



APABA-MD TODAY

The newsletter of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland

Fall 2005

President's corner

Building on past accomplishments

Fellow APABA-MD Members,

Christine and I are proud to serve as Co-Presidents of APABA-MD for the 2005-2006 year. As we look forward to another bar year, we hope to continue to build on the foundations laid by the previous year's officers, led by past president Catherine Hester-Chen. Christine and I feel this organization should focus on its members and the way current issues affect them as well as the broader Asian American community. One of the ways we intend to do that is with the commencement of our Mentorship Program, in 2006, with the University of Maryland and the University of Baltimore Schools of Law. Also, in late spring of 2006, we will hold our Second Annual Scholarship dinner featuring distinguished guests.

In this newsletter, you will read of some memorable events APABA-MD has taken part of in the past year. We held our yearly Kick-Off Picnic in August with a good turnout (too much food as usual!), a game of whiffle-ball. Last month, along with the

University of Maryland School of Law, we hosted a gala dinner event honoring Frank Chuman, author of *the Bamboo People* and the first Asian American to graduate from the Law School. At this event, Judge Brian Kim awarded APABA-MD Scholarships to two outstanding graduates from each of the two Maryland law schools. The keynote speaker was NAPABA President Michael Chu. Finally, the APABA-MD Judicial Selections Committee, led by chair Linda Dominguez, has been and will continue to interview candidates for the bench from all over the state. We stand committed to the important task of nominating qualified judges to the bench in Maryland.

As attorneys, we are called to maintain a higher standard of practice. Won't you join us as we strive to be good in order that we are made great?

John Park & Christine Lee
Co-Presidents
APABA-MD

Judge Kim (left) gave the first APABA-MD scholarships to Raul Narula (center) of the University of Maryland and Nam Nguyen (right) of the University of Baltimore.

Judge Kim presented the awards during a dinner October 18 at the University of Maryland to honor Frank F. Chuman, (JD 1945), author of *The Bamboo People: The Law and Japanese Americans*. The keynote speaker for the evening was Michael Chu, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.





Judicial Selections Committee weighs in on new judgeships

Since June 2005, the APABA-MD Judicial Selection Committee has been extremely busy interviewing judicial applicants as a result of new openings and retirements across the State of Maryland. We are one of the few specialty bars willing to conduct interviews, and this is being noticed by the applicants. By telephone, we have interviewed judicial applicants from the following counties: Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester. In person, we have interviewed judicial candidates from Baltimore City (two sets) and Montgomery County.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all who have participated so far and to urge those who have not participated up to now to do so. It is very rewarding to be a part of the selection process and to ensure that APABA-MD is known throughout the state as a specialty bar willing to interview applicants from any county. I am continually amazed, and pleased, by comments from applicants that we are one of the few who will work hard to arrange a mutually agreeable time to interview judicial applicants even if there is no appreciable Asian presence in their community.

Linda A. Dominguez
Chair, Judicial Selection
Committee

Member News

Judge Brian G. Kim and Judge Jeannie J. Hong received NAPABA Trailblazer Awards at the convention in October. The Award recognizes the outstanding achievements, commitment and leadership of NAPABA lawyers who have paved the way for the advancement of other Asian Pacific American attorneys. As part of its annual convention this past fall, NAPABA honored a member from each region.

Judge Kim received the 2005 outstanding adjunct faculty member of the year award from the University of Baltimore School of Law for the 2004-05 school year.

Immediate past president Catherine Hester-Chen is seeking to fill a district court vacancy in

Howard County. As of press time, no word yet on when the Governor will make a decision. Catherine was also among the lawyers who volunteered her time to educate incoming attorneys during the state bar's Mandatory Course on Professionalism earlier this month.

University of Baltimore representative Linette Golden was married this past summer to Dave Golden.



Board members Sarah Duran and Marianne Koch were sworn in earlier this month to the Maryland State Bar.

