



APABA-MD TODAY

The newsletter of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland

Spring 2005

President's corner

A year of APABA accomplishments

By Catherine Hester

As I reflect on APABA-MD's accomplishments over the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude. Pride like a new mom watching her baby take his first steps, and gratitude for the multitude of hard-working members who helped to make this a successful year. I especially would like to thank my tremendous Board. Without Ron, John, Pooja and Sarah, we could not have done everything that we did – you guys are awesome!

Just look at the variety of activities we were involved in!! And you know we made great strides towards fulfilling our mission: professional development, mentoring law students, building coalition and good will among the legal profession, and in the community at large.

With the establishment of our law school scholarship fund, and creation of a standing Committee on Judicial Selections, our work has just begun. But we need more new faces, fresh ideas, and renewed energy to sustain our ongoing projects to better serve our members and the community. We need to continue our work to improve the administration of justice, and integrity of our profession.

As lawyers, we all have an obligation (under the Rules of Professional Conduct) to improve the legal system. The best way to do that, I would suggest, is to become involved in a Bar organization. Through that vehicle, we can better focus our time and energy to serve our clients, colleagues, and the public. I submit to you, that APABA-MD is committed to those goals, and I invite each of you to embrace

this challenge. Through the work you decide to take on in this organization, you will find yourselves growing and learning, and becoming the "balanced" individuals and professionals we all yearn to be! Not to mention, you will earn the respect of your fellow members, and make invaluable friendships along the way!

I had the pleasure of attending the ABA Mid-Year Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah from February 10-12. The meeting provides a forum in which the National Conference of Bar Presidents holds its bi-annual meeting. I met dozens of bar presidents of mainstream and minority bar associations across the nation. We attended workshops on how to increase membership, raise funds for educational/charitable causes, and shared information and ideas of how to make our organizations better. During one of the plenary sessions, the ABA shared some statistical analyses of a survey it conducted over the past four years about the "state of our profession."

Of particular interest to me was the data comparing Caucasian and Minority attorneys' attitudes towards the legal profession. The survey sample included 775 lawyers, 153 of which were Minority respondents. Here's what the Minority group consisted of: 34% African American; 30% Asian Pacific; 30% Hispanic or Latino; 5% Native American; and 1% Other.

On demographic comparison: Generally, Caucasian sample mirrored Minorities. Exceptions for Minority lawyers were:

Continued, next page.

President's corner, continued.

- Somewhat younger and less experienced
- More likely to be solos, less likely to be partners
- More likely to practice in urban settings
- More likely to be female

Attitudes toward the profession: In the main, lawyers hold similar attitudes toward the profession, regardless of their race or ethnicity. Both groups feel:

- Satisfied in their careers
- Have a mentor to call if needed
- They are contributing to a greater social good
- Practice of law has become a business
- Decline in loyalty between lawyers and law firms
- Lawyers have become less civil to each other
- Public's view of profession has been eroding

The few exceptions are:

- Minorities have more pride in their profession
- More Minorities feel advanced technologies have made practicing law quicker & easier
- Fewer Minorities found juggling work/personal life is a challenge
- Fewer Minorities have altered career to achieve balance

Overall, minorities place more emphasis than Caucasians on:

- Working to improve the image of the profession
- Working to improve diversity within the legal profession
- Providing guidance and tools for career development
- Offering training & tools for law office management

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as President this year. I hope I have made you proud to be a part of APABA-MD.

Member News

President **Catherine Hester** was appointed an Assistant People's Counsel, with the Maryland Office of the People's Counsel, the oldest consumer advocacy office of its kind in the United States. OPC represents residential consumers of electric, natural gas, telephone, and private water services, before State and Federal regulatory bodies. Her new contact information is: Maryland Office of the People's Counsel, 6 St. Paul Street Suite 2102, Baltimore, MD 21202; phone: (410) 767-8150

Jeannie Cho has moved to Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, P.A. Her new contact information is: Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, P.A., 11921 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852; phone: (301) 231 - 0933...

Alice Chong has been nominated to the MSBA Board of Governors for 2005-2007 representing the Young Lawyers Section...

Christine Lee is getting married in June...

Sarah Duran, who graduates in May from the University of Baltimore, has accepted an offer to clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Deborah Chasanow in Greenbelt.



APABA-MD Happenings

October 2004

Catherine Hester helped bring a speaker from the State Board of Law Examiners to UM Law to talk about the bar application process and deadlines, and to give character committee interview hints. UM APALSA sponsored event. We had a good turnout and the students found it helpful.

Board Meeting

Ron attended the MSBA Bar Presidents Conference in Hagerstown on behalf of APABA-MD, and accepted the award for Best Service Project to the Community (our 1st) for our community forum held last May.

