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OCTOBER 2007

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Edwin Prather, AABA President

President's column

Last month, AABA received the Business Impact Award from the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (APILO). Many AABA members were on hand at APILO's Lu'au Celebration on September 8th to witness AABA's receipt of this prestigious award. AABA has been a long time partner in APILO's clinical work and I was proud to accept the award on behalf of all AABA members. AABA was founded on and has always been deeply rooted in community service and I am proud that tradition continues on today. I need to give special thanks to the hard working staff at APILO and to our Community Service Committee Chairpersons: Ruth Ann Castro, Daisy Hung, Victor Hwang, Dot Liu and Jason E. Lee, that ensures AABA's continued service to the Asian American community.



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PRESIDENT'S PROFILES . . .

Adrienne De Castro

Adrienne is an associate at Rudy Exelrod & Zieff, LLP, specializing in workers' rights issues. Adrienne was previously at Equal Rights Advocates where she litigated gender discrimination class action lawsuits and represented clients in state and federal administrative proceedings. Adrienne has been involved with AABA since her graduation from law school serving on both AABA's Civil Rights and Scholarship Committees.

What was your favorite class in law school?

Civil Procedure at Boalt with Steve Bundy.

In law school, did you sit in the front of the room or the back? As close as possible to my friends and allies.

What do you wish you knew in law school that you know now? Taking "Bar" classes is unnecessary.

If you were not an attorney, what would you be? A journalist.

Who is your favorite writer? Right now, Hendrick Hertzberg.

What is your most treasured possession? My reputation.

What one experience do you want to have before you die? Raising a family.

What do you like to do when you're not working? Doing nothing! It's very underrated.

What skill should every lawyer have? Compassion.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? Institutionalized racism can be found where you least expect it. Equally, support and opportunities for coalition can also be found where you least expect.

Fill in the blank. Most AABA members probably don't know that... I aspire to be a bad-ass civil rights litigator.

AABA is... not just a fantastic Swedish pop band from the 70s. It's also a resource.

**Commissioner Rachelle Chong**

Rachelle is a Commissioner of the California Public Utilities Commission, appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger. She was also a Clinton appointee to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. After her stint at the FCC, and before her current post at the CPUC, she ran an Italian jewelry store and e-commerce website for five years. At the CPUC, she has been leading telecommunications reform, plus working on renewable energy and climate change issues. Rachelle was and is the first Asian American commissioner of the FCC and CPUC and has been a long time member of AABA.

What was your favorite class in law school? Media Law with Professor John Diamond at Hastings.

In law school, did you sit in the front of the room or the back? Towards the front, because I am nearsighted!

Who are the most interesting people you met while at the FCC? Al Gore, Bob Dole, Hillary Clinton, Jim Quello, Ted Turner, Clint Eastwood, Tracey Ullman; Howard Stern was the least interesting.

What is your most treasured possession? My late mother's gift of a Chinese gold bracelet.

What is your most marked characteristic? Corny expressions – for instance, I actually say, "Yikes!" "Holy moly!" and "Geez Louise!"

What skill should every lawyer have? Compassion.

What is your favorite meal? Steamed Dungeness crab.

What is the most important lesson you've learned on the job? Never give up. It is okay to be a catalyst for change when you believe it is the right thing to do.

What one experience do you want to have before you die? Bringing my twin daughters to China, Ireland and Italy so they can better appreciate their ethnic heritage.

What do you like to do when you're not working? Build websites (such as the two I built for my relatives about our family history, family news and reunion information), cook great meals, and hang out with my twins.

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President's Note: AABA Board Member Isabel Choi has temporarily relocated to Paris to explore AABA's expansion into France (well, actually she's spending time with her husband there on assignment). We've asked Isabel to share her humorous and informative stories from the front lines.



Anyone Wanna Make a Buck?

By Isabel Choi, AABA Board Member

I accompanied my husband to indulge his life-long quest to witness drivers challenge all boundaries of safety and sanity for an outlandishly high price, i.e., the Formula 1 race in Spa, Belgium. Despite my initial skepticism, I thoroughly enjoyed the beer-infused madness without partaking a drop, and marveled at how the local businesses failed to seize all the commercial opportunities in connection with hosting this race. In the U.S., any sporting event is glutted with t-shirt, jersey, and cap stands. Deep-fried refreshments booths line the halls. Best of all, these are provided at a price to remind you that this event is special—or that you are the victim of time limitations and no in-and-out privileges.

