



APABA-MD TODAY

The newsletter of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland

Summer 2006

President's corner

New APABA-MD President Sets Goals

Dear Friends,

I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve as the next President of APABA-MD. For the upcoming fiscal year, I want to accomplish two primary objectives in pursuit of our goal to increase the presence, role, and effectiveness of APABA-MD.

First, I plan to reach out to all Asian Pacific American students attending the ten nearby law schools as well as all APA attorneys licensed in Maryland. I want them to know that APABA-MD is here to serve each of them. Thus, I intend to propose a membership drive that will both financially and professionally entice every APA law student and attorney to not only join but also participate in APABA-MD.

Second, I hope to join forces with the Asian American Bar Committee of MSBA, the surrounding APABA chapters, and all other minority/specialty bar associations of Maryland. Working together with these groups would allow each organization to

realize efficiencies in its respective effort to increase visibility, raise critical funds, foster diversity in the legal community, and enhance awareness of the legal issues affecting minorities in Maryland.



I look forward to working for you and with you. Most importantly, I look forward to getting to know you. So, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time for anything. I welcome suggestions, complaints, and requests to just meet or chat. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Kim
President, APABA-MD
2005-2006

At the 2006 General Meeting in May, the membership voted on and selected the following Board members:

President: Paul W. Kim, Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver
Vice President: Pooja Adhikary Regmi, the Coalition to End Childhood Lead
Treasurer: Marianne Koch, judicial clerk, the Hon. Timothy J. Martin of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County
Secretary: Linette Golden, 2006 graduate, University of Baltimore Law School
Judicial Selections Co-Chairs: Linda Dominguez, Law Firm of Linda Dominguez, and Alice Chong, Office of Law for Prince George's County.

A Candidate's Perspective on the Judicial Selection Process in Maryland

*By Catherine Chen Hester
2004-2005 President, APABA-MD*

Executive Order 01.01.2003.09, first issued by Governor Hughes during his first term, as amended by Executive Order 01.01.2003.12, concerning Judicial Nominating Commissions, stands the test of time. This proclamation sets forth the procedures by which a member of the Maryland Bar may seek application to the judiciary in our State. A brief overview follows.

The Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commissions are created as part of the Executive Department, and are divided into sixteen (16) Commission districts. Commission districts are determined by population in the county or counties that comprise the district. Each Commission consists of thirteen (13) persons. Five are members of the Bar appointed by the Governor. The remaining four are members of the Maryland Bar selected by the members of the Bar. The Governor appoints the chair of each Commission as well.

Usually, before the Governor even receives the "short list" of names from which he makes the ultimate appointment, the candidate has gone through several rounds of rigorous interviews by the State Bar, County Bar, and other organizations/ bar associations from which the candidate has sought an interview. This process of going through potentially ten or more "peer reviews" has been known to make the strongest men and women shake in their boots. All of these interviews take place before the candidate goes before the Nominating Commission. So it can be a wonderful opportunity to rehearse one's remarks and responses to anticipated questioning.

A candidate's minimum qualifications qualifications are:

1. U.S. and Maryland citizenship
2. Residence in the State for at least five years
3. Residency for at least six months in the geographic area where the vacancy exists
4. Registration to vote in State elections at the time of appointment
5. A member of the Maryland Bar in good standing
6. 30 years of age at least at the time of appointment.

The Maryland Constitution also speaks generally of the second category of qualifications – that those selected for judgeships are lawyers "most distinguished for integrity, wisdom and sound legal knowledge."

So with much trepidation and uncertainty about how several panels of my peers would evaluate the professional and personal category of my qualifications, I decided to apply for the first time last October for a vacancy on the District Court for Howard County. Those most experienced and who have won appointments to the Bench have said that the quest for the judiciary is really a five- to ten-year journey of preparation. Five to ten years of preparing oneself professionally and personally – professionally in terms of acquiring the requisite legal knowledge and experience, in both civil and criminal law preferably, and personally in terms of the "phase in your life" aspect of this process because of the sacrifices you and your family will have to undertake. The decision to apply and when to apply naturally depends on personal and external circumstances. The timing of one's

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Judicial Selections

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candidacy, of course, depends on a vacancy arising. In smaller jurisdictions such as Howard County, where there are only five Circuit Court and five District Court positions, opportunities simply do not present themselves very frequently. So I seized it and ran with it, and believe that I made the most of this learning experience.

Much to my expectations, the process was meaningful and humbling. It takes a certain degree of "thick skin-ness" to endure night after night of substantive interviews, both from a time and energy standpoint, as well as bracing oneself for the occasional unpleasant panel member, or a seemingly arbitrary remark by an interviewer. Overall, I found that the various specialty bar organizations held professional and fair interviews. Knowing

"It takes a certain degree of "thick skin-ness" to endure night after night of

first-hand how time consuming serving on one of these judicial interview panels can be, I especially appreciated those organizations that gave me more than the usual fifteen minutes to bare my life.

