



AALAM NEWS

The Newsletter of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts
Volume XIX, No. 3, September 2004

2004 AALAM Luncheon for Summer Associates/Clerks

On July 19, 2004 AALAM held its annual Luncheon for Summer Associates, Clerks and Interns. Hosted by **Bingham McCutchen LLP**, the event drew over 60 attendees, including summer associates, clerks, interns, and numerous members and directors of AALAM. The attendees were broadly representative of members from private practice, governmental, academic, public interest and corporate settings.

AALAM President **Myong Joun** welcomed the attendees and introduced AALAM to the newcomers to Boston. He also spoke generally of practice in Massachusetts and encouraged students to consider remaining in Massachusetts to practice, and stressed the importance for both new and experienced practitioners to continue the growth trend for minority attorneys in Massachusetts.

AALAM Professional Development and Law Student Outreach Committee Co-chairs **Stephen Chow** and **Jeffrey Hsi** also welcomed the associates, clerks and interns. Stephen introduced the law student and the attorney mentoring programs, encouraging all students and attorneys interested in being a mentee to visit the AALAM web site (www.AALAM.org) for application forms. The program is also seeking mentors. Anyone interested in participating as a mentor should also fill out and return an application form to Stephen.

Jeffrey introduced the Law Student Scholarship Program, available to a currently enrolled law student in one of the local area law schools. Application forms for the scholarship will be available on the web site in the next few months, with the applications due by March 10, 2005. Jeffrey also described how members of the Student Outreach Committee will be contacting each of the local law school APA LSA organizations to offer assistance and coordinate visits by AALAM members to the law schools, and to encourage law student participation in AALAM and AALAM events. Law students are reminded that AALAM membership dues are waived for currently enrolled students.

Inside this Issue:

Announcements.....	2
AALAM in the News	3-5
Calendar of Events	5
Professional Opportunities	6

AALAM Invitation

The Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts invites you to its Annual Summer*/Postponed to Fall – Picnic Cookout

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2004,
STARTING AT 12 NOON
AT HOPKINTON STATE PARK**

Come enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers and an afternoon of fun and games with your family and friends! Home cooked pot-luck food contributions are also welcome, as always!

DIRECTIONS: Mass Pike 90W to Rte. I-495S to Exit 21A to Rte. 135E, Left on Rte. 85 (Cedar St). Entrance is on the Right. For more info, visit: <http://www.state.ma.us/dem/parks/hpsp.htm>

Please RSVP by September 16, 2004 to Quan Le at ql@murthalaw.com (tel: 617-457-4000x1084). Please include your name, contact information and indicate whether you will need transportation to the park.

Please note: There is a \$5 parking charge per vehicle.

*Due to weather, the event scheduled for Sunday, August 15, was canceled and will be held on the 19th of September.

Designed By: Dongsup Kim

AALAM Re-launches Website

On July 1, 2004, AALAM launched a revamped website which features improved navigation facilities, better links with other websites and enhanced level of information to make it more user-friendly for AALAM members and the public who visit it each week as a source of information for upcoming events, announcements, job opportunities and about AALAM in general. The Executive Board thanks **Bryan Falchuk** of **PlexCom Online Services** for his excellent work



AALAM

Asian American Lawyers
Association of Massachusetts

P.O. Box 5655
Boston, MA 02114

www.aalam.org
aalamass@hotmail.com

President

Myong J. Joun

Vice President

Quan Le

Secretary

Tina Matsuoka

Treasurer

Chinh H. Pham

Board of Directors

Flora W.L. Chan
Eunice Kim Chapon
Stephen Y. Chow
F. James Coe
Victor W. Diune
Jeffrey D. Hsi
Jan-Yung Lin
Thanh Nga Nguyen
Ingrid C. Schroffner
Gloria Tan
Geoffrey G. Why
G. Perry Wu
Lisa A. Yee
Onyen Yong

Newsletter Editors

Ingrid C. Schroffner
Onyen Yong

Webmaster

PlexCom Online Services

Announcements

Rebecca Lee Named to New Post at the Boston Redevelopment Authority

Former AALAM President **Rebecca A. Lee**, a partner at **Goodwin Procter LLP**, was appointed by **Mayor Thomas Menino** as Special Counsel to Director of the **Boston Redevelopment Authority**. The BRA is the city's economic development, planning and workforce development agency. The BRA Board of Directors approved of the hire on August 5, 2004. Rebecca has been with Goodwin Procter for twelve years in the firm's Real Estate Department. Congratulations to Rebecca and we wish her luck in her new role in the public sector!

