



Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association E-Newsletter

December 2008

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of CAPABA,

The 2007-2008 bar year was an exceptional year for CAPABA, as we focused on our theme of "Strengthening Our Communities." In doing so, we hosted NAPABA's Northeast Regional Conference, which was a success with the participation of our members, sponsors, as well as NAPABA members visiting from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and other regional affiliates of NAPABA. Our thanks to those of you who attended.

To start the 2008-2009 bar year, we invited our members and friends to meet the new board in August, which was hosted by Jackson Lewis in their Hartford office. This year's Officers are:

- Douglas Hirai of GE Commercial Finance, President-Elect;
- Calvin K. Woo of Pepe & Hazard LLP, Vice President;
- Cecilia Zhang Stiber of Day Pitney LLP, Vice President of Communications;
- Jaclyn Leung of Day Pitney LLP, Secretary; and
- Robert Schulman of Sikorsky Support Services, Inc., Treasurer.

We are very pleased to announce our new Board of Directors, which include:

- Angel Feng of MassMutual Financial Group, Immediate Past President;
- Shirley S. Ma of Rockstar Technologies, LLC;
- Joe Khanna of Pitney Bowes Inc.;
- Susan Kim of Bingham McCutchen LLP;
- The Honorable Nina Elgo of the Connecticut Superior Court;
- An-Ping Hsieh of UTC;
- Amy Lin Meyerson of Law Office of Amy Lin Meyerson; and
- Carlton S. Chen of Colt Defense, Inc.

We anticipate that the 2008-2009 bar year will be busy as we will continue to work on strengthening our communities and seeking active participation by CAPABA members.

We were thrilled to see new faces at CAPABA's annual fall Luau at Lyman Orchards, as area law students attended along with CAPABA members and their families. We also co-sponsored the receptions after the fall Connecticut attorney swearing in ceremony at the invitation of Chief Justice Chase Rogers. Carlton Chen and Calvin Woo attended and personally invited new attorneys to join CAPABA.

This past month, we co-sponsored the CBA YLS Diversity Award Dinner on November 20th which honors Professor Marilyn Ford and attended the NAPABA Annual Convention in Seattle. This month, we attended UCONN APALSA's networking event on December 2nd.

We invite you to attend all upcoming functions and work with us in strengthening our communities. The board recently revamped our committees in hopes to encourage more member participation. The new committees will focus on Community Affairs, Judiciary and Appointments, Member Services, and Membership Outreach. We encourage you to join a committee and participate in our efforts to make a better and stronger CAPABA.

Sincerely, Tanya

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	1
The NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference.....	2
CAPABA's Annual Luau	3
Diversity Award Receptionu.....	3
New Mentoring Program	4
Announcements	4
Upcoming Events.....	5

2008 NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference Hosted by CAPABA in Norwalk, Connecticut

*By Amy Lin Meyerson, CAPABA Director and 2005
NAPABA President*

On May 2 and 3, 2008, the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (CAPABA) hosted the 2008 NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference, "Strengthening Our Communities." It was CAPABA's most successful conference thanks to the support and participation of our sponsors and all the Northeast region affiliates.

Every state of the region was strongly represented, especially Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey. Over two hundred fifty attorneys, judges, and law students gathered at the Dolce in Norwalk, Connecticut for the two-day regional conference.

We kicked off the event with a Welcome Reception followed by Karaoke hosted by Don Liu, pool, and poker. The conference featured as Conference and Banquet keynote speaker, Don Liu, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Xerox, who addressed the promotion and advancement of Asian American attorneys in all areas of the legal profession. Our luncheon keynote speaker was Veta T. Richardson, Executive Director of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

The educational program centered on the theme, "Strengthening Our Communities" and included the following panel discussions: "The Constitution in the Time of War: The Trial of Minoru Yasui" led by Judge Denny Chin of the Southern District of New York; "From the Bar to the Bench; "How to Meet the Expectations of Corporate Clients in Global and Changing Environment;" "What to do when the Feds come knocking – dealing with ICE, DOJ, Social Security No-Match, and Department of Labor Audits;" "U.S. Intellectual Property: Changes in the Law and the Rules;" "Employment Law Class Actions – What's Old, What's New, and What's Next;" "The APA Vote;" and "Lawyers Facing Lawsuits From Clients and Colleagues."

In addition to the educational program, attendees strengthened CAPABA's and NAPABA's membership, visibility and influence by forging new relationships, reconnecting with old friends, and sharing with each other and our guests our challenges and achievements.

