summer associates and interns. AALAM held its third annual speed mentoring event in January 2010, generously hosted at the offices of Duane Morris. Over 40 law students and law practitioners participated in this fun, interactive mentoring event, which by popular demand has become an annual AALAM event.

AALAM members have also continued to contribute to local community service activities. In December 2009, AALAM members attended the annual Dow Dinner, at which AALAM awarded its annual Community Service Award to Rebecca Lee, in honor of her longtime

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AALAM President Charlotte Kim

service and dedication to Ricesticks and Tea and the larger Asian-American community. Ricesticks and Tea is a unique Asian food pantry program in the Greater Boston area, serving more than 120 low-income Asian-American immigrant and refugee families each month. For the second year in a row, in March 2010, AALAM members participated in an organized Ricesticks and Tea community service day, helping to sort and distribute donated food items to more than 100 individuals and families.

We have also made great progress in strengthening and deepening our relationships with the affinity bar associations in Massachusetts. Together with the other affinity bar associations and with the support of the Boston Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, we have broken new ground in our relationship with the Boston Bar Association. We have also continued to work with the Massachusetts Bar Association on matters of mutual interest. By working together with the affinity bar associations on issues of shared concern and co-sponsoring more events, we have helped further AALAM's mission by increasing diversity and inclusion in the Boston area legal profession. We look forward to continuing to make substantial progress on this front with the continuing support and help of like-minded affinity bar associations.

As we come together for AALAM's 26th annual anniversary banquet on April 29, it is our great pleasure to welcome Ms. Carmen Ortiz, the newly appointed U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, as our distinguished keynote speaker. Ms. Ortiz is the first woman and the first Hispanic to be the Commonwealth's top federal prosecutor. We are also honored to present AALAM's Founders Award, which is awarded annually to an Asian-American attorney who has made significant contributions in business, academics, or the community as it relates to the law, to Mr. Don H. Liu, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for Xerox Corporation. Mr. Liu has previously served as general counsel for Toll Brothers, Inc. and IKON Office Solutions, and he is the current Chair of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association. He has been a leading inspiration and mentor to many Asian-American and other minority attorneys for many years.

(Continued on Page Two)

President's Message Continued

Reflecting on the past two years, AALAM and its members have faced unprecedented historic and economic challenges, together with the rest of the nation. Yet in the face of these challenges we have hosted an enormously successful national NAPABA convention; we have celebrated the elevation of 3 new Asian-American judges in Massachusetts and the appointment of an Asian-American Commissioner in the Massachusetts government; we have increased our membership; we have expanded our activities; we have continued to award a scholarship to a promising young law student each year; we have strengthened existing relationships; and we have forged new relationships with our affinity bar associations, all while continuing to dedicate time and support to community service.

It is my sincere hope that the spirit of mutual cooperation in working toward a greater unity of purpose will continue to thrive and grow. These past two years have been an inspiring example of how much we can accomplish when we all work together. I look forward to celebrating ever greater achievements of AALAM with you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte Kim

President (2008-10)

Elevation Celebration: AALAM Celebrates the Appointment of Three New Asian American Judges

The number of Asian-Americans sitting on the Massachusetts judiciary is now at a historic high. Within the past months, three Asian-Americans have been elevated to the state court bench, bringing to eight, the total number of Asian-American judges. To recognize the achievements of these new judges, AALAM hosted an "Elevation Celebration" on February 22, 2010 at the refurbished conference space at the Boston Bar Association.

The three new Asian-American judges are Angel Kelley Brown, who was appointed to the Brockton District Court; George Phelan, who was appointed to the Norfolk Probate and Family Court; and Paul Yee, who was appointed to the Quincy District Court. Prior to her appointment to the Brockton District Court, Judge Kelley Brown was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Economic Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts. Prior to his appointment to the Norfolk Probate & Family Court, Judge Phelan served 28 years in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corp, including a volunteer assignment as a Rule of Law Advisor with the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq. Finally, prior to his appointment to the Quincy District Court, Judge Yee was a solo practitioner providing legal service to Boston's Asian-American community.

