

SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

www.aabahouston.com

The Asian American Bar Association (AABA) of Houston is a voluntary organization of lawyers of Asian heritage or who have Asian American interests, dedicated to promoting diversity within the legal profession and Houston community.

25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA & SILENT AUCTION

On Friday, August 28, 2009, over 300 guests celebrated the AABA's 25th Anniversary Gala & Silent Auction at the beautiful InterContinental Hotel. Channel 39's Andrea Nguyen, the Mistress of Ceremonies, kicked off the evening with an energetic welcome to the attendees, and Houston Mayor Bill White gave a memorable keynote speech. Recipients of the Asian American Bar Foundation's Public Interest Scholarships and Judicial Internship Stipends were recognized. An inspiring video chronicling the AABA's history and legacy capped off the evening's events followed by the recognition of the AABA's past Presidents for their vision and dedication to making the AABA the organization that it is today.

The AABA is especially grateful to this year's Gala underwriters, in-kind sponsors and Silent Auction donors for their continued, generous support for the AABA, particularly in these challenging economic times. In addition to the receipts from the Silent Auction, the Asian American Bar Foundation received donations of \$2,250 from the Harry Gee Family Fund and \$2,000 from AGL Resources, Inc.

Special thanks go to our extremely capable and hardworking Gala Co-Chairs Miranda-Lin Bailey and Alice Huang; Silent Auction Chair Carmen Nguyen; members of the Gala & Silent Auction Committee; the many law student volunteers; and AABA President-Elect Joyce Kao Soliman. Without their tireless effort and commitment, this evening would not have been possible.



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The AABA of Houston Would Like to Thank the Underwriters of the 2009 Gala & Silent Auction

Platinum

Exxon Mobil Corporation

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AABF SILENT AUCTION ITEMS REMAIN FOR BIDDING!

If you missed these great items at the Gala & Silent Auction and would like a second chance, you're in luck. The items below are still available for purchase, with the proceeds benefiting the Asian American Bar Foundation.

<u>Rules</u>: Interested buyers must submit their bids to AABA President Warren Huang at <u>whuang@fulbright.com</u>. The items will be sold to the first person who submits a bid for or above the minimum bid (which have been lowered significantly). Bids will be accepted until 5:00 pm on September 18th.

Item 1: Professional photo session and one 11" x 14" classic portrait from Al Torres Photography. This package expires on January 31, 2010. [Valued at \$675; Minimum bid is \$150]

Item 2: Two (2) gift certificates (\$150 each) to Gabriel Tran Photography. [Valued at \$300; Minimum bid is \$75]

Item 3: Two (2) gift certificates (\$150 each) to Gabriel Tran Photography. [Valued at \$300; Minimum bid is \$75]

Item 4: Two (2) spots in the Houston CPA Society and Make-A-Wish Foundation's 20th Annual Golf Classic & Auction on Monday, October 26, 2009 at the Sweetwater Country Club with special hosts, Houston Astros' hitting coach, Sean Berry, and right fielder, Hunter Pence. Registration for this tournament, which benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation, begins at 9:00 a.m. and play (handicapped scramble) begins at 12:00 p.m. Lunch and dinner are included. [Valued at \$500; Minimum bid is \$100]

GOOD LUCK!

AABA WOMEN'S RETREAT



Saturday, September 26

8:30-9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Pastries 9:00-12:30 p.m. - Program

Greenberg Traurig, LLP 1000 Louisiana Street Suite 1700

AABA members: Free / Non-AABA Members: \$10*

To register, please contact AABA VP of Programs Judy Liu (judy.liu@centerpointenergy.com) or visit www.aabahouston.com

(*Open to female attorneys only at this time. Subject to availability, the event may be opened to female law students at a later date)

The AABA is excited to announce its inaugural Women's Retreat! Join the women of the AABA for a candid and thought-provoking discussion of issues facing Asian-American women attorneys, such as dealing with stereotypes in the workplace, working with support staff, and developing and nurturing mentoring relationships. The retreat will also be a great opportunity to get to know your fellow AABA members better in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. We hope to see you on September 26th!

