



Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association E-Newsletter

APRIL 2008

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of CAPABA,

We have had a strong and event-filled winter, and are looking forward to hosting the 2008 NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference, "Strengthening Our Communities," this spring.

We have been working with the affinity bar associations on access to court issues. Under Chief Justice Chase Rogers' leadership, the judiciary branch has translated court materials into Mandarin Chinese in addition to Spanish. You may find a link to these publications on the CAPABA website. In addition, The Public Service and Trust Commission of the Connecticut Judicial Department held a focus group on November 27, 2007 to speak about the judicial system. Our conversation with the judicial branch is a continuing process. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please contact me or Susan Kim.

We also co-hosted the Judicial Selection Process Panel as part of our work to increase CAPABA's active participation in our legal community. The program provided information on how to become a judge, and how we may participate in the selection process as members of the legal community.

We also celebrated with members of all the local bar associations in Connecticut, the Concurrent Women Bar Presidents of Connecticut. CAPABA has had a long history of women presidents starting with our founder Amy Lin Meyerson, our second president Susan Kim, and our fourth president Shirley Ma. They

have been the foundation of CAPABA and my role models. I was humbled and honored to be recognized as one of the bar presidents on the historic occasion when most of the bar presidents of Connecticut are women.

In concert with the affinity bar associations, we also held our Annual Career Development, Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Legal Profession Workshop and met with students to discuss different career opportunities. The panelists included attorneys representing large law firms, solo practitioners, public interest organizations, government, in-house, and academia. In addition, CAPABA members attended a law students' event to meet our aspiring attorney members. We also hosted a panel on employment in the Judiciary Branch, and co-hosted the subsequent reception in honor of the late Grace Cavero-Feliu.

Our planning for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Northeast Regional Conference is in full-swing. The conference will be on May 2-3,

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2008 at Dolce in Norwalk, Connecticut. We will have great panels and panelists. The continuing Legal Education programs will include: “The Constitution in the Time of War: The Trial of Minoru Yasui;” “The Fabulous Life of Judges: From the Bar to the Bench;” “Lawyers Facing Lawsuits From Clients and Colleagues;” “Employment Law Class Actions -- What’s Old, What’s New, and What’s Next;” “What To Do When The Feds Come Knocking - Answering Immigration Questions from the ICE, DOJ, Social Security No-Match, And Department Of Labor Audits;” “U.S. Intellectual Property: Changes in the Law and the Rules;” and “The APA Vote: Voting Rights and Other Legal Issues Surrounding the Election Process.”

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact me or Amy Lin Meyerson.

Hope to see you at one of our events soon.

Best regards,

Angel

The 2007 IMPAACT CONFERENCE

On November 10, 2007, Judge Nina Elgo, Board member of CAPABA and Asker Saeed, President of the South Asian Bar Association, conducted a workshop for the 2007 IMPAACT conference at the University of Connecticut for undergraduates considering a career in the law. Judge Elgo and Attorney Saeed discussed the need for more APAs to consider a career in the law as one way to empower the APA community within the larger society. They also offered their personal insights, tools and resources to help the students assess whether a career in the law is right for them.

The IMPAACT (Identifying the Missing Power of Asian Americans in Connecticut) conference

also featured keynote speaker, Ismael Ileto, whose brother Joseph Ileto, was a Filipino American hate crime victim murdered in 1999. Against the backdrop of this year’s theme, “Hate is Real, Realize Hate, Speaking Out Against Hate Crimes,” the conference workshops and panel discussions confronted issues relevant to the APA community, including human trafficking, violence against Asian women; stereotypes and racism, identity and mental health.

CAPABA Holds Welcome Reception for Xerox GC Don Liu and Open Membership Meeting

Supporting diversity initiatives is “not just the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do.” The truth in these opening remarks from Xerox GC and Senior Vice President, Don Liu, during CAPABA’s Open Membership Meeting and Welcome Reception for him was clearly demonstrated through the great attendance and support of many who attended this event. The reception, held on December 6, 2007 at the Southport offices of Pepe & Hazard LLP, brought together familiar faces and members, and welcomed new members and friends to the organization, including Attorney Liu and his wife, Jin, who is also an attorney. In addition to providing networking opportunities, those who attended were treated to great authentic Asian cuisine and participated in a raffle for prizes. As always, the event proved to be both enjoyable and informative for all of its attendees.

CAPABA Co-Sponsors Panel on The Judicial Selection Process

On January 15, 2008, CAPABA, along with the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut, and the Crawford Black Bar Association, sponsored the

panel “Becoming a Judge in Connecticut: The Judicial Selection Process.” Hosted by Shipman and Goodwin, LLP, the event was very well attended and well received. Responding to a receptive and engaged audience, the panelists and participants were candid and forthcoming regarding the process of judicial selection. John Rose, Esq, Director of the Office of the Corporation Counsel, Hartford, delivered welcoming remarks, and the Honorable Barbara Quinn, Chief Court Administrator of the Judicial Branch, also addressed the group. Panel members included Anna Ficeto, Legal Counsel to the Governor M. Jodi Rell, Thomas O’Dea, Chairperson of the Judicial Selection Commission, the Honorable Antonio Robaina, The Honorable Angela Robinson, and the Honorable Nina Elgo, who also serves on CAPABA’s Board of Directors.

Reception Honoring Women Bar Association Presidents

On January 30, 2008, members and friends of six bar associations gathered at the Hartford Club to honor an historic occasion. For the first time, the Presidents of the local bar associations are all women, including CAPABA’s own Angel Feng. The Presidents honored at the reception were as follows:

- Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association – **Angel Feng**
- Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association – **Maria Jimena Rivera**
- George W. Crawford Black Bar Association – **Vanessa D. Roberts**
- Hartford County Bar Association – **Claudio A. Baio**
- New Haven County Bar Association – **Lori Alexander**
- Fairfield County Bar Association – **Debbie Cannavino**

It was a festive event, giving the attendees an opportunity to mix, mingle and celebrate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UTC Appoints An-Ping Hsieh as Associate General Counsel

On February 16, 2008, An-Ping Hsieh, CAPABA Director, was appointed as Associate General Counsel at United Technologies Company, where he will be the lead attorney for the company’s mergers and acquisitions. Ping was previously UTC Fire & Security’s Vice President and General Counsel since 2003. He has also held numerous legal positions at Otis, including Deputy General Counsel and Vice President, Legal Affairs for NAPA and SAPA, based in Singapore.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE NAPABA 2008 NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

On May 2nd – 3rd, 2008, the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (CAPABA) will be hosting the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) 2008 Northeast Regional Conference in Norwalk, Connecticut. The Conference will have a number of great panel discussions as well as a stellar line-up of speakers, and will be held at the beautiful Dolce Norwalk.

Registration materials can be obtained from the NAPABA website at:

<http://www.napaba.org/napaba/showpage.asp?code=2008NERC>.

We look forward to seeing all of you there!

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 Calvin Woo at cwoo@pepehazard.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. Newsletter design is provided by Pepe & Hazard LLP.