



# AALAM NEWS

The Newsletter of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts

Volume XVII I, No. 1, November 2001

## Justice Lu Reflects on His First Six Months on the Bench

By Theodore D. Chuang

On October 25, Boston Municipal Court Justice John T. "Jack" Lu spoke to AALAM members at the kickoff event of AALAM's 2001-2002 membership year. Speaking about his first six months as a judge, Justice Lu offered suggestions on how to prepare to become a judge and on how AALAM can work to increase the number of Asian American judges on the state bench.

Justice Lu, a longtime criminal defense attorney based in Lowell and former public defender with the Committee for Public Counsel Services ("CPCS"), was appointed to the Boston Municipal Court ("BMC") in March 2001 by Governor Cellucci. Following a meeting with Lu and a review of his application materials, AALAM issued a formal endorsement of his candidacy in January 2001. Justice Lu is the third Asian American to serve on the Massachusetts bench and the first to serve on the BMC, which has jurisdiction over matters arising in Chinatown.

Justice Lu stated that, although he still has much to learn after six months on the bench, he has already come to appreciate that the essence of serving as a judge is to attempt to do what is right. He has enjoyed working under this guiding principle and finds serving on the bench significantly less stressful than working as a criminal defense attorney.

Justice Lu observed that a significant number of Asian Americans appear before the BMC as parties, witnesses, victims, or in other capacities. Justice Lu noted, however, that the presence of Asian Americans in those capacities has not been matched by significant representation among the attorneys who appear in the BMC.

Comparing his appointment to "lightning striking," Justice Lu stated that one cannot set out with the sole goal of becoming a judge. He did, however, offer suggestions to improve the odds of receiving an appointment.



**Justice Jack Lu, the first Asian American to serve on the Boston Municipal Court, addresses AALAM members on October 25 at Foley Hoag LLP**

Attorneys interested in becoming a judge certainly should pursue a career in litigation. They should also endeavor to be fair and courteous to opposing counsel and others they encounter in their professional life, as such individuals will be asked to offer their opinions on a judicial candidacy. Candidates have been derailed because they had made enemies, Justice Lu said.

Justice Lu also stressed the importance of having a demonstrated commitment to the community, such as through service with non-profit organizations. He also stated that it is important to have a "clean" record.

In terms of increasing the number of Asian American judges in the Commonwealth, Justice Lu said that, first and foremost, AALAM and Asian Americans must increase their clout on Beacon Hill. In addition, Asian American attorneys need to pursue careers in litigation in greater numbers.

Justice Lu also emphasized the importance of a network in assisting with the process. He expressed appreciation for AALAM's endorsement of his candidacy. He also recounted that he had received advice on the appointment process from Justice Fernande R.V. Duffly of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the first Asian American to serve on that court. Both Justice Lu and Justice Duffly, who was in attendance, expressed their willingness to speak to any AALAM member about careers in the judiciary.

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### **AALAM**

Asian American Lawyers Association  
of Massachusetts

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### **Editor's Note:**

## **AALAM Revamps Newsletter Format**

The AALAM News, the newsletter of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, is undergoing a facelift. Beginning with this issue, the AALAM News will be presented in a new, more attractive format that includes photographs, articles about AALAM events and other issues of interest, and regular reports from AALAM Committees. The newsletter will continue to include a Calendar of Events, Announcements, and a list of Professional Opportunities. Because the new format will provide more in-depth coverage of AALAM events and will also necessitate increased production time, the newsletter will now be printed and distributed every two months instead of the customary once a month.

The new format represents a philosophical change with respect to the newsletter. Recognizing that in the electronic age, a publication that is printed and mailed cannot provide the most timely and up-to-date information, AALAM intends to use the AALAM website and its email distribution system as the primary media to provide timely announcements of upcoming meetings, time sensitive announcements, and job listings. The AALAM News will serve primarily to chronicle information that is not time sensitive, such as accounts of past AALAM events, in a more detailed way than before, and to direct members to information available through other resources.

Thus, if you have not already done so, please notify AALAM of your current email address in order to ensure that you receive timely notice of AALAM events and announcements. Send your email address to [aalamass@hotmail.org](mailto:aalamass@hotmail.org). In addition, please keep in mind that a Calendar of Events, Announcements, Professional Opportunities, and other updated information will be available 24/7 on AALAM's website, at [www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org). In particular, although the AALAM News will continue to provide a list of job postings, the full announcements will only be available on the website.