THE AABA OF HOUSTON, HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM, OCA GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER, AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES ARE PROUD TO HOST THE

2009 NATURALIZATION & CITIZENSHIP CLINIC

Saturday, October 17, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MetroBank Community Center
Dynasty Plaza
9600 Bellaire, Suite 201

The AABA is looking for volunteers to assist in preparing applications for members of the Asian American community wishing to become naturalized citizens. While volunteers **do not** need to be an immigration specialist, all volunteers will be required to undergo a brief training program prior to the Clinic. The AABA also is looking for immigration specialist volunteers to review completed application forms and answer questions volunteers and applicants may have on the day of the Clinic.

The AABA also would greatly appreciate if you could spread the word about the Clinic to family and friends who are interested in applying for naturalization. To register for the Clinic, applicants must call the Clinic's intake representative at 713-523-7852 between September 28, 2009 and October 2, 2009, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm to reserve an appointment for the day of the Clinic.

For more information or to volunteer for the Clinic, please contact AABA President Warren Huang at whuang@fulbright.com.

AABA'S 5TH ANNUAL CORPORATE COUNSEL DINNER

COMING SOON IN NOVEMBER 2009!

Graciously underwritten by

Exxon Mobil Corporation

and

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

Stay tuned for more details...

AABA MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAM

In August, the AABA organized a mock interview and resume review program for 2L AABA law student members to help them prepare for the Fall interview season. The AABA would like to extend its sincere thanks to the following AABA attorney members who volunteered as interviewers and shared their experience and insight with these students:

Kang Chen Juvie Cruz Philip Lau Lola Lin Daniel Hu Eunice Song

Andrea Tran

OPPORTUNITIES

MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL FOUNDATION – LEGAL COUNSEL POSITION

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation is a private family foundation dedicated to transforming the lives of children living in urban poverty through better health and education. Pragmatic, disciplined and innovative in our approach and global in our perspective, the Foundation seeks to concentrate resources where there is opportunity to achieve direct, measurable, replicable and lasting systemic changes that improve a significant number of lives.

The Foundation is seeking an exceptional attorney to provide in-house legal services to the Foundation under the direction of the Foundation's General Counsel and in conjunction with the Foundation's existing Legal team. This position is a full-time position and is resident in the Foundation's Austin office.

Primary Position Responsibilities

Support the Foundation's US Education Team

Provide legal support and guidance to the Foundation's US Education Team and its initiatives and programs in urban education across the US, including charter schools and performance management data systems

Provide legal support and guidance to the Foundation's US 'Dell Scholars Program'

• Support the Foundation's South Africa Team

Provide legal support and guidance to the Foundation's South Africa Team and its initiatives and programs in R-12 education, leadership development, orphans and vulnerable children, and childhood nutrition within South Africa, as well as those in other African and "rest-of-world" countries (excluding India)

Provide ongoing regulatory compliance and other organizational support to the South Africa office and to other US-based functional teams supporting the South Africa office, working with external advisors and service providers as necessary

Provide legal support and guidance to the Foundation's South Africa-based 'Dell Young Leaders' scholarship program

• Other Responsibilities

Manage the Foundation's US federal and state corporate compliance programs

Serve as attorney lead on continued development of technology-based tools to support the Foundation's legal work and operations

Develop and implement programs, processes and tools to deliver essential training and other vital information to employees at point-of-hire and on an ongoing basis

Develop and implement a system for tracking and disseminating federal, state and international legislative and regulatory matters of importance to US private foundations

Develop Foundation policies related to its charitable activities as needed

Other duties as assigned by the General Counsel or the Leadership Team

Depending on specific experience and qualifications, additional responsibilities *may* include support for certain functional areas of the Foundation such as Human Resources or Finance and/or the Foundation's microfinance initiative.

