



APABA-MD TODAY

The Newsletter of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland

www.apaba-md.org

WINTER 2007

President's Corner

BOARD WELCOMES FIVE NEW OFFICERS

Dear Friends:

Your Board of Directors has been very busy since I last wrote you. Our Judicial Selection Committee continues to shine as our beacon, attracting an increasing number of candidates requesting interviews and establishing a solid reputation with the Governor's office. Please help us maintain our success by volunteering to serve on the Committee.



We have successfully reached out to not only the other local chapters of NAPABA but also the other minority bar associations in Maryland. We are co-sponsoring with APABA-DC and other DC organizations this year's Robert Wone Judicial Clerkship & Internship Conference on March 24. In addition, at the MSBA Bar Presidents' Conference last fall, all of the minority bar leaders in attendance expressed support for our proposal of a joint Speed Mentoring event. While we continue to work with the liaisons from each minority bar, we plan to hold our own Speed Mentoring event with the APALSA members from the law schools in Maryland on March 28.

To facilitate the expanding role and presence of APABA-MD, we have increased the membership of your Board of Directors to include five new Vice President positions effective January 1.

Please welcome to your Board the following new officers:

Reema Malhotra
(Vice President of Communications)

Catherine Chen Hester
(Vice President of Community Service)

Ami D. Gadhia
(Vice President of Educational Programs)

John W. Kim
(Vice President of Membership)

Jinhee Wilde
(Vice President of Public Affairs)

Already, our new Board members are implementing various programs. On March 8, speakers from the MSBA Health Law Section will present an educational seminar on advance directives. In May, we plan to participate in ABA's Law Day by meeting with local public school students. Finally, plans for our Annual Scholarship & Award Dinner on April 25 are under way, so please be on the lookout for invitations!

As always, 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, JD, MPH
O B E R | K A L E R

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pwkim@ober.com

APABA-MD INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS

Reema Malhotra

(Vice President of Communications)

Reema Malhotra earned her undergraduate degree from Villanova University. She graduated from University of Baltimore School of Law in 2004. During law school, Reema served as Secretary (2002-2003) and President (2003-2004) of APALSA. She also served as the Southeast Regional Representative of NAPALSA (2003-2004). Reema clerked for the Honorable Sean D. Wallace of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland. Currently, Reema practices primarily in social security law and Medicaid in Baltimore City.

Catherine Chen Hester

(Vice President of Community Service)

A member of the Maryland Bar since 1985, Catherine earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from UCLA, and her Juris Doctor from the Southwestern University School of Law. Catherine has previously worked in the Maryland Attorney General's Office, with two private firms handling civil litigation, and both the Baltimore City and Howard County State's Attorneys' Offices. Catherine was the Chief of the Juvenile Division in Howard County before joining the Maryland Office of the People's Counsel. Currently, Catherine is the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator through the Governor's Office on Volunteerism and Service for a nonprofit in Howard County.

Ami D. Gadhia

(Vice President of Educational Programs)

Ami practices in Intellectual Property with Ober Kaler in Baltimore. She attended Wayne State University, completing both her Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and her Juris Doctor. Ami also earned an LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law from The George Washington University Law School. Prior to joining Ober Kaler, Ami served as a Program Attorney at the International Intellectual Property Institute (IPI), assisting in increasing global awareness and understanding of IP law, particularly in developing countries.



Jinhee Wilde, Paul Kim and Ami Gadhia attend a recent Board Meeting

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John W. Kim

(Vice President of Membership)

John is an Associate Counsel with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He has previously worked for the Mid-Atlantic Cancer Genetics Network, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center. John received a Bachelor of Arts from the Johns Hopkins University in 1993, a Master of Public Health from Emory University in 1998, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2003. During law school, he interned at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, where he researched laws on competency and surrogacy, and the Office for Civil Rights, where he worked on the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

Jinhee Wilde

(Vice President of Public Affairs)

Jinhee is the Managing Partner of Teras & Wilde, PLLC, specializing in targeted immigration legal services to foreign companies as well as providing legal guidance to U.S. employers on immigration matters. She served as the Chair of the Board of Directors for WSSC and served as a Special Counsel for USDA for 7 years. She is a Former Prosecutor for the City of Chicago. Jinhee is currently the Chair of the Immigration Section of the Bar Association of Montgomery County and serves as Committee Chair of State of Maryland Advocacy for American Immigration Lawyers Association.



Judge Brian Kim, Catherine Hester and Alice Chong continue their service to APABA-MD



Rose Chen, Nancy Chung and Pooja Regmi, APABA-MD's Student Reps. and Vice President

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Leadership Academy:

Marianne R. Koch, Treasurer

The MSBA Leadership Academy is looking for a few good leaders! Please consider applying to this invaluable program, which consists of leadership training workshops and culminates with a public service project that is presented at the MSBA Annual Conference in Ocean City. This is the tenth year of the Leadership Academy, and it was created to serve as a source for future bar leaders.