Grace Lee Appointed New Deputy Treasurer

AALAM member **Grace H. Lee** was sworn in as the state's new deputy treasurer by **Gov. Mitt Romney**. She was appointed by **Treasurer Timothy P. Cahill**. Grace previously served as general counsel to the state treasurer. Prior to that, she specialized in labor and employment law at **Morgan, Brown & Joy**. She also worked for the Office of Civil Rights at the **U.S. Department of Education** and was chief of the Civil Rights Division in the **Norfolk County District Attorney's Office**. Last month, Grace was a volunteer attorney for the employment law workshop at AALAM's Community Legal Workshops in Lowell.

John Chu Elected to Boston Bar Assoc. Council

AALAM member **John H. Chu** was recently named to the BBA Council. John is the co-founding and managing partner of **Chu, Ring & Hazel LLP**, where he focuses on the representation of growing enterprises, venture capital transactions, and mergers and acquisitions. John is a 1974 graduate of University of Chicago and 1978 graduate of Columbia University Law School. Congratulations John!

AALAM Members Honored

Judge **Fernande R.V. Duffly**, the first Asian American to be appointed to the **Massachusetts Appeals Court**, was honored as a Distinguished Jurist by the **Massachusetts Association of Women Attorneys** at its 2004 Anniversary Banquet on **Thursday, June 10, 2004**, celebrating their 100th year. Pictured are AALAM President Myong Joun, Judge Duffly, and AALAM member Paul Lee.



Dongsup Samuel (Sam) Kim, an AALAM member and former Director, recently received the **Boston Bar Association Children and Youth Outreach Project Volunteer Leadership Award** at the Boston Bar Association Annual Law Day Dinner. Sam was given the award for his active involvement with the **Mayor's Youth Council (MYC)** for the past six years, helping develop an effective program to help young people hone advocacy, leadership and teamwork skills and inspiring other attorneys from the BBA to join him in volunteering. Congratulations, Sam!

AALAM Members Attend Tour and Curator Talk at Yin Yu Tang: A Chinese Home at the Peabody Essex Museum

On Saturday, **July 10, 2004**, AALAM members **Deborah Dong, Rita Lu, Myong Joun, and Perry Wu** joined more than 30 other guests at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, for an exclusive tour of **Yin Yu Tang: A Chinese Home** and a curator talk featuring **Nancy Berliner**, the Museum's Curator of Chinese Art and Culture. Ms. Berliner shared her interesting insights and stories about the elegant house and the prosperous merchant family that lived in it for almost 200 years.



Built during the late Qing Dynasty, Yin Yu Tang was originally located in southeastern China, in the Huizhou region of Anhui Province. The imposing sixteen-bedroom house served as the home to eight generations of the Huang family from around 1800 to the mid-1980's. After the Huang family decided to put the house up for sale, Yin Yu Tang was dismantled piece by piece and painstakingly reassembled at the Peabody Essex Museum. The house opened to the public in June 2003. As the first house to be brought, in its entirety, from China to the United States, Yin Yu Tang stands as an excellent example of the Huizhou region's renowned architecture and as a landmark in the history of international preservation.

Founded in 1799, the Peabody Essex Museum is the oldest continuously operating museum in the United States and one of the largest museums on the East Coast. The Museum's Chinese, Indian, Japanese, and Korean art collections rank among the finest in the nation.

The tour and curator talk were hosted by the **Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)** – in collaboration with AALAM, Families with Children from China, New England, and the National Association of Asian American Professionals-Boston – and the proceeds benefited BCNC's ongoing capital campaign to build a new community center in Chinatown. BCNC Director **David Moy** told the attendees that “The vision of the original Yu Yin Tang family resonates with us at BCNC. The



Huang family's goal of building a home to shelter their extended family over the generations very much parallels our goal to build a center that will house the

programs and services for the extended Chinese community in greater Boston. We hope our new community center will serve as an anchor for community families as the Yin Yu Tang did for the Huang family.”

For additional information about the Peabody Essex Museum and its Yin Yu Tang exhibit, go to www.pem.org. For additional information about the BCNC and its capital campaign, go to www.bcnc.net.

NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference

On **June 26, 2004**, the **Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA/NJ)** hosted the **Northeast Regional Conference of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)** at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. The theme of the conference was “**Becoming a Well Integrated Asian Pacific American Attorney.**” Over 100 Lawyers from the northeast region attended the conference and among the participants from AALAM were: President **Myong J. Joun** on the civil rights panel, Board member **Steven Y. Chow** on the intellectual property panel, Board member **Victor W. Diune** on the financial planning panel, and past president **Paul Lee**.