OPPORTUNITIES

Michael and Susan Dell Foundation - Legal Counsel Position (cont'd)

The successful candidate for the Legal Counsel position will demonstrate a high degree of skill in:

- Analyzing complex matters and generating a variety of creative potential solutions
- Drafting, reviewing, revising and updating grant letter templates and other documents related to grant-making and private foundation charitable distributions
- Drafting, reviewing, revising and negotiating legal agreements in support of operational and programmatic requirements
- Conducting, assimilating and distilling legal research related to tax-exempt organizations and other relevant law
- Managing effectively a large docket of internal and external legal matters of varying size and complexity across a wide variety of disciplines
- Utilizing technology in performing legal work and engaging with technology staff to develop legal team requirements and to help drive technology solutions for legal compliance, legal workflow and related needs
- Leading cross-functional initiatives effectively (e.g., developing internal policies involving collection of input from multiple teams, drafting policies for team review and discussion, and implementing final policies across the organization)
- Creating, presenting and maintaining legal training programs

In addition, the successful candidate for the Legal Counsel position will demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Intellectual horsepower
- Demonstrated legal and business acumen
- Ability to learn on the fly
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills
- Client service orientation
- Ability to work independently, with minimal supervision, on complex, lengthy projects
- Attendant to detail
- Deals effectively with ambiguity
- Self-motivation with a strong work ethic
- Ability to take ownership of tasks and drive for results
- Creative problem-solving orientation and consensus-building skills
- Ability to provide actionable advice
- Ability to think strategically without sacrificing knowledge and control of the details
- Highest level of ethics and professional integrity
- Maintains confidentiality
- Exercises discretion and sound judgment
- Passion for non-profit service and the Foundation's mission

Additional Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree and J.D. from a high-caliber US accredited college or university
- Bar admission in at least one US jurisdiction
- Texas State Bar membership or willingness to obtain Texas State Bar membership
- Minimum five (5) years experience with high caliber law firm(s)
- In-house counsel experience in a complex, technology-driven, process and outcomes-oriented organization with operations outside the US preferred
- Experience in corporate tax and, more specifically, tax-exempt organizations law preferred
- Legal experience in India and/or South Africa a plus
- Experience working on complex financing transactions or private equity investments a plus

Note: Some domestic and international travel is a specific requirement of this position

PROJECT BLUEPRINT

a blueprint for diversity in volunteer leadership

Project Hisspent is committed to ensuring that the board leadership of our semprofit sector reflects the rich ethnic diversity of our Houston.

Community, Bines its inequition in 1988, Project Blagarist kap program the sent generation of emerging leaders from Houston's multi-colored communities to fill key roles on boards and board committees. More than 650 well trained leaders are providing the skills, resources and diverse perspectives needed to assist nonprofit organizations in improving performance and increasing their impact in the community.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants for Project Bluegrint are recurited community wide.
The goal is to identify an ethnically diverse pool of individuals
who have the potential to assume headership rules in the number of

Candidates for the Project Blasprint program may self-submit, or may be recommended by colleagues or coverchars. Emject Blasprint alumni me succuraged to recommend applicants, as are conventions and concredit resultants.

The program lies is \$800.00 and is due after March 30, 2009, the applicant is notified of their acceptance into the program. The fise covers coats related to the program, including a tero-day officie retwent that is designed to foster consentation and team spirit among the participants. Participants are encounted to senic corporate sponsorably when appropriate.

Classes converse in early going and conclude with a recognition caremony honoring the new Project Bluegaint graduates.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Class mumbers are above based on ariteria that include: professimal experience, promunally involvement and landership potential. Bash alsas is demographically diverse in terms of age, guader, attributly, and professional occupation.

A Project Bluegrint Volunteer Schotien Committee reviews confidate applications, conclusts personal interviews with the top applicants and selects the participants.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Expents in all areas of nonprofit government lend the participants through a comprehensive continguan covering an erray of topics related to board government, arisis communication, legal and framewish issues and fundaming.