Thus, accustomed to dispensing money like water at these events, we were ready to complete our Formula 1 adventure by buying there a handful of \$50 caps as souvenirs and gifts. But upon exploring our section of the racetrack that spanned a mile, we saw zero souvenir booths and a total of four stands offering sausages, mayonnaise-drenched fries, and beer.

The money dispensing certainly began well. We purchased the second cheapest ticket option, for the "Bronze" sections of the racetrack, at the low price of \$190 each, for uncovered, grab-your-favorite-patch-of-dirt seats. The coveted seats in the "Gold" and "Silver" sections started at \$700 a pop. We felt the great class divide as the Formula 1 shuttle bus stewards insisted that the "Gold" and "Silver" ticket

holders be ushered off to the race before the "Bronze" and "Green" commoners. Regardless, with the cheapest ticket costing \$135, local businesses may assume that this fan base is not destitute.

Indeed, our Motel 6-quality hotel in a town smaller than its name of Hermalle-sans-Argenteau did its part in freeing us of our funds by charging \$230 per night, double its normal rate. We especially appreciated this because of its proximity to the race: 1) We walked 20 minutes to the neighboring village of Visé. 2) From there we took a 15-minute train to Liège. 3) Then we took a 30-minute train ride to Verviers. 4) After

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**ASIAN AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION
OF THE GREATER BAY AREA**

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PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Tues. September 11, 2007

Contact: Edwin K. Prather, (415) 749-1800, eprather@clarencedyer.com

San Francisco, California – September 11, 2007 – Just five short months after CBS dismissed Don Imus for referring to the Rutgers University women’s basketball team as “nappy-headed hos,” the station has replaced him with Craig Carton, a disc jockey with a racist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic history. The Asian American Bar Association (AABA) calls attention to Carton’s hire in an effort to raise public consciousness and vigilance about the media’s continuing endorsement of racist stereotypes and hate speech.

Carton’s media personality is defined by speech that fosters hate and discrimination, and in some instances segregation. He has used a phony Asian accent to imitate a Korean American running for mayor in Edison, New Jersey in 2005, and has stated “I don’t care if the Chinese population in Edison has quadrupled in the last year; Chinese should never dictate the outcome of an election. Americans should.” He has also said of Asians, “I don’t like the fact that they crowd the -- blackjack tables in Atlantic City with their little chain smoking and little pocket protectors . . . There should be Asian-only rooms in casinos.” Asians are not the only targets of Carton’s racist and insipid commentary. He has also encouraged citizens to expose illegal immigrants in a stunt he called “La Cucha Gotcha.”

In response to Carton’s hire, AABA President Edwin K. Prather stated that: “Carton’s hire is, at a minimum, irresponsible and an implicit endorsement of his racist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic sentiments, and his hate towards people of color. Not only is Carton trite and without humor, his hire renders Imus’ dismissal virtually meaningless.”

AABA calls for the community to hold CBS responsible for ensuring that its airwaves remain free of hate speech. CBS cannot evade its responsibility by ignoring Carton’s history or Imus’ recent dismissal. As a coalition of lawyers advocating to eradicate racist images of Asian Americans both in the legal community and in the media, AABA is committed to remaining vigilant about Carton’s hire and his speech. AABA Civil Rights Committee Chairperson Adrienne De Castro stated that: “While Carton says he tells ‘the same jokes you tell your buddies in the bar or your cubicle at work,’ these are precisely the types of jokes that the Asian American legal community has attempted to abolish, particularly in the workplace. And these are hardly the jokes our buddies are telling.”

###

The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (www.aaba-bay.com) was founded in 1976 in order to provide attorneys with a vehicle to take unified positions on important issues, to promote professional development, and to foster the exchange of information among our membership and the community at large.



Photo credit Stephen Hew, students USF Law School



Career Day, Well-Attended

On September 8, 2007, Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (AABA) held its annual Career Day, an event designed for seasoned attorneys to share their career experiences with law students throughout the Bay Area, at University of San Francisco School of Law. A record-breaking donation of \$5,000 was raised from major law firms including as Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP and Bullivant Houser Bailey PC in support of the event. University of San Francisco School of Law graciously provided the venue and accommodations. Thank you all for participating and supporting the event!