Got some news you want to share with board members? E-mail the information to Sarah Duran at sarahduran@att.net. We'll put it in the next newsletter.

Sam Yee takes on 2005 NAPABA convention

During late October, I went to the NAPABA Convention in Chicago. This was the second time I had attended one of its National Conventions. It was strange yet inspiring to see so many Asian lawyers of all ages. It was strange because I never had seen so many Asians in one place since outside of Flushing Queens or the Manhattan Chinatown. It was inspiring to see the many generations of Asian lawyers who were there. For example, I bumped into Bob Zung, one of the founding members of NAPABA who I had not seen in over a decade. On the other side of the spectrum, I met some of our newest APA attorneys who were either prosecutors or judicial law clerks. Their presence assured me of the future of NAPABA through this newest generation.

During this Convention, I also met Asian bar leaders from around the country. I enjoyed speaking with them and sharing our experiences with each other. In addition, I saw how several "dead" APABA chapters were in the process of being resurrected. This trend was encouraging because as more and more chapters are born or grow larger, NAPABA, and Asian lawyers, in general, will become more powerful in the legal community.

During the conference, I also attended some of the CLE courses they hosted. I really was not into these Course because they rarely related to my current criminal law practice. That being said, I believe these courses would be enlightening to those who are in general practice or practicing civil rights or international law.

The most inspiring part of this Conference was the speech by Barack Obama. He was a great speaker and clearly would have been a great litigator if not for his current political job. He pointed out the importance of all minority lawyers working together.

All in all, the Conference was great to attend. The location obviously added to the enjoyment. Let us not forget that Chi-Town is not only the home of Kanye West and R. Kelly, but is also a great tourist attraction. I had fun walking around the city and looking at its great architecture and other sights. On a more disturbing note, the rumors were true and Chi-Town is clearly a Cubs town because I did not sense that much excitement over the Sox. However, that is the only bad thing I can say about Chicago and for that matter the NAPABA Convention.

- Sam Yee

APABA-MD to launch law School mentoring program

APABA-MD is seeking members to participate in a mentoring program for law students at the University of Maryland and the University of Baltimore. The program will kick-off with a happy hour Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006, 5-7 p.m. (snow date is following Thursday, Feb. 2.) – location TBA. If you're interested in mentoring, please fill out a volunteer mentor form. Forms are available by contacting Cezar Lopez at cezarlopez@yahoo.com.

This is a great way to serve the Asian-American community and network with the next generation of lawyers.

News from NAPABA

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association will host the 2006 Southeast Regional Conference entitled "A National Vision of Asian Pacific Americans in Law and the Judiciary." The event will be hosted by The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, DC, Area, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The Keynote luncheon speaker will be Assistant Attorney General Wan J. Kim. The event is also in conjunction with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (AEF) Annual Benefit Dinner.

The event will be Saturday, March 18, 2006, at the National Press Club, from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The Press Club is at 529 14th St., NW., 13th Floor, Washington, D.C.

Meet the 2005-06 Board

Co President: John Park

John was born in South Korea but has lived in Maryland most of his life, attending public schools. He went to College Park and majored in government and politics with a minor in music performance. He earned his law degree from the University of Maryland, but he takes more pride in meeting his wife Charlene at the school.

Upon graduation, he worked at the firm of Arnold and Porter in Washington, D.C. A couple of years ago, he joined the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. He currently prosecutes defendants in the Narcotics Division.

John and Charlene enjoy family time with their daughter Evy. He loves playing basketball and acoustic guitar whenever he can.

Co-President: Christine Lee

Christine is an attorney at Gordon Feinblatt Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander, LLC in Baltimore, where her practice focuses on personal injury cases. Christine has a B.A. from Cornell University and she earned her law degree at the University of Maryland, from which she graduated in 2000. She has been admitted to the Maryland bar since 2001.