Following graduation, Project Hlasprint alaumi on offered volunter placement opportunities either with United Way or other nonprofit organizations.

Project Blueprint participants enjoy these benefits:

- Leadership Training: A series of wedshop seriess that provides concentrated study of issues related to compress teadership and management;
- Teambuilding: A two-day retreat designed to build commaderic among program participants and develop the skills that are seenful to effective team interaction and fundamental.
- Volunteer Placement: Following completion of the program, Project Blueprint graduates are provided with placement opportunities in area asspredits to exercise their new skills;
- Project Blueprint Alumni: Graduates are important ambassakes for the program and support the annual reactifunct and selection pressons. They have opportunition to increase their networks and to further develop their leadership skills through a variety of workshops and Emjort Blueprint owned.

Learn more about PROJECT BLUEPRINT

For near information, contact Karen B. White, Leadership Development Manager at 713.688.2711 or kwhite@mittedwayhaustun.org OR nemplete and fax the following from to Project Blacquint Leadership Development Manager at 1-866-826-1068.

- ☐ My organization would like volunteer referrals for our board
- I would blee to receive an application for participation in the next Project Ethegaint class.
- ☐ I would like to reminate a condidate for the Project

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Phone
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Project Biogrips is a program of the United Way of Greater Houston, were united my houston, any

frank you for the stamp

PROJECT BLUEPRINT benefit you?

- As a Participant...

- > Strengthers your leadership and management skills
- > Provides valueble networking opportunities
- Enhances your status as a member of a distinguished group of community leaders

-As a Nonprofit Organization...

- Reduces time consuming tasks of locating, recruiting, and training board volunteers
- Survey as a new source of leaders who know end cure shout the constrainty
- Offers representation that reflects the cultural diversity of the Community.

-As a Corporation...

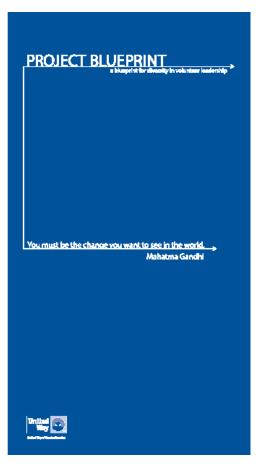
- Strengthens your company's community image and provides another evenue for community relations
- Provides leadership and management training for your employees
- Fohences your employees' shifting to manage the cultural diversity that exists in the workplace

For More Information:

phone: 713-685-2711 web site: www.unitedwayhouston.org







Applications must be received at United Way no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2009.





National Leadership Summit: leading from the center

Microsoft Conference Center Seattle, WA

Early Bird Conference Registration - \$225 Regular Conference Registration - \$300

To register go to <u>www.leadingfromthecenter.eventbrite.com</u> For more info email info@apawomen.org

Hotel Conference rates are available at: http://bellevue.hyatt.com/groupbooking/belle2009apaw

> Hyatt Regency Bellevue 900 Dellevue Way NE Belleview, WA 98004 Tel. +1.425.462.1234

SPONSORS:



NORDSTROM





20090814 Summit Program Plan

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September 26-27, 2009

The Center for Asian Pacific American Women is a national organization which builds leadership capacity in our communities across regions and sectors. The Center provides a variety of development programs which span generations and cultures.

You are invited to attend the Center's *National Leadership Summit: Leading From the Center*. At the Summit, you will gather with others to discuss issues, learn new skills, connect with each other, support and celebrate themselves and others.

SIDEBAR



Cindy and Tri Nguyen proudly announce the birth of their precious baby girl, Avery Thy Nguyen, born August 21st at 4:09 pm. Avery weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. at birth.

Congratulations Cindy and Tri!

