



CONNECTICUT ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION E-NEWSLETTER

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“Call to Asian Pacific American Action” Brings Visibility to the APA Community and Strengthens Continuing Efforts to Establish an APA Affairs Commission

by Angel Feng, CAPABA Secretary

The June 3rd “Call To APA Action” event brought together the diverse APA community as well as state officials, legislators, and political candidates. The event was sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Coalition of Asian Family Services, Inc. About 150 people from the South Asian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese American communities attended the event.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Richard S.K. Young, State Surgeon and chair of the pediatrics department at the Hospital of Saint Raphael, and William Tong, Candidate for State Representative in the 147th District and CAPABA member. Dr. Young addressed the healthcare issues affecting the APA community. William Tong spoke about the need for the community’s involvement in mainstream politics and his campaign to become the first APA State Representative in the state.

The event further featured guest attendees Ned Lamont, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate; Dan Malloy, Mayor of Stamford; Pat Wilson-Cocker, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services; Ramón Rojano, City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services; and Jenny Carrillo from the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

Angel Feng, CAPABA Secretary and an attorney with Greater Hartford Legal Aid, moderated a panel presentation on the disparities experienced by APA in health care, education, and professional advancement as well as the disenfranchisement of the community by the Model Minority Myth. Group discussions provided dialogue among all attendees about issues affecting APAs and further strengthened the community’s endeavor to establish and APA Affairs Commission.

To advance this undertaking and bring the APA community’s needs to the attention of the Connecticut Legislature, a forum will be held at the Legislative Office Building with keynote speaker Karen Narasaki of the Asian American Justice Center on September 26, 2006, at 8:30 am. All CAPABA members are encouraged to attend and participate in the APA community’s efforts.

For more information, please contact Angel Feng at afeng@ghla.org.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|-----|
| President’s Message..... | 2 |
| CAPABA Founder Recipient of 2006 Edwin Archer Award | 2 |
| A Word from NAPABA..... | 3 |
| NAPABA Northeast Regional Recap..... | 4 |
| Minority Bar Associations Events A Success.... | 4 |
| The Solo Patent Practitioner..... | 5-6 |
| Announcements..... | 6 |
| Upcoming Events..... | 7 |

President's Message by Joe Khanna

Open Membership Meeting Focuses on Need for an APA Commission in Connecticut

As part of an increased effort to reach out to our membership, the CAPABA board resolved to hold quarterly open membership meetings in different parts of the State. At the first open membership meeting in May, Guest Speaker Angela Rola, founding Director of the Asian American Cultural Center at the University of Connecticut, provided an update on efforts to create an Asian Pacific American (APA) Affairs Commission in Connecticut. She spoke passionately about the need for such a commission in this State and also provided important information

about the Asian Pacific American Coalition's (APAC) Call to Action. Ms. Rola is on the Board of APAC.

The APA Affairs Commission would serve as a resource for the legislature and executive branch and would focus on areas of concern to all APAs in Connecticut, including, among other things: health care, education and economic development. Ms. Rola drew many questions about issues affecting Asians in Connecticut which led to a lively discussion about socio-economic factors influencing involvement by APA attorneys in issues critically important to all Asians.

The meeting, held at the offices of Murtha Cullina in New Haven, drew a packed room of CAPABA members and guests. One of the additional successes of this event was that we saw new people that were interested in the work that CAPABA is doing. The formal presentation was followed by a more relaxed opportunity for attendees to "network."

We look forward to continuing this successful format and seeing our members at our open meetings.

Sincerely, *Joe*
President, 2005-2006
joe.khanna@pb.com

2006 Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award Presented to CAPABA's Founder

by Tanya A. Wolanic, CAPABA Vice President of Communications



*Amy Lin and
Brandon Meyerson*

On April 26, 2006, Amy Lin Meyerson, CAPABA's founder and first president, was presented with the 2006 Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award at the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, by the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity, Inc. (LCD), formerly known as the Connecticut Lawyers Group. The Edwin Archer Randolph Award is presented to an individual or organization who has demonstrated the ability to influence change, while inspiring others to include and advance women and attorneys of color in Connecticut's legal community. Amy was saluted by Michael Chu, Partner of Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione and former President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA); the Honorable Nina F. Elgo, Connecticut Superior Court; Tim Hazen, Executive Director, Connecticut Bar Association; and Sandra S. Yamate, Director, Commission on Racial & Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, American Bar Association for influencing change while inspiring others to include and advance attorneys of color. The award was presented by Clinton L. Gardner, Chairman of Diversity Award Committee and General Counsel of Hamilton Sundstrand. Congratulations to Amy!