Treasurer: Marianne Koch

Marianne Koch is a 2005 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. She would like to pursue public interest work, particularly in the issues of children, education and housing. Marianne was a member of the Maryland APALSA during law school, serving as Treasurer during its 2003-2004 year. She also participated in the ACLU and served as Managing Editor of the University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class.

Outside of law school, Marianne enjoys doing volunteer work, watching movies (thanks to a Netflix subscription), and knitting (as a very clumsy novice).

Secretary: Sarah Duran

Sarah, a 2005 graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law, is clerking for the Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow at the U.S. District Court, Greenbelt Division. This is her second year on the APABA-MD board; last year she served as the APABA-MD University of Baltimore Representative.

Before law school, she worked as a journalist at newspapers in Washington State, New York, Florida, California, and Colorado. She grew up in southern California and earned an undergraduate degree in history from Occidental College in Los Angeles.

Sarah is married to Neal Pattison and has a border collie named Kody.

UM Student Representative: Cezar Lopez

Cezar, a third-year evening student, works as a law clerk with Kahn, Smith & Collins, P.A. Previously, he was an Appropriations Fellow for U.S. Senator Byron L. Dorgan (D-ND). Cezar has served as Assistant to the Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, where he edited and helped produce *Call To Action: Platform For Asian Pacific Americans National Policy Priorities 2004*, a public policy platform for candidates in the 2004 election.

He has also served as Program Manager for the Anti-Asian Violence Division at the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC). Prior to his work with NAPALC, Cezar served on the campaign staff of Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for Governor and Mark K. Shriver for U.S. Congress.

UB Student Representative: Linette Golden

Linette Gatmaitan Golden is a 3-L at UB, pursuing a concentration in Family Law. She is active in the clinical programs at UB and clerks for a solo practitioner in Greenbelt. Linette graduated from the Johns Hopkins University with majors in Public Health and French Literature. She is originally from Dallas, Texas, and now resides with her new husband and two pet bunnies in Montgomery County.

**Have you sent in your 2006 dues yet?
Here are just a few of the reasons you
should renew your membership:**

- √ **Networking opportunities**
- √ **APABA-MD's valuable programs**
- √ **Make new friends**
- √ **The awesome newsletter**
- √ **It's a tax write-off**

Mission Statement

We are the Maryland voice for the Asian Pacific American legal profession.

We promote justice, equity and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans.

We foster professional development, legal scholarship, advocacy and community involvement.

Upcoming Programs and Activities

Following is a highlight of upcoming APABA-MD activities.

Mentoring program

APABA-MD is creating a mentorship program for Maryland's two law schools, the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland. A kick-off happy hour is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006, from 5-7 p.m. The snow date is following Thursday, Feb. 2.

For more information, contact Cezar Lopez at cezarlopez@yahoo.com.

Fundraising

The board has decided to sell T-shirts and mugs as a fundraiser to support the organization's programs and to raise awareness about the group. The T-shirts and mugs will feature the Chinese character for justice and APABA-MD's name. Stay tuned for more information.

Law school scholarship fundraiser

APABA-MD will have its second-annual law scholarship fundraiser during the first week of April, to coincide with Asian Heritage Month. As with last year's fundraiser, the program will include a keynote speaker and an award

recognizing the work of a Maryland lawyer.

Last year, about 50 people attended; the board hopes to increase the number this year. The board is looking into possible speakers, including an Asian federal judge or a high-ranking elected or appointed federal official. This year's event will be in Montgomery County. Possible venues include a restaurant and American University.

If you would like to suggest a speaker (perhaps there is a member out there with great contacts with an Asian federal judge) or a location, contact Sarah Duran at sarahduran@att.net.

Promotion and membership

John and Christine would like to do more to promote the benefits of being a member, such as doing a brochure that explains who we are, what we do, what our mission statement is. The board would also like to reach out and work with other Asian-American legal groups. Stay tuned for developments.

Mid-January

Next Board meeting. Everyone is welcome. Date and location TBA.



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*Happy
Holidays!*

*From the
APABA-MD Board*