Many thanks to our 2008-2009 Major Underwriters:

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If you would like to publicize job opportunities, community news, or personal SIDEBAR news, please contact AABA Secretary Sherry Scott at sscott1812@live.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

September 10, 2009 / Asian American Family Services Pre-Gala Reception; Houston, Texas

The Asian American Family Services will be holding a kickoff reception of the Golden Masquerade Ball on September 10, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Pradaria Steaks & Churrascaria, 10694 Westheimer (between Wilcrest and Rogerdale), Houston, Texas 77042. Please RSVP by September 7th to Dion Or at dion.or@aafstexas.org. The Golden Masquerade Ball, benefitting AAFS, will be held on Friday, October 2, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hilton Post Oak Hotel, 2001 Post Oak Blvd. in Houston, Texas. Honorees are Vijay Goradia, Patrick Leung, Ph.D., Lone Star Legal Aid and Korean Central Presbyterian Church for their outstanding work and contributions. For more information about the Ball, or to RSVP for the Ball, please contact Kim Szeto or Dion Or, by calling 713.339.3688 or via e-mail at rsvp@aafstexas.org.

September 17 and 18, 2009 / HBA Ad Litem/Amicus Boot Camp 2009; Houston, Texas

The Houston Bar Association Family Law Section is sponsoring a two-day seminar, "Ad Litem/Amicus Boot Camp 2009" on Thursday, September 17, 2009 and Friday, September 18, 2009 at South Texas College of Law. The seminar includes 12.0 hours MCLE credit and 1.0 hour ethics credit. To download the registration form and schedule, go to www.hba.org.

September 23, 2009 / AWA General Membership Meeting and CLE; Houston, Texas

The Association of Women Attorneys will hold its general membership meeting on September 23, 2009, at La Griglia Restaurant, 2002 West Gray St., Houston, Texas 77019. The meeting begins with networking at 6:00 p.m., followed by Jim Cornell's presentation at 6:30 p.m. on "What Every Lawyer Should Know about Insurance and Insurance Law." Attendees will qualify for 1.0 hour of CLE credit for this meeting. The event is free to AWA paid members and \$15 for guests. Please RSVP with Joanne Ericksen at imeigeonne@yahoo.com or online at www.awahouston.com.

<u>September 24-25, 2009</u> / ABA National Conference for the Minority Lawyer; Hotel Sofitel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Join the ABA for the National Conference for the Minority Lawyer, sponsored by the ABA's Business Law Section, Section of Litigation and the Commission on Ethnic and Racial Diversity in the Profession. This conference brings together lawyers from all racial and ethnic backgrounds and practice settings to improve their legal skills, network and connect with other minority lawyers and discuss issues and challenges faced by minority lawyers. You will hear from nationally recognized speakers and enjoy two thought provoking lunches, a networking reception, and outstanding CLE programs. Hotel Philadelphia Sofitel, 120 South 17th St., Philadelphia, PA. For more information about the program and hotel reservations, please go to http://www.abanet.org/litigation/programs/cle_092409.html.

September 25, 2009 / OCA-Greater Houston's 10th Annual They Serve With Honor Reception; Houston, Texas

OCA-Greater Houston invites you to the 10th Annual They Serve with Honor Reception and Charity Casino Night with special guest actor James Hong. Friday, September 25, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. General admission includes \$100 worth of chips, refreshments, FUN & PRIZES! Location: American 1st National Bank, 9999 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77036. Make all checks payable to: OCA-Greater Houston. For more information, contact 713.446.8430 or oca@ocahouston.org

October 18-21, 2009 / Association of Corporate Counsel 2009 Annual Meeting; Boston, Massachusetts

ACC's 2009 Annual Meeting is the one event where you can get the insight you need to push beyond today's challenges. Join the ACC in Boston, October 18-21, 2009 at the Hynes Convention Center, for another exciting and informative program full of networking, CLE and other valuable information. Register by September 10th to receive discounted registration fees. For more information or to register, go to http://am.acc.com.

Get to Know an AABA Member!

Aline Abbinanti Ware, Jackson, Lee & Chambers, L.L.P.