Appropriate judicial temperament is what these bar organizations are looking for – the intangible that is not contained within the four corners of your confidential personal data questionnaire that is submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts (the application). I sought feedback, and I received feedback from most of the associations. I especially appreciated those who took the time to

write letters informing me of not only my rating, but the reasons for it.

Some things I learned and would do again:

- Seek advice from those who have gone through the process (whether or not they were appointed)
- Seek interviews from as many bar associations as possible (including DC and Virginia if they would be helpful)
- Have someone review your application for substance and form
- Ask to be "moot courted" so you are comfortable answering questions
- Ask for constructive feedback on your demeanor, body language, facial expression, etc. after these moot court sessions
- Research your Commission members – party affiliations, type of practice, etc.
- Make full disclosures on your application – even if it seems obvious that the reader would understand your answer – e.g. err on the side of being too long-winded.
- Make the bar association circuit before you apply to get to know the leaders of those organizations so they will remember you
- Join specialty bar(s) and the State and County Bar and take leadership roles (this is the 5-10 year prep part)
- Bone up on substantive areas of law in which you have not practiced.

Finally, be proud of yourself and your accomplishments thus far, and be confident. The confidence will come through during the interviews.

In her free time, Catherine is devoted to her family, husband, Kevin, and their teenagers. She is also an accomplished classical pianist, and loves ethnic cooking, gardening, and traveling.

APALSA at University of Maryland Law School holds annual alumni career panel

*By Marianne Koch
Treasurer, APABA-MD*

The University of Maryland School of Law's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) held its annual Alumni Career Panel on March 1, 2006. President Victor Leviste, Vice President Deepti Aranake, Secretary Milin Chun, Treasurer Cara Huang and Social Chair Jadyun Koo organized the evening.

The featured panelists were Paul W. Kim, Esq. (Counsel, Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver), Marianne R. Koch, Esq. (Law Clerk to Judge Timothy J. Martin of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County and APABA-MD Treasurer), John S. Park, Esq. (Baltimore City Assistant State's Attorney and APABA-MD President) and Dr. Fei Fei Chao (Partner, Bingham McCutchen LLP), all former APALSA members. The audience was comprised of UM law students, most of whom were APALSA members.

The program began with the panelists

telling the audience about their own experiences after law school.

Paul Kim told a captive audience about his diverse background in both public health and law, which led him to a career in health law. Marianne Koch spoke about her experiences as a judicial law clerk and, given her recent graduation date, gave the students advice about law school. John Park talked about his love of litigation, which naturally led him to seek a position at the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. Dr. Chao discussed her path to Intellectual Property law and described her experiences as a woman in a field so highly dominated by men. The students were then given an opportunity to ask the panelists questions.

Afterwards, the students networked with the panelists over food and drinks. It was a highly enjoyable evening and hearty congratulations must be made to the APALSA board for a successful event.

NAPABA Seeks Nominations for 2006 NAPABA'S "BEST LAWYERS UNDER 40" AWARD

NAPABA's "Best Lawyers Under 40" award recognizes talented individuals within the Asian Pacific American legal community who are under the age of 40 and who have achieved prominence and distinction in their fields of endeavor — be it the practice of law, academia, business, civic and charitable affairs, the judiciary, or politics—and have demonstrated a strong commitment to civic or community affairs.

Nominees must be under the age of 40 as of August 11, 2006.

Any NAPABA member or organization may nominate a candidate by filling out the Nomination Form and submitting it via e-mail, mail or fax to: Jim Goh, Holland & Hart LLP, 555 – 17th Street, Suite 3200, Denver, CO 80202; E-mail: jgoh@hollandhart.com; Fax: 303-295-8261.

Nominations must be received by August 11, 2006.

More information is on NAPABA's Web site at www.napaba.org.

Member News

Immediate Past President **John Park** was recently promoted to the sex crimes unit of the City of Baltimore State's Attorney's Office.

Linda Dominguez left the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and Department of Homeland Security after 16 years. She opened the firm of L A Dominguez Law, LLC on March 13, 2006 at 1800 N. Charles Street, Suite 300, Baltimore MD 21201. Telephone number is (410) 685-5550; fax number is (410) 685-5540. She has a general law practice, with specialization in immigration law. Her Web site address is www.ladominguezlaw.com.

Linette Golden, the UB student rep. to the APBA-MD Board, graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law in May. After taking the bar, she joins the firm of Linda S. Mericle, PA, a solo practitioner. The firm practices in homeowners/condo associations as well as commercial landlord-tenant work. Linette has been clerking for Ms. Mericle for the past two years.



APABA-MD Vice President **Pooja Adhikary** current was married on February 1, 2006 in Kathmandu, Nepal, to Ashok R. Regmi, who works for International Youth Foundation as the Program Manager for the Youth Action Net program in Baltimore, Maryland. Pooja currently work at the Coalition to End Childhood Lead focuses



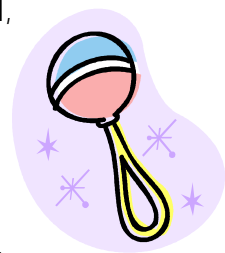
on preventing childhood lead poisoning, an environmental non-profit that through advocacy, outreach and education.