The February 22 event was attended by approximately thirty AALAM members, including four of the five Asian-American judges already seated on the state court bench. Justice Fernande Duffly, the most senior Asian-American on the state's judiciary, and Judge Richard Chin, the first Asian-American to be appointed to the state's judiciary, both spoke during the evening's program. Judges Eleanor Sinnott of the Boston Municipal Court and Sabita Singh of District Circuit Court attended the event. Mo Cowan, Governor Patrick's Chief Legal Counsel, also attended the event and made some congratulatory remarks.



Judges Fernande Duffly, Eleanor Sinnott, Sabita Singh, Angel Kelley Brown, George Phelan, Paul Yee and Richard Chin,



Judge Richard Chin provides remarks on the historical representation in the state courts.



Boston Hosts the 21st Annual NAPABA Convention

On November 19-22, 2009, Boston hosted the 21st annual National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) convention at the Westin Copley Hotel. Approximately 1200 Asian American lawyers from across the country and internationally attended the Convention, which kicked-off with a well-attended Welcome Reception. AALAM Founders, including **Paul Lee**, **Francis Chin**, **Marian Tse**, **Diane Young-Spitzer**, **Emmanuel Crespo**, and **Caroline Chang**, were honored in connection with AALAM's 25th Anniversary, and **Massachusetts Court Justice Fernande R.V. Duffly** gave the keynote speech. CLE panel sessions covered a broad range of topics, including leadership, business development, litigation, intellectual property and corporate practices, civil rights, international law and diversity. Speaker highlights included inspiring keynotes speeches by **Harold Koh**, Legal Adviser to the State Department, **Preeta Bansal**, General Counsel of the Office of Budget and Management.

The Trailblazers Award Ceremony was emceed by **Paul Lee**, and honored the following honorees who have paved the way for the advancement of other Asian Pacific American attorneys and who have had a profound and long-lasting impact on the APA community at large: **Judge Susan Nolting**

Burke (Hennepin County District Court), **William Kaneko** (currently serving as Campaign Manager for Congressman Neil Abercrombie's Hawaii gubernatorial race in 2010), **Judge Lucy Haeran Koh** (Santa Clara County Superior Court), **Kiyo Matsumoto** (United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York), **Jessie Morris, Jr.** (Sacramento Public Defender's Office), **Paul Nguyen** (retired from the Law Department of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey), **Judge Roxanne K. Song Ong** (Chief Presiding Judge of the Phoenix Municipal Court), **Peter Quon, Jr.** (California Attorney General's Office), **Wendy Shiba** (Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of KB Home): In addition, there were social events such as the annual "Late Night with Bud" karaoke event, a poker tournament, bowling and billiards event, Fenway Park tour, and nightly opportunities to mingle and network at local bars.

The Convention concluded with a banquet honoring **Senator Daniel Inouye** with the NAPABA Lifetime Achievement Award, which was graciously accepted by his wife, **Irene Hirano**. The NAPABA Best Under 40 Awards were also presented during the banquet, and **AALAM President Charlotte Kim** was honored with this award. Overall, the Convention was a huge

success for NAPABA, the Boston Host Committee and AALAM.

The planning process for the Convention spanned nearly two years, and it would not have been successful without the tireless efforts of our Host Committee Co-Chairs **Victor Diune**, **Peggy Ho**, **Jeff Hsi** and **Emily Yu**, and our energetic and enthusiastic Host Committee Members, which included: **Allen Jun**, **Binh Minh Sobol**, **Brian Eng**, **Carl Chan**, **Chris Day**, **Elaine Tung**, **Eugene Ho**, **Eunice Kim Chapon**, **Giin Levy**, **Janet Lin**, **Joan Nguyen**, **Joon Chung**, **Joshua Lee Smith**, **Lan Marinelli**, **Janet Ly**, **Len Ho**, **Lena Wong**, **Margaret Woo**, **Marianna Yang**, **Mark Wong**, **Meerie Joung**, **Michelle Rhee**, **Myong Joun**, **Nelson Wong**, **Paul Lee**, **Perry Wu**, **Randall Yee**, **Sam Kim**, **Susan Yoon**, **Travis Agustin**, and **Tricia Deraska**. We also extend a special thanks to **Paul Lee** and **Vivian Hsu**, who guided us along with their strong institutional memory and experience with NAPABA. Finally, we would like to recognize our event planner extraordinaire, **Megan Tainer**, for helping to make the Convention run so smoothly.