Robert Grey, the President-Elect of the **American Bar Association** delivered the keynote address. In his remarks, Mr. Grey focused on the progress made in the years since **Brown v. Board of Education** decision but also on the challenges ahead. He specifically praised past AALAM president Paul Lee and his leadership in the Asian Boston legal community. Also at the dinner, **Don H. Liu**, General Counsel of **IKON Office Solutions**, was presented with APALA/NJ Annual Achievement Award. APALA/NJ



presents its Achievement Award to persons who have contributed to the advancement of Asians in the legal profession. In his remarks, Mr. Liu commented on the stereotypes of Asian Americans and noted that he was only one of a handful of Asian Americans holding the position of General Counsel among Fortune 500 companies.

AALAM looks forward to hosting the next NAPABA Northeast Regional conference in 2005. Anyone interested in helping out with the planning of the conference, please contact one of the Board members.



Celebrating Three Decades of the Asian Outreach Unit at the GBLs

On **May 20, 2004** AALAM members celebrated **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**, and three decades of service of the **Asian Outreach Unit (AOU)** at **Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)**. Current and former GBLs and AOU staff, former clients, friends and supporters toasted thirty plus years of achievements in the Asian American community in Greater Boston.



The event, hosted by GBLs and held in the AOU office, was an opportunity to connect with attorneys and advocates in Boston's Asian American community, while enjoying food from local Asian American vendors.

Guests included long-time AALAM members **Paul Lee** and **Marian Tse**, both partners at **Goodwin Proctor LLP**. Marian also serves on the board of GBLs. AALAM President **Myong Joun** helped promote the event and make it a success, and



joined AALAM board members **Flora Chan** and **Lena Wong** for the festivities. Also attending were **Fred Dow**, son of the late **Harry H. Dow** and President of the Dow Fund, and AALAM members **Kay Hideko Hodge**, **Dongsup Samuel Kim**, **Herman Yee**, as well as husband and wife members **Andrew Leong** and **Chi Chi Wu**, both former interns and staff at AOU. The entire staff of AOU, including Managing Attorney **Zenobia Lai**, attorneys **Cynthia Mark**, **Simone Bui** and **Nadia Gareeb**, paralegal **Evonne Yang**, and administrator **Brenda Smith** were also on hand to host and celebrate.



GBLS Executive Director **Robert Sable** and AOU Managing Attorney **Zenobia Lai** provided an overview of the history and current work of the Asian Outreach Unit. AOU was founded in 1972 by a group of Asian American law students who found inspiration in the work of **Harry H. Dow** (the first Asian American admitted to the Massachusetts Bar), got together to launch a



legal services project to serve the growing Asian immigrant community in Boston. In the years since, the program has served as a model of how legal services

can organize themselves to extend their services to immigrant and linguistic minority communities, and occupies a special place in the world of legal aid. The AOU staff annually serves more than one thousand Asian Americans clients who speak over a dozen dialects and languages.

Lowell Legal Workshop a Success

After the success of the legal educational workshop held in Chinatown in April 2003, the **Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts** ("AALAM") turned its focus on the Cambodian community and implemented a similar program to bring their mission of providing practical legal education to the Asian American community in the Lowell area. In conjunction with the **Asian American Civic Association**, **Greater Boston Legal Services**, **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights**, and **Merrimack Legal Services**, AALAM held educational legal workshops on Saturday, **June 5, 2004**, at the **Lowell Community Charter School** that included topics such as voters' rights, immigration law (both citizenship and asylum issues), public assistance, employment and discrimination law, and landlord/tenant law. Speakers were volunteer attorneys who were either members or friends of AALAM. Each of the workshops was presented in English, with Khmer translation from volunteers. The workshops were well attended and generated questions from the attendees. Overall, about 60-70 community members attended the workshops.

Introducing CHIEMI

On July 14, 2004, the singing sensation **Chiemi** (aka AALAM Director **Ingrid Schroffner**) performed at **Dalias**, a cozy, classy wine bar & bistro in Brookline. AALAM members **Flora Chan**, **Myong Joun**, and **Tina Matsuoka** (pictured with Ingrid with the guitar) made their way through the crowd to witness a star in the making. Catch Chiemi's next performance at the **Toast Lounge** in Union Square, Somerville on Wednesday, **October 15, 2004**. Show starts at 7:45 p.m.



AALAM Signs onto Letter to Governor Regarding Affirmative Action

Governor **Mitt Romney** issued Executive Order 452 which revoked all previous executive orders on Affirmative Action. After months of closed meetings and virtually no public input the governor's initial "diversity

policy” was set to go into effect June 17th 2004. The Executive Order diluted the Commonwealth's more than 30-year-old affirmative-action policy.