Call for Applications

I am a current Leadership Academy Fellow, and fellow Board members Alice Chong and John Park are graduates of the program. Please feel free to contact me at treasurer@apaba-md.org for more information.

Applications and more information about the program can be found at: www.msba.org/sec_comm/committees/leadership.



Asian Pacific American
Legal Resource Center

Spotlight On:

The Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center

Pooja Regmi, Vice President:

The Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring equal access to justice for Asian Americans in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area through direct legal services and advocacy. The APALRC is very pleased to announce the opening of a satellite office in Maryland. This expansion is an important step forward for APALRC. Our new location in Silver Spring, which is steps from the Wheaton metro, makes the APALRC more accessible to Maryland residents, and will enable APALRC to better serve its clients.

The APALRC serves as an entry point into the legal services network for low-income and limited English proficient Asian Americans, and we continue to facilitate referrals to other legal providers. The focus of APALRC's direct service work in Montgomery County is to provide assistance on employment law matters, and also to provide representation to victims of domestic violence on protective orders, family law and immigration.

For Asian American women suffering domestic violence, the inability to communicate in English compounded with traditional belief systems, fear of deportation, fear of losing face, and/or limited understanding of the U.S. legal system means that these victims are even more vulnerable and more likely to be deterred from seeking help. The goal of our project in Montgomery County is to ensure that Asian American victims of domestic violence are able to access linguistically competent and culturally sensitive legal services.

As an attorney interested in Asian American issues, **YOU** are vital to supporting APALRC's work. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Marita Etcubanez at marita@apalrc.org or Pooja Regmi at pooja.regmi@apalrc.org. There are other ways to assist, send an email to find out how! **More information is also available at www.apalrc.org**

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NAPABA Regional Conferences

Hon. Brian G. Kim, NAPABA SE Regional Governor

NAPABA will hold two regional conferences in April. The Northeast Regional Conference will take place on April 13 and 14, hosted by the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey. The conference will be held at Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel. For further information, please contact APALANJ at <http://www.apalanj.com/>.

The Southeast Regional Conference will take place on April 27 and 28, hosted by APABA of South Florida. The conference will be held at the Miami Beach Resort and Spa. For further information, please contact Alice Sum at (305) 789-9212 or asum@fowler-white.com, or Mark Liu at (305) 982-5693 or mark.liu@akerman.com. All are encouraged to attend either or both for what awaits to be informative and enjoyable conferences.

APABA Board Attends Official Ceremonies & Fellow Bar Associations' Events

Paul W. Kim, President:

On behalf of APABA-MD, I attended the following events:

1. Investiture Ceremony of the Honorable Yvette M. Bryant as Associate Judge of the Circuit for Baltimore City on October 3, 2006.
2. Investiture Ceremony of the Honorable John Addison Howard as Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City on October 12, 2006.
3. Retirement dinner for the Honorable Joseph H.H. Kaplan, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. The event was held at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore on October 12, 2006. Each of the bar associations that presented Judge Kaplan with a Resolution honoring his career was announced at the ceremony, which included APABA-MD and its Resolution 2006-1. I personally greeted Judge Kaplan before the ceremony.
4. NAPABA Annual Convention from November 9 through 12, 2007, in Philadelphia. Maryland Delegate Susan Lee and I participated in a panel of speakers for a session entitled "45 Million Uninsured Americans."
5. Annual Red Mass and "Man for All Seasons" Award Banquet sponsored by St. Thomas More Society of Maryland at the Engineers Club in Baltimore on November 16, 2006. After the award ceremony, I personally greeted the President of the Society, Michael P. Shaw, and his wife, an APABA member, the Honorable Jeannie Hong.
6. I also presented the keynote speech for one of the new attorney bar admission ceremonies held at the Court of Appeals in Annapolis on December 12, 2006.

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Marianne R. Koch, Treasurer:

The J. Franklyn Bourne Annual Scholarship Banquet was held on November 2, 2006 at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, and I had the pleasure of representing APABA-MD at the event. The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's mission is to further the interests of African American attorneys in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The event was extremely well attended, with approximately 450 attendees. In her opening remarks, President Sharon V. Burrell, Esq. recognized APABA-MD for its support. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.) served as keynote speaker. Special guests included then-U.S. Senate candidates Benjamin L. Cardin and Michael S. Steele.

I also attended the Women's Bar Association of Maryland (WBA-MD) Rita C. Davidson Award Dinner on November 30, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore. Approximately 300 people were in attendance. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell was the keynote speaker and Marian Wright Edelman was this year's award recipient.