■ A Word From NAPABA from Amy Lin Meyerson

It has been another active and rewarding few months for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

NAPABA and the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley revved up planning efforts for the 18th Annual NAPABA Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from November 9-12, 2006. NAPABA will again be offering numerous top-notch CLE panels such as: "What Diversity Means for APAs;" "The Gatekeeper's View on Effective Career Paths to General Counsel's Office;" "At-Risk Youth" and "New Technologies, New Employment Issues." With over 1,000 attendees this year, NAPABA expects this to be the best convention yet. Go to www.napaba.org to register online and to view a complete list of CLE panels. For more information on becoming a 2006 sponsor, please contact Les Jin at ed@napaba.org or 202-775-9555.

NAPABA congratulates its diligent California members and affiliates who have been planning the upcoming annual California Regional Conference, "Remembering the Past – Building for Tomorrow," from July 28-29, 2006, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Marina del Rey. The event features a keynote address by U.S. Congressman Mike Honda and a special tribute to the APA Civil Rights legend Fred Korematsu. Other Conference activities include a Kick-off Cocktail Reception on Friday evening, and a Cocktail Networking Reception and Soju Tasting on Saturday evening. For further information about registration and sponsorship, please contact Henry C. Wang at (310) 312-4143 or hwang@manatt.com. Our new South Florida Affiliate will be hosting the 2nd Southeast Regional Conference in April 2007 in Miami, Florida. The 2007 Northeast Regional will be hosted by our NJ Affiliate and CAPABA will be hosting 2008. Get ready!

As many of you know, NAPABA led efforts, along

with other APA and relief organizations, to provide legal assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina this past April in New Orleans, Louisiana. The legal clinic was formed to assist low income, limited English proficient APAs in accessing legal and governmental aid and insurance claims. NAPABA is currently planning to expand this project and return to New Orleans in the fall. If you are interested in volunteering, sign up through the NAPABA website at www.NAPABA.org.

NAPABA is proud to announce that in June it expanded its office space to accommodate five new arrivals including four interns and an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. The VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program provides full-time volunteers to non-profit organizations to address the needs of low-income communities. The NAPABA VISTA will serve as Program Director for NAPABA's Language Access to Justice project. Kicking off during APA Heritage Month this past May, one of the goals of the project is to identify language access needs of low income APA communities in order to educate and advocate on the need for improved language access to the courts at all levels of government. Through the project, NAPABA will develop pro bono programs and training materials that help our affiliates overcome the impediments posed by the current lack of resources for language access. In addition to AmeriCorps VISTA, NAPABA is partnering with numerous non-profit and governmental entities to develop programs and policies to ensure language access to justice for all Americans.

Please check NAPABA's website, www.napaba.org, for more information about upcoming events and new projects.

Warmest regards,



2006 NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference Recap

**By Shirley S. Ma,
CAPABA President-Elect/Treasurer**

This year's Northeast Regional Conference was another NAPABA success story. New York affiliate, the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY), hosted the conference at the Times Square offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom LLP. A reception and dinner followed at The Princeton Club where honorees included Joyce Chang of JPMorgan Chase; Kathy Hirata Chin, a partner at Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, LLP; and Lillian Moy, Executive Director of The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York.

Panels addressed such diverse topics as ethical dilemmas, courtroom tips for litigators, APA voting rights and political participation, the evolving role of the general counsel, issues affecting immigrant communities, women's leadership, global brand recognition, and an insider's guide to working with clients. Longtime CAPABA board member, the Honorable Nina F. Elgo, provided courtroom tips in "A View from the Bench: Overall Tips for Litigators." The luncheon presentation was a reenactment of the trial of Ethel Rosenberg by the Honorable Denny Chin, keynote

speaker at the 2003 CAPABA Annual Dinner, and a team of AABANY members. The chilling testimony transcended time and gave us all pause as we considered the effect of national crisis on the administration of our criminal justice system.