Finally, we expect that the format of the AALAM News will evolve during the upcoming year as we experiment with different approaches. We welcome your comments and input, which can be directed to AALAM's email address. Also, we encourage any AALAM members who would like to help to shape the design, format, and content of the AALAM News to join the Communications Committee. Members with experience in desktop publishing are particularly encouraged to lend a hand. Anyone interested should e-mail the Newsletter Staff listed below.

### **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 either:

Theodore Chuang, 617-748-3173, [chuang@post.harvard.edu](mailto:chuang@post.harvard.edu)  
Sam Kim, 617-350-6800, [dskim@lgu.com](mailto:dskim@lgu.com)



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# Calendar of Events

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

- November 15-17, 2001**      **2001 NAPABA National Convention**  
"Forging Links to Justice: A Network of Community, Advocacy, and Leadership"  
Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Scottsdale, AZ.  
Contact: Go to <http://www.napaba.org/current.html> for more information.
- November 26-  
December 12, 2001**      **AALAM Holiday Clothing/Toy Drive to Benefit the Shelter of the  
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence**  
Contact: Sherry Yee Mulloy, 617-523-8300 x210, [sym@mddf.com](mailto:sym@mddf.com)  
(see description in "Announcements")
- November 28, 2001**  
12:00 – 1:30 pm      **AALAM General Meeting / Brown Bag Lunch**  
**Topic: The Impact of September 11 on Muslim Americans**  
**Guest Speaker: Sylvia Hsieh**  
Hale and Dorr LLP, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston  
Contact: Elaine Tung, 781-861-8833, [eltung@aol.com](mailto:eltung@aol.com)  
(see description in "Announcements")
- November 30, 2001**  
6:00 - 9:00 pm      **Sixteenth Annual Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund Celebration**  
Chau Chow City Restaurant, 83 Essex Street, Boston  
Contact: Perry Wu, 617-526-6141, [perry.wu@haledorr.com](mailto:perry.wu@haledorr.com)  
(see description in "Announcements")
- December 6, 2001**  
12:00 – 1:00 pm      **AALAM Executive Board Meeting**  
Bingham Dana LLP, 175 Federal Street, Boston  
Contact: Meerie Joung, [mmjoung@bingham.com](mailto:mmjoung@bingham.com)
- January 17, 2001**  
6:00 – 7:30 pm      **AALAM General Meeting**  
Details to be announced.

## Announcements

### **AALAM Sponsors 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund Dinner**

Please join AALAM members at the annual Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund Dinner on Friday, November 30, 2001 from 6:00-9:00 pm at Chau Chow City Restaurant. The keynote speaker will be Helen Hae-Liun Gym - President of Asian Americans United and an active member of coalition efforts to preserve Philadelphia's Chinatown against a proposed

\$685 million baseball stadium.

The Dow Fund, an AALAM affiliate, was established in 1985 in the memory of Harry H. Dow (1904-1985), the first Asian American lawyer admitted to the Massachusetts Bar (1929), with the mission of increasing the Asian American communities' access to the legal system. Your support will continue Harry Dow's legacy of service to communities often deprived of justice because of class, language, culture, race and immigration status. AALAM members will receive invitations by mail. Please RSVP by November 21.



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### **AALAM to Host Brown Bag Discussion on the Impact of September 11 on the Muslim American Community**

This month's AALAM General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 28 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm at Hale and Dorr LLP, 60 State Street in Boston. The guest speaker will be Sylvia Hsieh, a Muslim American who works at Lawyers Weekly USA in Boston. Ms. Hsieh will discuss the impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the Muslim American community. Please join us for this thought-provoking discussion. RSVP to Cathy at 617/526-6051.

### **AALAM Seeks Participants for the 2001-2002 Mentorship Program**

AALAM is ready to kick off another successful year of the Mentorship Program. AALAM will match law students based on their areas of interest with attorneys' areas of practice. AALAM hopes that through this program, students and attorneys can form a mutually beneficial relationship with the goal of increasing the number of successful Asian American attorneys in Massachusetts.

The success of the program depends on the willingness of AALAM members to serve as mentors. Please visit <http://www.aalam.org/member.html> to complete a Mentor Questionnaire. If you have any questions about the program, or to send in a completed questionnaire, please contact Myong Joun at the Law Offices of Howard Friedman, 90 Canal Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02114-2022, Tel (617) 742-4100, Fax (617) 742-5858, Email: [mjjoun@civil-rights-law.com](mailto:mjjoun@civil-rights-law.com).

### **AALAM Kicks Off Clothing and Toy Drive**

The Community Service Committee is sponsoring a holiday clothing/toy drive to benefit the shelter operated by the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, which services Asian battered families.