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Linette F. Golden, Secretary:

The Prince George's County Bar Association invited APABA-MD to attend its Joint Membership meeting as one of several minority and specialty bar associations represented in the County. Each bar's representative was invited to speak for a few minutes to outline its mission statement and the goals of its membership. I received several acknowledgments from judges and public and private sector attorneys afterwards, admiring the mentorship and scholarship programs that APABA-MD sponsors, as well as the dedicated contributions of our Judicial Selections Committee.

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John W. Kim, VP of Membership:

On behalf of Jinhee Wilde, John Kim attended the Asian American Leadership, Empowerment, and Development (AALEAD) 8th annual dinner held on February 23, 2007, at New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg, MD. The theme of the dinner was "Branching out for a Better Tomorrow" and the program included a choral performance of "This Land is Your Land" by students from AALEAD's after-school academic enrichment program as well as both silent and live auctions.

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Judicial Selection Committee Activities

Linda Dominguez, Co-Chair, Judicial Selection Committee:

In October of 2006, the Judicial Selection Committee conducted two sets of interviews. In Montgomery County, we interviewed four of five candidates for the vacancy in the Circuit Court. In Baltimore City, we interviewed nine of twelve candidates for the vacancies in the Circuit Court. As usual, the time frame between receipt of the application packages and the meeting of the Administrative Office of Courts ("AOC") was very short, and with approximately fifteen specialty bars conducting interviews, the scheduling of candidates at a date and time that accommodated the APABA-MD membership could be very complex.

This situation became untenable in December 2006, when the AOC sent out candidate packages two weeks prior to the meeting and during the holidays. APABA-MD was not able to interview any of the nine new candidates for the vacancies in Baltimore City Circuit Court. Our Board President requested an extension of time to afford us an opportunity to interview after the holidays, but the request was unanswered. Ultimately, the Board reaffirmed the recommendations made in October 2006 for those candidates we had interviewed and who had reapplied for the vacancies.

University of Maryland APALSA Events

Rose Chen, UM Student Representative:

UM APALSA has hosted variety of events so far this year, including: Sponsorship of the 6th Annual APALSA Conference at the University of Pennsylvania in early February, a movie/social night featuring the acclaimed Hong Kong film "The Infernal Affairs" (the film which inspired "The Departed") on February 8th, and a Career Panel Discussion on February 21st.

Coming up, we will have a food fundraiser in mid-March, APABA-MD speed mentoring on March 28th, and a special round of discussion showcasing the North Korea/South East Asia Nuclear Threats in early April.

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University of Baltimore APALSA Events

Nancy Chung, UB Student Representative:

During the Fall of 2006, APALSA UB held several events. One event was the Asian Cuisine Experience. At this event, members enjoyed a spread of various Asian foods including pad thai, sushi and curry. It was a great opportunity to eat, laugh and get to know each other as well as taste dishes from various Asian cultures. UB APALSA also participated in the University of Baltimore Fall Block Party. We used this opportunity to fundraise by selling bul go gi, a Korean barbeque beef, and lumpia, Filipino eggrolls. Over \$300 was raised.

On the more serious side, APALSA UB also held the Asian Law Forum in November. The Honorable Brian Kim, judge for the District Court for Montgomery County, and April Park, general counsel for CitiFinancial, gave insight to members on what it is like to be Asian and working in the law. They also spoke about how they got to their prestigious positions and answered questions from the audience afterwards. Lastly, we had a happy hour to raise money for Tsunami relief.



UB Students enjoy Happy Hour

Spring 2007 Events:

- Happy Hours
- Lunar New Year – We will give away traditional lunar new year treats and lucky money in Chinese red envelopes to raise awareness of Asian culture.
- Minority Women in the Law Forum - (March 14th) This year's theme will be "A Race to Partner"
- University of Baltimore Spring Block Party

APABA-MD
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APABA-MD'S
UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 8, 6:30 p.m.
Seminar on Advance Directives
Presented by MSBA Health Law
Section
(co-sponsored by UM APALSA)
University of Maryland Law School
Baltimore, Maryland
- March 24, 9:00 a.m.
Judicial Clerkship and Internship
Conference
(co-sponsored by APABA-DC and
other DC organizations)
Howard University Law School
Washington, DC
- March 28, 6:30 p.m.
Speed Mentoring
Red Maple Lounge
Baltimore, Maryland

Save the Date!

APRIL 25, 2007

APABA-MD will host its Scholarship and Award Dinner on April 25 at Goong Jeon Palace Restaurant in Glen Burnie. **Douglas F. Gansler**, Attorney General of Maryland, will be honored as our Service Award recipient. Opening Remarks will be presented by the **Hon. Pamela J. White**, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, and the Keynote Speaker will be **Congressman Albert R. Wynn**.

For more information, please contact info@apaba-md.org.