The Committee on Judicial Selections conducted its first judicial interviews for six candidates applying for the vacancy on the Court of Special Appeals- 7th Appellate District (Montgomery County) and forwarded our recommendations to the Appellate Nominating Commission

November 2004

We held our first Law School Scholarship Fund Raiser Event at UB Law. A big thanks to Dean Holmes for supporting our cause. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell gave a powerful keynote address on the report issued by the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process. APABA-MD presented Judge Jeannie Hong with an Achievement Award for being the first Asian jurist to be appointed to the bench in Maryland. The turnout was tremendous. Attendees included 11 Circuit and District Court judges. And we raised more than \$3,000 for the scholarship fund! Stay turned for details on this year's scholarship recipients. Check out page 5 for photos!

December 2004

On December 15, 2004, John Park, Treasurer of APABA-MD, spoke at a session of the New Admissions to the Maryland Bar ceremony at the Court of Appeals of

Maryland. He was warmly received by the Court and by the new admittees and their families and friends. John began his remarks by noting that when he first immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 10, he did not even know the English alphabet; but he learned to use an expression that he still uses today: "Nice to meet you." John repeated that expression as he welcomed his new colleagues to the legal profession. He further addressed the audience by emphasizing through stories and analogies that "it's not what you know, but (1) WHO you know . . . (how well we know ourselves); (2) HOW you know it . . . (process and preparation); and (3) WHAT YOU DO with what you know . . . (integrity and public service)." John's remarks were so well received that the Honorable Robert Bell, Chief Judge, lightheartedly reprimanded John for getting a loud applause while Court was in session! John was nevertheless invited to speak again at a future session. Well done, John!

Catherine was faculty again for the MSBA Professionalism Course mandated for all new admittees at the Baltimore Convention Center. Catherine taught the Lawyer to Court segments and the Lawyer to Community segment. She was even able to recruit several potential members to APABA-MD. Way to go, Catherine!

January 2005

Judicial Selections Committee interviewed eleven candidates for the vacancy on the Circuit Court for Howard County at Miles' Columbia office. APABA-MD would like to thank all those who participated in the interviews. Special thanks to Marian Hwang for arranging use of the offices of Miles & Stockbridge and to Linda Dominguez for making copies of the Personal Data Questionnaires!

Board Meeting

February 2005

Catherine attended the ABA Mid-Year Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Continued, next page.

APABA-MD Happenings, cont.

March 2005

University of Baltimore is holding its third annual Minority Women in the Law program.

UM Law Career Panel – more details to follow.

April 2005

Community Forum featuring various panelists – judges, prosecutors, public defenders, private attorneys, county council members, and representatives from the police department. Judge Pak is looking into possible locations. Judge Kim is seeking assistance from member in planning and participation. Please let him know if you are interested.

Board meeting April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Sarah Duran's house in Laurel. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to her by April 20: sarahduran@att.net.

May 2005

Graduation for University of Maryland Law School on May 20.

Graduation for University of Baltimore Law School on May 22.

General Meeting May 25 at 6:00 pm at Baltimore City offices of Miles & Stockbridge. The meeting will include election of new officers. A slate will be presented but the floor will be open for additional nominations. Members can elect to vote electronically before the meeting through Ron/listserv.

Big Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make our first law scholarship fundraiser a success: Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, University of Baltimore Dean Holmes, APALSA UB and APALSA UMD.

We also want to thank the following major sponsors:

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.: \$1,000 (Platinum sponsorship)
Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP: \$500 (Platinum sponsorship)
Sam Yee: \$500 (Platinum sponsorship)
Brian Kim: \$250 (Diamond sponsorship)
Catherine Hester: \$150 (Gold sponsorship)

We want to hear from you!

We're always looking for submissions for our next newsletter. Please drop an e-mail to Sarah Duran at sarahduran@att.net any time you have news, anecdotes, or information that you'd like to share with the members of APABA-MD in our upcoming newsletter.



November 2004 Scholarship Program



More than 50 people attended the 2004 APABA-MD scholarship fundraiser at the University of Baltimore Law School. Judge Jeannie Hong (left) was honored for her contributions to the APA community.

Judge Hong speaks with two attendees (middle left photo). Board member Ron Lapid stands with Judge Brian Kim (middle right photo). Judge Hong with the APABA board members Sarah Duran, UB student representative; Ron Lapid, vice president; John Park, treasurer; Catherine Hester, president; and Pooja Adhikary, UMD student representative (bottom right).



Mark Your Calendars!

The General Meeting will be May 25 at 6:00 pm at the Baltimore City offices of Miles & Stockbridge. On the agenda: Election of new officers, present proposed slate as we know it at time of publication of newsletter, but floor will be open at meeting for other nominations, and members can elect to vote electronically before meeting thru Ron/listserv. Also, we will be announcing the scholarship winners.