If I weren't an attorney, I would be . . . a charitable event planner/fundraiser.

My favorite (or fantasy) vacation is... a small, private hotel in Tuscany or other scenic regions.

The best dessert (or other food) in the world is... homemade Korean; chocolate cake made from scratch, not out of a box.

In my spare time, I enjoy... not having to work.

In my iPod (or other mp3 device) you will find . . . mostly rock but all kinds.

My favorite movies are ... Doubt, Lost in Translation, Pride & Prejudice.

The best restaurant in Houston is . . . Café Annie or Nam Gang on Gessner.

My favorite place in Houston is . . . my parents' rooftop on a cool day.

The sports team(s) I root for is/are... Team USA during the Olympics (not a huge sports fan, can you tell?).

If I won the lottery, I would . . . give more and do more of 1 and 2, above.

I recommend reading... Proverbs from the Old Testament – contains wisdom for life even if you aren't "religious." Psalms also.

Most AABA members probably don't know that I . . . love to sing but I'm not too good at it.

You forgot to ask me about... I'm Korean-American. My last name is Italian because my mother re-married.

The AABA welcomes the following new and renewing members!

Sara Alahmed

South Texas College of Law

Chrissy Choi

South Texas College of Law

Zuotian Deng

South Texas College of Law

Eugene Hong

The University of Houston Law Center

Teresa Porter

South Texas College of Law

Brendon Singh

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Anissah Andang

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Brenda Dang

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Kenneth G. Eng

Kenneth G. Eng Attorney at Law

Phong Le

Le Law Firm

Zeshaan Samani

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Y. Ping Sun

Yetter Warden & Coleman L.L.P.

Alexander Vuong

South Texas College of Law

If you haven't already applied for membership to the AABA, then you are missing out on all the benefits of membership. Members of the AABA receive significant discounts to all AABA events, as well as invitations to exclusive members-only seminars and programs such as the annual Corporate Counsel Dinner and inclusion in the Attorney Profiles Directory. Become an AABA member today, and gain access to all of the networking, career enhancement, mentorship, and volunteer opportunities and resources that the AABA has to offer! You may apply for membership on-line at www.aabahouston.com or by completing and submitting the attached form and dues.

Another terrific benefit of AABA membership is automatic membership in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("NAPABA"). AABA members can take advantage of NAPABA's benefits, such as the one below offered by Mercedes-Benz.



NAPABA members are now eligible for special pricing on the purchase or lease of Mercedes-Benz vehicles

Visit our website www.napaba.org for more information



Asian American Bar Association of Houston 2009 Membership Application/Renewal

□ \$0 □ \$25	Law Student • Retired Attorney Attorney with less than 3 years in practice • In-House or Non-Profit Counsel • Solo Practitioner •
□ \$50 □ \$75	Auxiliary Member* Attorney with 3 to 8 years in practice • Judge • Government Attorney Attorney with 8+ years in practice
Bar Number and Jurisdiction	
Last Nan	me First Name
Employe	er
Address	<u> </u>
City	State ZIP
Office #	Home #
Fax #	E-Mail
Area(s) of Practice	
Law School and Graduation Year Language(s)	
How would you like to receive the AABA Newsletter? ☐ E-Mail ☐ Fax	
Would you like your business contact information published in the AABA Online Directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Please give us any comments or programming suggestions you might have:	
Please indicate any committees on which you would be interested in serving:	
☐ Gala ☐ Fundraising ☐ Programs ☐ Social/Networking ☐ Communications ☐ Community Relations/Pro Bono ☐ Corporate Counsel ☐ Mentorship/Law School Relations	
	Make checks payable to AABA and submit application and fee to:

AABA Attn: Membership P.O. Box 1554 Houston, TX 77251

Send any inquiries concerning AABA membership to membership@aabahouston.com, or contact Audrey Chang at (713) 374-3537.

*Auxiliary membership is open to attorneys who neither reside nor practice in the Greater Houston area.