Group shot of AALAM members attending the NAPABA Welcome Reception.

AALAM President Charlotte Kim (Choate, Hall & Stewart) honors AALAM Founders Diane Young-Spitzer (Massachusetts Securities Division), Marian Tse (Goodwin Procter), Caroline Chang (ret. U.S. Health and Human Services), Emmanuel Crespo (Textron Systems Corp.) and Paul Lee (Goodwin Procter).

Photos from NAPABA Convention



NAPABA Host Committee Co-Chair and AALAM Secretary Peggy Ho (LPL Financial), Tina Matsuoka, NAPABA Executive Director & former AALAM Vice President, NAPABA Host Committee Co-Chair and AALAM Board Member Emily Yu (Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP) .



AALAM President Charlotte Kim (Choate, Hall & Stewart) receives Best Lawyers Under 40 Award from NAPABA Selections Committee member Judge Alvin Wong (Georgia State Court).



Vivian Hsu speaks at the Women's Leadership Breakfast.



Elaine Tung [left of center] (Law Offices of Elaine Tung), Meerie Joung [center] (Bingham McCutchen alumnae), Lena Wong [right of center] (Massachusetts Court of Appeals), and Sarah Kim [right] (Bingham McCutchen).



Boston Host Committee members pose with the Mercedes vehicles on display in connection with the NAPABA Law Foundation raffle.

AALAM Dives Into Fashion

AALAM recently held "What Not to Wear" - How to Make a Good Impression in Today's Legal Market at 9tailors, LLC studios on Kingston Street in Boston. Nearly 30 people showed up for interactive session with an engaged panel of speakers. The attendees ranged from law students to veteran practitioners, including a couple of the AALAM founders, Marian Tse of Goodwin Procter LLP and Diane Young-Spitzer of the Massachusetts Securities Division. The attendees networked, got fitted by experts and came away with some nuggets of useful advice about "what not to wear" and "what not to do" in professional situations from the panelists: Mandi Araujo LeBeau, Business Etiquette Consultant, Pardon Me, Inc. and Director of Career Services, New England Law | Boston; Samantha Shih, Founder, 9tailors, LLC; Katie Thatcher, Career Advisor at Northeastern University School of Law, formerly Director of Recruiting at Hinckley Allen & Snyder LLP and Legal Recruitment Manager at Ropes & Gray LLP; and Brion Bickerton, a legal recruiter with Major Lindsey & Africa | Boston.

The Takeaway: Five Tips Gleaned From "What Not to Wear"

1. You don't want to be remembered for what you wear! Your clothes should not be loud or distracting and should not be a means for communicating your personality. Your personality should come through what you do and say.
2. If your mother would disapprove of what you're wearing, don't wear it. Before leaving for the day, look at yourself in a full-length mirror and think about what your mother would say.
3. If you're on a budget, consider investing in one good (e.g., nice fabric and fit) suit and shirt to wear on your interviews. For interviews, go with dark suits and solid ties (for men). Men should be sure that your shirts are thick enough so that you can't see your t-shirt through the material. Women - in more conservative parts of the country, you may need to wear skirt suits to interviews. In Boston, we are more progressive (fortunately), so you can get away with pant suits.
4. Dark colors communicate authority and confidence. Light colors (tan, plaids, light blues) are more casual and fun. Go with dark colors for interviews.
5. Wear clothing that fits you. Get a tailor to help you alter long sleeves, long pant legs, and the waist band.

AALAM Hosts Third Annual Speed-Mentoring Event

Vincent Lau welcomed law students and mentors to the Third Annual Speed Mentoring Event on 1/28 held at Duane Morris (pictured to the right). We appreciate all who volunteered to be mentors, and a special thanks to Vince Lau and Romeo Camba for organizing such a successful event! The event involved rotating 15-minute mentoring sessions in which law students, recent graduates, and junior lawyers were paired with more-senior attorneys with a variety of backgrounds (firms of all sizes, in-house attorneys, government and public sector attorneys, and solo practitioners). The sessions were meant to be brief and informative and to create a unique opportunity for dialogue with experienced attorneys from different fields and affiliations.