CAPABA thanks all its sponsors, volunteers, participants, panel speakers, and guests for making the 2008 NAPABA Northeast Regional such a success.



*Courtesy of Robert Schulman, Treasurer of
CAPABA*



*Courtesy of Robert Schulman, Treasurer of
CAPABA*

CAPABA's Fourth Annual Luau

By Tony Lu, CAPABA Member

On September 27th, six UConn law students braved the elements to attend the annual CAPABA Luau at Lyman Orchards. Despite the weather, we were all motivated by the prospect of excellent food and a chance to meet CAPABA members. The Luau was relegated to a large tent to shield participants from the dire elements – which left no room for the group of law students to show their skills in the much anticipated frisbee-golf tournament.

Inside the tent, CAPABA members and their families were having a good time. The law students headed straight for the buffet, and the food did not disappoint. Not only were we able to sample some fantastic barbeque ribs and chicken, we even had the chance to package some to go as well. To a bunch of starving law students, the notion of quality leftovers cannot be understated.

Beyond the delicious food (compliments to the chef), the chance to mingle with the CAPABA faithful proved to be a worthwhile trip. Throughout our time at the Luau, we were regaled with stories from local practitioners about their work experiences, their trips abroad, and their families – it is always pleasant to see people outside of the work context and instead, in a relaxing, family oriented environment. Unfortunately, a CAPABA member's challenge for a game of competitive volleyball in the rain-soaked fields went unheeded, as "concerned" law students refused to get our designer jeans muddy. Instead, the fearless children of CAPABA members undertook the challenge and initiated a game of volleyball in the rain as our group was departing.

Prior to departing, though, we were granted a \$5 dollar voucher towards miscellaneous products in the orchard store. While some members of our group opted for various fruits, vegetables and even a chicken pot pie, I parted with a 10lb, one month supply of red delicious apples. It was a good day to be at Lyman Orchards.

By Santi Chan, CAPABA Member

On September 27, 2008, CAPABA held its fourth annual Luau at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, CT. After confirming with Shirley Ma, the Luau organizer, that the event was going forward, Michelle Tian and I were headed to Lyman Orchards on Saturday morning, rain or shine.

Michelle arrived from China in August to study in the LLM program at the University of Connecticut. This was Michelle's first Luau, and it did not disappoint. After we arrived, we settled down at the first table inside the tent next to a bunch of children's games. We started with a soda but Michelle ventured to try some fresh apple cider later.

More people were showing up with their families in rain coats and umbrellas. A nice hot lunch was served quickly with apple pies plus ice cream. The rain stopped early in the afternoon. We went to the Lyman

Orchard's store for a little shopping, and we also fed the ducks. On our way back to the tent, we bumped into Judge Nina Elgo with her cartload of stuff and a big smile on her face.

The rain did not temper our spirit. In addition to the good lunch and shopping, it was also fun to see the beautiful children playing games and in the mud. This might be the only time of the year that we got to see the other members' families. I am looking forward to the next Luau.

CBA/YLS Diversity Award Reception

By Kim Starr, CAPABA Member

Cold weather and traffic accidents could not keep the attendees away on November 20, 2008 from celebrating the achievements of Marilyn J. Ward Ford, Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law. Professor Ford received the YLS Diversity Award from the Connecticut Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section, for her commitment to diversity.

Professor Ford graduated from Rutgers University School of Law where she was the Editor of the Rutgers Law Review. Upon graduation from law school, Professor Ford worked as an associate for Curtis, Mallet-Prevolt, Colt & Mosle, a Wall Street Law firm, and provided pro-bono services for Harlem Assertion of Rights for several years before leaving to become Director of Investigations of the New York City Human Rights Commission. She also worked in the law department of Continental Oil Company before finally joining the faculty of Quinnipiac University School of Law. Professor Ford has also served on the board of directors or held various leadership roles with several organizations to improve the lives of others.

Professor Ford gave a motivating speech and expressed gratitude for the recognition. In addressing what diversity means, Professor Ford explained the significance of past achievement as far as how they affected current events. For instance, she explained how the civil rights movement galvanized many different groups and helped create diversity initiatives. She also acknowledged there has been great progress and recognized that election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States was an illustration of that progress. Yet, Professor Ford reminded the attendees not to be complacent and urged everyone to do more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LCD Launching New Mentoring Program for Junior Attorneys in Connecticut

By Erick I. Diaz, LCD Member

Over the past year, representatives from the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity (“LCD”) have been meeting with leaders from Connecticut legal organizations and the Co-chairs of the LCD Associate Advisory Committee, Rene Ortega, Associate at Day Pitney and Erick I. Diaz, Associate at Wiggin and Dana, to design and launch a pilot cross-organizational mentoring program for junior attorneys in Connecticut to help retain talent of color in the state.