The residents are women and children, mostly between the ages of 3 and 12. From November 26 to December 12, we will collect new clothing and toys, which the shelter will distribute to the families. Items of warm clothing (e.g., sweaters, hats, gloves, mittens, socks, jackets) and toys and books suitable for babies through age 12 (no guns or violent toys, please) would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations in the form of checks made payable to "Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence" with a notation on the check "Asian Shelter & Advocacy Project gifts" will also be accepted. Mail checks to Sherry Yee Mulloy, Esq., Meehan, Boyle, Black & Fitzgerald, P.C., Two Center Plaza, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02108-1922.

Drop-off sites for donations and other details will be posted on the AALAM website in late November. For more information or to volunteer to assist with this project, contact Sherry Mulloy at [sym@mbbf.com](mailto:sym@mbbf.com) or Cindy Oh at [coh@goodwinprocter.com](mailto:coh@goodwinprocter.com).



**Justice Lu, Justice Duffly, and Appeals Court Clerk Lena Wong at the October 25 Event**

### **AALAM Fall Kick-off Meeting and Dinner a Smashing Success!**

On October 25, AALAM held its 2001 fall kick-off event at Foley Hoag LLP, featuring remarks by Justice Jack Lu of the Boston Municipal Court (see article, page 1). The event was attended by approximately thirty AALAM members and law students, including distinguished guests such as Justice Nan Duffly of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. The numerous BU and BC APALSA students were particularly welcome.

The event provided AALAM members with an opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances as well as to meet new members. A special thank you to Foley Hoag LLP for providing, in addition to its facilities, the appetizers and refreshments.

As part of AALAM's efforts to increase networking and social interaction among members, AALAM's Social Committee organized a group of 13 attendees to head to the Penang Restaurant, a Malaysian restaurant in Chinatown, after the membership meeting.

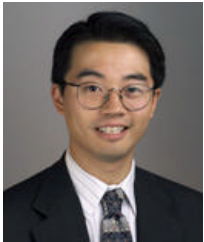
After surviving the challenge of ordering a menu that did not run afoul of seafood and egg allergies, the attendees engaged in a lively discussion, including such topics as law school, career counseling, the September 11 attack, and bowling with Judge Ito at the 1995 NAPABA convention.

The event was hosted by the AALAM Social Committee and the appetizers were provided courtesy of AALAM.



## Features

### AALAM: The Year in P/Review



#### A message from AALAM President Perry Wu:

As the chart on the following page makes clear, AALAM's 2000-2001 membership year was an exciting and eventful one, during which AALAM made strides in the following areas:

- ?? *Member Outreach.* In hosting a series of membership meetings, social events, and special receptions, publishing the *AALAM News*, and launching a website ([www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org)) and e-mail address ([aalamass@hotmail.com](mailto:aalamass@hotmail.com)), AALAM built upon its sixteen-year tradition of providing professional development and networking opportunities for its members.
- ?? *Law Student Outreach.* AALAM stepped up its efforts to nurture the future members of our profession by offering an enhanced \$2,000 scholarship, coordinating a highly popular mentor-mentee program, and organizing periodic visits to the six Boston-area law schools (BC, BU, Harvard, NESL, Northeastern, and Suffolk).
- ?? *Community Outreach.* AALAM made a greater impact on the community at large by joining forces with the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association, and the other Massachusetts minority bar associations (the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys, and the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys) to pursue objectives of common concern, such as increased funding for court interpreter services and for legal services for the poor, by reinforcing its ties to and support of a number of organizations addressing the needs of the Massachusetts Asian Pacific American community, and by establishing a Community Service Committee.

But now is *not* the time for AALAM to rest on its achievements. The 2001-2002 general membership year is already upon us, and last month's well-attended Fall Kick-Off Reception (see our cover story) was merely the first of many events that have been planned for the months ahead. Because AALAM is a volunteer bar

association that depends heavily on the commitment and contributions of its members and friends, I invite you to join us – and to urge your colleagues as well as newcomers to the Massachusetts legal community to join us – for as many events and activities as you can. If you do so, there can be no doubt that the list of highlights for *this* membership year will be even more impressive and, indeed, that this membership year will be the best yet!

*See the chart on page 6 for a recap of AALAM's activities over the past year.*

### AALAM Member Maria Lam Shares Her Involvement in Volunteer Lawyers Project

My involvement with the Volunteer Lawyers Project started during my second year of practice when the Boston Chinese Language & Culture Center was seeking legal advice on non-profit organizational issues. While I have worked on a variety of pro bono cases during my years at Foley Hoag, the cases that are special to me are the cases where my Chinese language skills added significant value to my representation of the client.