As with every NAPABA conference, the fun part is in seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We bumped into AALAM (Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts), past president Myong J. Juon, and current president Jeffrey D. Hsi. Former NAPABA board member, Arnold Porter, moderated an interactive panel, "Brand Warriors: The Role of the In-House Counsel in Developing, Refining and Protecting the Global Brand," with the help from major brands such as Mercedes-Benz U.S.A., Spike TV, and BBC America. We finally met in person Glenn Magpantay of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), who moderated the panel "Asian American Voting Rights and Political Participation." I am pleased to say that CAPABA will be working more closely with AALDEF in support of renewing and expanding provisions of the Voting Rights Act. Watch for future announcements on that endeavor!

For more information, please contact Shirley S. Ma at smaesquire@yahoo.com.

Connecticut Minority Bar Associations Welcome and Celebrate the Summer Associates

**by Asker Saeed, SABAC President and CAPABA member, and
Tanya Wolanic, CAPABA Vice President of Communications**

CAPABA, the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, and the George W. Crawford Black Bar Associations sponsored two happy hours which were graciously hosted by Robinson & Cole LLP and Jackson Lewis LLP. The first happy hour was held on June 8, 2006. The second event was held on July 27, 2006. Both events were held in honor of the summer associates and to provide opportunities for them to network among themselves and throughout the minority bar associations. Both events were held at Hot Tomato's in Hartford and were resounding successes.

The Solo Patent Practitioner - a new kind of law practice?

By Michael P. Chang, CAPABA Member and former CAPABA Treasurer

Recently, I attended my five-year law school reunion. While waiting to register, I chatted with a former classmate. He asked what I was up to. I told him that I had started my own firm. To which he replied, "Me too, how long have you been out on your own?" To my surprise, I have encountered the same situation a number of times since then. This got me to wondering about what would cause a relatively large number of my fellow classmates and colleagues to decide, as I did, to follow the career path of a solo practitioner. Was this a new trend, or is this a common decision for attorneys who are about five years out of law school?

Certainly, I do not know for sure the answer to this question, and by way of disclaimer, my experience is limited to an intellectual property law practice based on patent, trademark and copyright procurement, with an emphasis on patent prosecution (if that isn't specific enough). However, from my perspective, it appears that more attorneys are now taking the plunge and going out on their own. This trend is especially apparent in areas such as patent law, where traditionally few solo practitioners existed.

From my experience, the reason I believe this may in fact be a new trend is that certain barriers to a solo practice that have existed in the past are now not as daunting a concern. What first comes to mind is maintaining the difficult balance between running the day-to-day operations of a law firm and hitting the road to visit with clients, or potential clients. Just a decade ago, this might have been a significant hindrance to a solo practice. Luckily, however, advances in technology now allow us to do both. Specifically, what I have found in my practice is that on a daily basis, my tasks range from answering the phone and running to the post office to rainmaking and, yes, generating billable work. With portable computers, mobile

phones, faxes and e-mail, I am able to travel to a client or attend a conference while still able to tend to all of my other matters. In my practice area, the ability to multi-task in this manner is crucial.

One of the newest concepts is a virtual law firm, namely one where all communication is done remotely. Apparently, patent law lends itself quite well to such a set-up since licensure is federal rather than linked to a particular state. Of course, there are significant pros and cons to this scenario, a discussion of which is beyond the scope of this article.

I have also found that in recent years, the legal profession has become more 'friendly' to the solo practitioner. Malpractice insurance has traditionally been extremely costly for patent law firms and in many instances, prohibitively expensive for an individual. Recently, insurance companies have started offering much more manageable rates for the solo patent practitioner. This perhaps raises the question of what came first, the better insurance rates, or the increased demand for them? Either way it makes a practice like mine possible.

Perhaps after reading about my experiences, you might be thinking that a solo practice sounds like an attractive option. In fact, a colleague I spoke with recently asked me for the advice I would give to someone who is thinking of going out on her own. Time-wise, how does it compare to the average day of an associate at a larger firm? How much experience should she have before attempting to go out on her own? And lastly, how is the money?