On June 14th over 350 people attended a hearing at the Roxbury Community College that was organized by the **Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus** and the **Massachusetts Alliance to Save Affirmative Action, Community Change, and the Union of Minority Neighborhoods**.

On June 17, 2004, AALAM President **Myong J. Joun** and the Presidents of three other minority bar associations signed a letter to Governor Romney to express support for affirmative action. The letter states in part, "We write as representatives of all of the minority bar associations in Massachusetts, to unambiguously express our belief that affirmative action remains a necessary component to ensure and promote equality of opportunity throughout every level of the state's workplace" and asks the Governor to "not only recommit and recognize affirmative action as the proposed preamble suggests, but unequivocally declare affirmative action as the official employment policy and practice of the Commonwealth's Executive branch." AALAM's Executive Board voted 13 in favor, 2 against with 3 abstaining.

AALAM joins Amicus Brief in Support of Lynn's Voluntary School Desegregation Policy

On May 25, 2004, AALAM – along with the **Boston Bar Association**, the **New England Chapter of the NAACP**, and other civil rights and advocacy groups – joined an amicus curie brief submitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in support of the Lynn School District's voluntary school desegregation policy that seeks to reduce racial and ethnic isolation in K-12 public schools.

In 1999, parents of five Lynn students challenged the constitutionality of the Lynn plan, which assigns students to their neighborhood district school but permits students to transfer to certain other schools in certain circumstances. If a student desires to attend a school out of his or her district, factors including whether the transfer would increase or decrease racial isolation of students populations are considered in the decision to permit the transfer. The plaintiffs also challenged the state's Racial Imbalance Act, which provides supplemental funds to districts that enact such policies.

On June 6, 2003, **Judge Nancy Gertner** of the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts issued a 156-page decision, *Comfort ex rel. Neumyer v. Lynn School Committee*, 263 F. Supp. 2d 209, upholding Lynn's plan and recognizing that it is necessary to maintain the significant social and educational benefits derived from attending an integrated school. Judge Gertner wrote

that “[s]ince a racially diverse learning environment is essential for citizens-to-be, the Plan is a critical part of a comprehensive, district-wide plan to improve the quality of education for all Lynn's children.” She reviewed the history of the plan's implementation and determined that “the Lynn Plan played an important part in creating a thriving, diverse, and integrated urban school system, successful on all fronts and by all measures - - where race relations are positive and racial and ethnic tensions are absent; where students from diverse backgrounds maintain friendships and are well represented in student government and extracurricular activities; where student attendance rates are uniformly high and test results reflect substantial gains, particularly in the schools located in Lynn's urban centers; and where there are extraordinarily low levels of student conflict, crime, and violence.”

The amicus brief sets forth how the Lynn policy reduced students' racial isolation and measurably increased educational achievement for both minority and white children. The brief also explained that although the Lynn policy should be reviewed under “immediate scrutiny,” it also satisfies the more rigorous “strict scrutiny” standard (which is the standard under which the District Court found the plan constitutional) because it is narrowly tailored to accomplish the compelling state interest of providing a diverse educational environment necessary to prepare students to become a productive and active citizenry.

Other groups joining the brief were **Community Change, Inc.**, **Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston**, **Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action**, and the **Greater Boston Civil Rights Coalition**. If you are interested in joining the Advocacy Committee or would like to get a copy of the brief, please contact Tina Matsuoka at tina.matsuoka@ago.state.ma.us.

Calendar of Events

Please check our website www.aalam.org for updates on events.

September 19, 2004 12:00 noon	AALAM Summer Picnic Hopkinton State Park
September 23, 2004 6:00pm – 8:00pm	AALAM Fall Kick-off Reception Goodwin Procter LLP, 53 State St., Boston, MA
October 2, 2004 9:00am – 4:00pm	AALAM Probate and Real Estate Law CLE Program Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton St., Boston, MA
October 16, 2004 TBA	Asian American Resource Workshop 25 th Year Celebration For more information: www.aarw.org
October 28, 2004 TBA	Massachusetts Bar Foundation 40 th Anniversary Gala The State Room, 60 State St., Boston, MA For more information: www.massbarfoundation.org
October 30, 2004 TBA	Asian Task Force Silk Road Gala Copley Westin Hotel, Boston, MA For more information: www.atask.org

AALAM NEWS

September 2004

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, oyong@evidentdata.com

Professional Opportunities

For employment and professional opportunity announcements, visit the AALAM website, 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: Ingrid C. Schroffner at ischroffner@b-l.com



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!