The event started off with a private sector panel discussion featuring accomplished attorneys who shared their invaluable experiences from practicing at law firms and as well as in-house. Cedric Chao, a partner at Morrison & Forester, shared his experiences in building a career in the competitive areas of commercial litigation and white-collar criminal defense. Tony Wang, a senior corporate counsel for Google, and Jason Lee, an in-house attorney, at Macy's talked about the challenges and rewards of pursuing an in-house career. Nancy Le, an associate at K&L Gates, and **Keith**

Nagayama, an associate at Meyers Nave Riback Silver & Wilson, gave the students a close look of the demands and excitements of their practice.

The private sector panel discussion was followed by a public sector panel discussion featuring **Daro Inouye**, a supervisor at San Francisco Public Defender's Office, **Celia W. Lee**, a deputy city attorney for the City and County of San Francisco, and Willie Nguyen, a clinical teaching fellow at U.C. Hastings College of the Law. The panelists shared their sense of honor and satisfaction from their careers, and encouraged students to join the public sector.

Students who attended the panel found them helpful and inspirational. "The speakers for the private and public sector panels were excellent and really inspirational to us aspiring attorneys of Asian American heritage," said Peter Bade, an energetic law student from Santa Clara University School of Law.

After a short break, the students were assigned to individual rooms for mock interviews. Attorneys with

continued on page 11



2007 Unity Conference

presented by
The Minority Bar Coalition

“AND JUSTICE FOR ALL: BUILDING BRIDGES WITHIN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007

Unity Conference
11:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Keynote Speaker
Michael Nava
*California Supreme Court judicial staff
attorney and best selling author*

Panels:

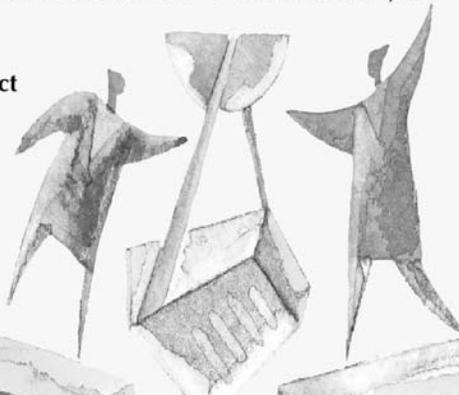
"Will Your Vote Count? Voting in Communities of Color"
"Alternative and Independent Career Paths in the Law."
"Race & the Media: The Intersection of Race, Media Coverage and Prosecution."
"One Nation? Recent Developments in Immigration Law"



Unity Awards Reception
5:30 p.m to 7:30 p.m.

Golden Gate University School of Law
536 Mission Street ♦ San Francisco, CA

For more information, please contact
Dan Dean at 415.591.3302 or
daniield@taylor-gutierrez.com



The Minority Bar Coalition
Promoting Diversity in the Legal Community



The Minority Bar Coalition
Presents

2007 Unity Conference

“And Justice for All: Building Bridges Within the Legal Community”

Friday, October 19, 2007

Unity Conference
11:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Luncheon Keynote Speaker:

Michael Nava

California Supreme Court Judicial Staff Attorney and Best Selling Author

Luncheon & Panel: “Constitutional Law Dialogue”
11:30-1:30

Golden Gate University School of Law – 536 Mission Street – San Francisco, CA

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

- Panel #1 - **“Will Your Vote Count” Voting in Communities of Color**
Moderator: Eugene Lee; Panelists: Ann O’Leary and Malcolm Yeung
- Panel # 2 - **“Alternative and Independent Career Paths in the Law”**
Moderator: BX Long; Panelists: Marissa Tirona, Priya Sanger, Billy Chan, Cynthia Goldstein and Kimberlei Evans

Time: 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

- Panel # 3 - **“Race & the Media: The Intersection of Race, Media Coverage and Litigation”**
Panelists: John Burris and Tony West
- Panel #4 - **“One Nation? Recent Developments in Immigration Law”**
Moderator: Sara Mostafavi; Panelists: Nancy Hormachea, Sin Yen Ling and Julia Harumi Mass

Unity Awards Reception - 5:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. No Later Than: Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Name: _____
Firm: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____

I will attend:
Luncheon: Yes_____No_____
Panel #1 or Panel #2: _____
Panel #3 or Panel #4: _____
Unity Reception: Yes_____No_____

Mail to: Dan Dean, Esq. - Taylor & Gutierrez LLP - 332 Pine Street, #600, San Francisco, CA 94104; or
Reply by e-mail: send completed copy to: danield@taylor-gutierrez.com or **Call:** 415-591-3302
Fax to: Dan Dean - 415-591-3310

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"What has AABA done for you?"