With regard to time, I told her that one should not go out on his/her own to avoid the long hours spent as an associate at a larger firm. I am now working

continued, page 6

The Solo Practitioner, continued

much harder and longer hours than I ever did as an associate. In fact, a lot of my work is done on the weekends and in the evenings, something which rarely happened while I was with my former firm. With regard to experience, it was my advice that someone has to gain a good amount of practical, working experience with the area(s) of law in which he/she intends to practice. As many of my colleagues will agree, a solo practice is definitely not an arena to attempt to handle matters with which you are not comfortable. As for the money, with a solo practice your time is your own, so as long as the work is there, you can judge how much or how little of it you would like to take on. Of course, a corollary to that is if you want the work, you have

to be proactive in seeking it.

Lastly, I added what I consider to be the most important piece of advice I think I can give someone. From the time I started practicing law, my one goal has always simply been to provide the highest quality work product and representation that I can for my clients. It is my belief that with such a goal in mind, the work will follow. So far, I am happy to report that this is the case.

She then asked me the follow-up question that, if given the chance to do it all over again, would I still have chosen to go the solo route. My answer was an unequivocal "yes!"

Announcements

Asker A. Saeed joined Robinson & Cole's Hartford office. Asker graduated the University of Buffalo Law School in 2001, summered with Murtha Cullina in 2000, and worked at Murtha Cullina until February 2006. He is a member of Robinson & Cole's Business section, practicing mainly in the area of business transactions and representing clients involved in mortgage-based financings, tax-exempt and conduit financings, and mergers and acquisitions.

Katrina M. Goyco was appointed as Minority Liaison between CAPABA and the Connecticut Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Section. Ms. Goyco has spent her summer as an intern at the Office of the Attorney General for the State of New York in the Consumer Fraud & Protection Bureau. Ms. Goyco will be returning to UCONN Law School this fall to begin her second year.

William Tong, an attorney at Finn Dixon & Herling LLP who practices corporate law, is pursuing a House Seat in the 147th District, which includes parts of Stamford and New Canaan, and includes several of Fairfield County's great neighborhoods, such as Westover, North Stamford, Scofieldtown, and the west side of New Canaan.

Please send any articles or information, such as news or announcements, that you would like to have published in the next issue of the CAPABA E-Newsletter to Tanya Wolanic at wolanict@jacksonlewis.com. Please also feel free to provide suggestions for future articles or comments on what you read. Please note: the opinions expressed in the CAPABA E-Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect association policy or editorial concurrence. Publication of any written materials or advertisements does not constitute an endorsement. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or edit prospective materials or advertisements in accordance with their editorial judgment.

Upcoming Events

6th Annual Riverfront Dragon Boat Races & Asian Festival

When: Saturday, September 16, 2006
Where: Mortensen Riverfront Plaza
Downtown Hartford
Time: Opening Ceremonies at 8:15 am
Website: www.riverfront.org

Brought to you by Riverfront Recapture in partnership with the Connecticut Asian American Leaders Consortium.

CAPABA Luau

When: Saturday, September 23, 2006
Where: Winding Trails, Farmington, Connecticut
Time: 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Enjoy volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, bocce, Frisbee, horseshoes, hiking, and Playscapes. Bring rackets for tennis, or mountain bikes for trails. Bring the family for a day of food and fun! Includes all you can eat buffet catered by Szechuan Tokyo. Details coming shortly. Sponsored by Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut, George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, and the Connecticut Bar Association YLS. Sponsorship opportunities still exist!

Asian Pacific Americans in Connecticut: From the Margin to the Center - a public policy forum

When: Tuesday, September 26, 2006
Where: Legislative Office Building, Room 2C
300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford
Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon
Keynote Speaker: Karen K. Narasaki, President & Executive Director
Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C.

Join the Asian Pacific American Affairs Coalition (APAAC) of Asian Family Services, Inc. to support the formation of an Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission by the Connecticut legislature. For more information or to rsvp by September 23rd, please call Asian Family Services, Inc. at (860) 951-8770 x. 24.