Reema Malhotra passed the February 2006 bar. Way to go, Reema!

Treasurer **Marianne Koch** was selected recently for the Maryland State Bar Association's 2005-2006 Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is an 12 month venture into developing leadership enhancing experiences and learning more about the internal workings of the MSBA. Each term Fellows are selected from a pool of applicants. This term has fifteen Fellows participating in the program.

Jaymi Kim, a 2006 University of Maryland Law School grad, will be clerking for the Hon. Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. of the U.S. District Court of Maryland (in Greenbelt) from August 2006 to August 2007.

Sarah Duran, who served last year as Secretary on the Board, is expecting a baby boy in October with her husband, Neal Pattison. She also has accepted an associate position with Davis Wright Tremaine in Seattle, Washington, and will be moving to Washington state in August.



Have news for the next newsletter? Contact APABA-MD Secretary Linette Golden at linettegolden@yahoo.com.

APABA-MD hosts Second Annual Law School Scholarship Dinner

APABA-MD hosted its second annual law school scholarship fundraiser in May at the New Fortunate Restaurant in Gaithersburg. The Hon. Brian Kim, of the Montgomery County District Court, was honored this year.

The speakers were Jayne Park, Executive Director of APALRC and Karren Pope-Onwukwe, discussing the MSBA's Minority Report.

This year's event was even more successful than last year's fundraiser, with major donations from Linowes & Blocher; Miles & Stockbridge; Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver; Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker; and Samuel Yee, Esq.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event a great success!



Upper left: Judge Kim accepts his award from APABA-MD Co-President John Park.

Above: Judge Kim with scholarship recipients Nancy Chung, University of Baltimore, right and Lena Kim, University of Maryland, right.

Left: APABA-MD Board with speakers.

NAPAWF seeks new grads for Fellowship

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) invites third-year law students, judicial clerks, and other recent law school graduates interested in applying for Skadden, Equal Justice Works, or other law fellowships to discuss their interest in a fellowship project related to one of NAPAWF's platforms. The deadline for applications is August 15, 2006.

Founded in 1996, the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) is the only national, multi-issue Asian Pacific American (APA) women's advocacy organization in the country. NAPAWF's mission is to build a movement to advance social justice and human rights and address the concerns and increase the rights of APA women and girls. Issues related to domestic violence, reproductive justice, economic empowerment, immigrant and refugee rights, civil rights, and education form the basis of our work. In these areas, NAPAWF seeks to bring the unique concerns and issues of APA women to policymakers, advocates, the APA community, and the general public through education, advocacy, and organizing. For more information about NAPAWF and our projects, please visit our website at www.napawf.org.

Interested individuals should send: (1) a current resume; (2) cover letter; (3) transcript or list of law school grades; (4) recent writing sample; (5) a list of three references with current addresses and telephone numbers; and (6) suggested topics for fellowship projects by mail, email, or fax to Courtney Chappell, Policy Director, NAPAWF, 1050 17th St., NW Suite 250, Washington, DC 20036, cchappell@napawf.org. (f) 202/293-4507 If interested applicants would like to discuss topics or ideas beforehand, please feel free to contact Courtney at the above email address or at 202/293-2688.

APALRC seeks attorney to help DV victims

The Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) seeks to hire a full-time attorney to provide legal representation to victims of domestic violence in Montgomery County.

Position Description: Provide Asian American victims of domestic violence with linguistically and culturally appropriate legal representation on immigration and family law issues; ensure holistic services by working closely with local ethnic-based social service agencies; conduct broader outreach to educate the Asian American community on their rights and resources available to them; and expand the availability of pro bono attorneys through collaborations with the South Asian Bar Association and the Asian Pacific American Bar Associations of D.C. and Maryland.

Qualifications Sought: 2-3 years of legal practice experience, with a demonstrated commitment to domestic violence issues and/or public interest law. Consideration may be given to recent law school graduates who demonstrate exceptional initiative and leadership abilities. License to practice in Maryland, or eligibility for special authorization to practice under Rule 15 and willingness to seek admission to the Maryland Bar. Fluency in an Asian language, preferably Hindi, Urdu, Mandarin, Vietnamese or Korean.

Salary and Benefits: The annual salary will range from the mid-\$30s to low-\$40s, depending on experience. Health and dental insurance benefits are provided.

How to Apply: Submit a cover letter detailing your interest in the position, resume, law school transcript, brief writing sample, and two references. Materials can be sent to Marita Etcubañez, Director of Legal Services, by post or by e-mail to marita@apalrc.org. No phone inquiries. Application deadline: July 31, 2006.

APABA-MD
9596 Donnan Castle Ct.
Laurel, MD 20723

Don't forget to RSVP ...

For APABA-MD's Second-Annual Membership Picnic
We'll provide hamburgers and hotdogs (including
vegetarian options). We're asking people to
contribute a dish or refreshments to share.

Bring the family!

Date: Saturday, August 19, 2006.

Time: Noon to 5 p.m.

Location: Hammond Park, 10700 Glen Hannah
Drive, Laurel.