An example of such a case is where I represented a Hong Kong immigrant with very limited English capability in her appeal of the Social Security Administration's denial of disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income. I was able to speak with the client extensively about her physical condition and medical history, which information was critical in the hearing before the Administrative Law Judge. I was awarded VLP's Dennis McGuire Pro Bono Award in 1999 and am currently serving on the Board of Directors of VLP.

*Ms. Lam is an Associate in the Boston office of Foley Hoag LLP with a concentration in intellectual property matters, technology and software licensing, and corporate finance transactions. Ms. Lam was recently elected to serve on the Council of the Boston Bar Association.*

#### Not an AALAM Member?

For a membership application and information, go to [www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org).



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### The Year in Review: AALAM 2000-2001

- September 2000 AALAM hosts its **Kick-Off Reception** honoring NAPABA Trailblazer Award recipient **Paul W. Lee**, and featuring a special presentation by **Karen K. Narasaki**, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium.
- October 2000 AALAM joins the other Massachusetts minority bar associations in hosting a **Joint Reception for Minority Law Students**. AALAM members attend the **2000 NAPABA National Convention** in Washington, DC. AALAM hosts its first **General Meeting**.
- November 2000 After its **General Meeting** focusing on judicial candidacy issues, AALAM participates in its **Annual Dinner with the Boston University APALSA**.
- December 2000 AALAM co-sponsors the **Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund Fifteenth Annual Celebration**. During the dinner, AALAM awards the **2000 AALAM Community Service Award** to **Zenobia T. Lai**, Managing Attorney of Greater Boston Legal Services' Asian Outreach Program.
- January 2001 The Community Service Committee coordinates the **AALAM Holiday Food Drive** for the benefit of "Ricesticks and Tea," an Asian food pantry for elderly and battered immigrant families. AALAM endorses the judicial candidacy of **John T. Lu**, who is later appointed as the first Asian American to serve on the Boston Municipal Court.
- February 2001 The newly formed Social Committee hosts its first event, **AALAM Night at The Rack**, with AALAM members getting acquainted over drinks, appetizers, and pool.
- March 2001 AALAM hosts the **Annual AALAM Mentor/Mentee and Scholarship Reception** featuring the presentation of the **2000-2001 AALAM Scholarship** to Tackey Chan, a 1L at New England School of Law.
- April 2001 AALAM co-sponsors a **Special Screening of "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story"** at the Museum of Fine Arts, featuring a personal appearance by **Fred Korematsu**. At the AALAM General Meeting, the featured speaker is **Angelo Ancheta**, Director of Legal and Advocacy Programs at The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University.
- July 2001 AALAM hosts the **Annual AALAM Luncheon for Summer Associates, Summer Clerks, and Summer Interns** at Choate, Hall & Stewart.

#### Additional AALAM Highlights:

- ?? Participated in quarterly **Joint Meetings of the Boards of the Massachusetts Minority Bar Associations**
- ?? Appointed AALAM members to serve on the Boards of the **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association**, the **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)**, and the **Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition (APAAC)**
- ?? Co-sponsored the **APAAC 2000 Community Conference** and the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence's **Silk Road Gala 2000**
- ?? Participated in the **Court Interpreter Services Task Force** of the Boston Bar Association and the 2nd Annual **"Walk to the Hill"** to encourage the Massachusetts Legislature to increase funding for legal services for the poor



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# Committee Reports

**AALAM Committees are always seeking new members. To join a Committee or learn more about its activities, please call or e-mail the designated contact person listed below.**

### Social Committee

The Social Committee plans events to bring AALAM members together on an informal basis. These events provide members with networking opportunities as well as a forum for sharing ideas and having fun.

Most recently, the Social Committee sponsored the post-meeting dinner at Penang Restaurant. Members interested in planning future events should contact one of the co-chairs.

Eunice Kim Chapon: 617-248-5256; [ekc@choate.com](mailto:ekc@choate.com)  
Sam Kim: 617-350-6800; [dskim@lgu.com](mailto:dskim@lgu.com)

### Law Student Outreach Committee

The Law Student Outreach Committee seeks 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. Among the Committee's programs are a Mentorship Program, in which AALAM members serve as mentors to law students (see Announcements), and an annual Scholarship which is awarded each year to one deserving law student.