The Cross-Organizational Mentor Program (“COMP”) was discussed recently at a reception hosted by Edwards, Angell, Palmer & Dodge LLP in Hartford on November 12, 2008. There, Co-chairs of the LCD Associate Advisory Committee explained the program and encouraged people to sign up.

The aim of the program is to provide junior attorneys in Connecticut an opportunity to be paired with an experienced and successful attorney from either a firm, a corporation or a public organization. Part of the rationale for pairing a junior attorney with a more experienced attorney from a different organization is that sometimes a junior associate may feel uncomfortable to discuss certain mentoring issues with someone from within his or her own organization.

One of the distinctive characteristics of the program is that, instead of LCD pairing the mentees and mentors, the mentees will be given access to a database describing the mentors’ backgrounds, so that mentees can rank their preferences for mentor. Based on the mentees’ preferences, the mentees and mentors will be matched on a first come basis. Once a match is made, LCD will provide the mentee the mentor’s contact information so that the mentee may contact his or her mentor.

The program is currently seeking mentors and mentees. Anyone, regardless of racial or ethnic background, may sign up for the program. If you are interested, the forms are available at <http://www.lawyerscollaborativefordiversity.org/home.html>. Although the forms indicate that the deadline is past, LCD has converted the program to a rolling basis program. Thus, mentees and mentors may sign up at any time.

Susan Kim Wins Best Lawyers Under 40 Award for 2008

NAPABA has proudly announced CAPABA Director and Partner at Bingham McCutchen LLP, Susan Kim, as one of its “Best Lawyers Under 40” for 2008. The nominees were impressive and the decisions extremely difficult. From this competitive field, NAPABA selected 18 individuals to receive the honor of being one of the best lawyers under the age of 40 for 2008. These individuals not only attained prominence in their respective legal endeavors, they also exhibited steadfast commitment to community and public service, particularly in the Asian Pacific American community. They have climbed high up the ladder of success; they have tried, and won, major trials; they have handled major deals; they have received coveted judicial appointments; they have been entrusted with the responsibility of heading up corporate departments and practice groups - and they have done it all at a relative early stage of their careers. Ms. Kim received her award at the 20th Anniversary Gala Celebration Dinner held during the 2008 Annual NAPABA Convention in Seattle, Washington. In attendance and in support were fellow CAPABA members, Carlton Chen, Angel Feng, Doug Hirai, Carolyn Ikari, Amy Lin Meyerson, and Tanya Wolanic.

Proloy K. Das Becomes A Principal at Rome McGuigan, P.C.

Rome McGuigan, P.C. is pleased to announce that Proloy K. Das has become a principal of the firm.

Amit D. Patel Joins Hartford Immigration Court as Judicial Law Clerk

We are pleased to announce that Amit D. Patel, CAPABA’s CBA YLS liaison recently passed the Connecticut and New York bar and is working at the Hartford Immigration Court as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, a component of the Department of Justice

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE! CAPABA’s Lunar New Year Celebration, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
January 29, 2009 Pepe & Hazard LLP, 30 Jelliff Lane, 3rd Floor, Southport, CT 06890

Come and join us for an evening of networking and fun as we celebrate the Lunar New Year with APA leaders in the community. Dinner and drinks will be provided.

The CBA/YLS cordially invites CAPABA to the following events that may be of interest to its members:

January 22, 2009 An Evening with State Legislative Leaders, Shipman & Goodwin, Hartford

February 19, 2009 Judicial Selection Program with Representatives from Governor’s Office, Legislature and Judicial Selection Commission (Hartford, location t/b/d)

February 4, 2009 Professional Ethics & Responsibility Program, Quinnipiac Law School (Speakers t/b/d)

March 28, 2009 Young Lawyers’ Section Seven Course Wine Dinner and Gala, G. Fox Room, Hartford

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 Cecilia Zhang Stiber at cstiber@daypitney.com. Please also feel free to provide suggestions for future articles or comments on what you read. 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 materials or advertisements in accordance with their editorial judgment.