AALAM Board members Vince Lau and Romeo Camba share their experiences with two up and coming lawyers.



AALAM Board member Jeff Seo tries to persuade two law school students to enter into the field of health law.

AALAM Vice-President, Joel Buenaventura listens to the aspirations of his mentees.

AALAM at Ricesticks and Tea

As part of AALAM's efforts in serving the greater Asian community, approximately 12 members of AALAM participated in serving over 100 individuals and families who visited the Ricesticks and Tea program on Saturday, March 13, 2010. While AALAM members have been participating on their own throughout the year, this has been the second annual organized AALAM event at Ricesticks and Tea. Participation included sorting, packaging, and distributing food items to individuals and families.

Ricesticks and Tea is the only food pantry of its kind in the Greater Boston area to provide its clientele with Asian food items. The donations vary monthly, and include items such as dried mushrooms, rice noodles, dichon, and bags of rice. These items are donated by local Asian supermarkets or offered to the food pantry at a discounted price. While any food assistance is welcomed, the clientele especially appreciate food catered to their ethnic tastes.

2009 Harry Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund Dinner

The 24th Annual Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund (the "Dow Fund") Dinner was held at the China Pearl Restaurant in Boston December 4, 2009. The Dow Fund is an affiliate of the Asian American Lawyers of MA ("AALAM"). The Dow Fund was established to create a permanent endowment to improve access to our legal system for Asian Americans. Harry H. Dow (1904-1985) was the first Asian American to be admitted to practice law in Massachusetts, and devoted his career to serving the indigent in Boston's South End and Chinatown. Dow Fund projects in the past 23 years include the Anti-Asian Violence Education Project, the Asian Battered Women Project, the Chinese Progressive Association and the Cambodian Outreach Project. This year, AALAM Vice President Joel Buenaventura (Department of Public Health) presented the 2009 AALAM Community Service Award to Rebecca Lee (Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP) for, among other community endeavors, her work at and on behalf of Ricesticks and Tea, an Asian food pantry.

Founded in 1998, Ricesticks and Tea is a food pantry program serving over 120 pre-screened low income Asian immigrant and refugee families each month. The program began as a collaboration between the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry and The Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence. Ricesticks and Tea was created in response to legislation that denied food stamps to all immigrants regardless of their circumstances. Battered immigrant women and children as well as the elderly are among the most affected. In 2003, Tufts Medical Center recognizing the need to provide nutrition information as well as food supplies, began funding and assisting with the development of an education component consisting of nutrition-oriented workshops at each monthly session with culturally and linguistically appropriate materials to benefit clients.



Zenobia Lai, Esq. (Senior Training Director, Center for Legal Aid Education), President, Harry Dow Fund.



Rebecca Lee (Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP) presented with the Community Service Award by AALAM Vice President Joel Buenaventura (Department of Public Health).



(L-R) (top row) Steven Kim (McLaughlin & Kim), Sarah Kim (no relation) (Bingham McCutchen LLP), Vincent Lau (Flynn & Clark PC), Ingrid Schroffner (Executive Office of Health and Human Services), Joel Buenaventura (Department of Public Health); ((L-R) (bottom row) Gloria Tan (Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Institute), Geoffrey Why (Commissioner, Department of Telecommunications and Cable), Myong Joun (Joun Law) and Su Joun (Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts).



**AALAM
Asian American Lawyers
Association of Massachusetts**

**NEW ADDRESS
P.O. Box 6254
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- Charlotte Kim (President)
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- G. Perry Wu
- Emily Yu



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 Seo at jeff_seo@hms.harvard.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Attention Linked in AALAM members —AALAM now has its own LINKED IN group— join now at www.linkedin.com and tell others so that we can connect and network through the AALAM online community!
- **DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER AND VOTE FOR THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF AALAM!**

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!