The Outreach Committee has been busy at work getting in contact with Asian American law student organizations, making visits to law schools, and promoting our 2001-2002 Mentor/Mentee Program and Scholarship Program.

**BC Law.** Michelle Rhee, of Hale and Dorr LLP, and AALAM Vice President Elaine Tung attended BC Law School's "Making the Connection, a Reception for Students and Attorneys of Color" sponsored by Dean John Garvey and the Career Services Office. Jeff Hsi of Fish & Richardson P.C. and Jan-Yung Lin of Goodwin Procter LLP are coordinating with BC APALSA for an on campus visit.

**Harvard Law.** On October 24, Harvard's APALSA hosted a career panel that featured Hemmie Chang of

Ropes & Gray, Hermen Yee of the Attorney General's Office, Anita Le of Greater Boston Legal Services and Sam Kim of Lucash, Gesmer & Updegrove, LLP. The panel was moderated by Anders Yang of Harvard Law School Alumni Relations.

**BU Law.** Michelle Rhee attended the BU Law School APALSA meeting on October 25, and the result of her visit with them was immediately apparent when a large number of BU APALSA members showed up that evening at the AALAM General Meeting (see p. 4 above).

#### General Contact:

Sam Kim: 617-350-6800; [dskim@lgu.com](mailto:dskim@lgu.com)

#### Mentorship Program:

Myong Joun: 617-742-4100; [mjjoun@civil-rights-law.com](mailto:mjjoun@civil-rights-law.com)

#### Scholarship:

Meerie Joung: 617-951-4614; [mmjoung@bingham.com](mailto:mmjoung@bingham.com)

### Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee held its first fall meeting on November 5, 2001 at the offices of Meehan, Boyle, Black & Fitzgerald. Laurie Hauber of the Economic Justice Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights spoke about pro bono opportunities for business attorneys to assist low-income entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding small businesses located in under-served communities in Greater Boston. Please let us know if you have any interest in assisting in serving at the in-take clinic or providing the pro bono services.

This holiday season, the Community Service Committee is also sponsoring a clothing/toy drive (see Announcements).

A variety of other projects are under consideration. If you would like to participate in planning and coordinating existing and new community service activities, please contact us. We welcome your ideas and involvement.

Sherry Mulloy: 617-523-8300 x210; [sym@mbbf.com](mailto:sym@mbbf.com)

Cindy Oh: 617-570-1853; [coh@goodwinprocter.com](mailto:coh@goodwinprocter.com)



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### Communications Committee

The Communications Committee's primary effort this fall is the transformation of the AALAM Newsletter (see page 2). We are looking for AALAM members interested in assisting with the production of the AALAM News on a regular basis. We also are seeking members interested in assisting with the website and e-mail communication network.

Contact: Theodore Chuang, 617-748-3173  
[chuang@post.harvard.edu](mailto:chuang@post.harvard.edu)

### Membership Committee

The Membership Committee expects to complete and release the 2002 Directory of Asian American Attorneys in Massachusetts early next year. To ensure that you are included and receive a copy, please make sure that you submit any contact information changes to AALAM at [aalamass@hotmail.com](mailto:aalamass@hotmail.com). If you are not yet a dues-paying AALAM member, please obtain an application form at [www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org), complete it, and submit it with your annual dues by December 31.

Contact: Tricia Deraska, 617-345-4600  
[tfderaska@dbh.com](mailto:tfderaska@dbh.com)

## Professional Opportunities

The following employment and professional opportunity announcements are posted on the AALAM website, [www.aalam.org](http://www.aalam.org), at "Professional Opportunities":

- ?? Professor of Law, Western New England School of Law
- ?? Professor of Law, Georgia State University College of Law
- ?? Legal Writing and Research Instructor, Suffolk University School of Law
- ?? In-House Counsel, State Street Research and Management Company
- ?? Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office, Insurance and Unemployment Fraud Division
- ?? Deputy Division Chief, Attorney General's Office, Utilities Division
- ?? Deputy Bureau Chief, Attorney General's Office, Criminal Bureau
- ?? Legislative Analyst, Boston City Council
- ?? Clerkship, American Bar Association Minority Judicial Clerkship Program
- ?? Fellowship, Rockefeller Fellowship in the Humanities, Project on the Vietnamese Diaspora

If you have a job announcement you would like to have posted on the AALAM website, send the announcement, preferably by e-mail, to:

Lisa Nam, Esq.  
Choate, Hall & Stewart  
[een@choate.com](mailto:een@choate.com)  
Tel: 617-248-5000  
Fax: 617-248-4000