A Response from a Law Student

Vanessa Candelaria, Golden Gate University School of Law

Last year, former AABA President David Chui wrote an article about the various committees within AABA and the events planned for the AABA constituency. As a law student and AABA member, I would like to share what AABA has done for me. I had a great mentorship experience and want to provide some tips for law students/mentees.

- First things first, take the initiative and get in contact with your mentor. The success of the program depends on you so make sure you take advantage of this unique opportunity and touch base with your mentor.
- Do some research and find out who you're dealing with. You probably won't find your mentor on myspace.com, but you might learn something about your mentor with a quick google search.
- Follow up. We all get busy so make sure you connect with your mentor often. Having a great mentor depends on what you make of it.
- If you have any questions about law school or a field of practice, ask your mentor. They can guide you and give you advice. If they can't, they will probably find someone to answer your questions.

- With that said, don't abuse the relationship. Mentors are there to help you- not with your Appellate Advocacy paper due next week- but with your questions and concerns relating to your future as an attorney.

Having a mentor has personally helped me succeed in law school. I am very fortunate to have two wonderful mentors (and not to mention, two leaders in the community): Jenny Huang of Justice First, LLP and Kevin Fong of Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw Pittman, LLC. Both of my mentors have helped me tremendously with their unsolicited advice and encouragement. I urge all law students to sign up for an AABA mentor and attend the Mentorship Brunch on Saturday, October 13th at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe at 11 a.m.

in the news Around Town

If you know of a fellow AABA member who is making or about to make the news around town for inclusion in the NOVEMBER issue of this newsletter, submit an announcement and digital photo of the individual, if available, to the newsletter committee at Newsletter@aaba-bay.com on or before **October 22nd**. We want to hear about your achievements and victories!



Beyond the Business Case: The Higher Value of Diversity in the Legal Profession

Presented by Farella Braun + Martel and the
Bar Association of San Francisco

Featuring a Keynote Address by
Christopher Edley, Jr.
Dean, Boalt Hall School of Law

+

Panel Discussion

Diversity in the Community and the Legal Profession
Moderated by Yolanda Jackson, BASF Diversity Director
Featuring Tiela Chalmers, Kelly Dermody, Henry Fong,
the Honorable Teri Jackson and Sonya Sanchez

+

Interactive Working Groups
Challenges and Solutions to Expanding Diversity in Our Profession
Inclusion, Retention and Professional Development
and Increasing Community Service

When:
Tuesday, October 9, 2007
Program 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Reception 6:00 p.m.

Where:
Bankers Club of San Francisco
Bank of America Center
555 California Street, 52nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

RSVP by October 2, 2007
www.fbm.com/2007diversityconference

The AABA Mentorship Committee
is proud to announce our
Annual Mentorship Program Brunch

sponsored by

Our traditional Mentorship Program kickoff event

Saturday, October 13, 2007

11:00 A.M

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe
405 Howard Street, San Francisco 94105

The 2007-2008 Mentorship Program is for students from Bay Area law schools, including University of California at Berkeley, Davis and Hastings, Stanford University, Golden Gate University, University of San Francisco, McGeorge School of Law, and Santa Clara University. This program matches law students with attorney mentors experienced in particular practice areas, including criminal, corporate, employment, immigration, and family law, intellectual property, in-house practice, litigation, government and public interest work.

Why mentor? Everyone remembers navigating the rough seas of a burgeoning legal career, and how important mentors have been for good career guidance. A mentor's small investment can yield a lifetime of rewards, not just for a mentee, but also for a mentor. All it takes is a few phone calls, emails, and a meal or two to make a tremendous difference. Not only can you help to ensure the expansion of a successful and socially conscious Asian legal community, but you can make lifelong friends and increase your own professional network.

Why be a mentee? Many successful Asian lawyers who have gone through the AABA Mentorship Program now stand testament to the invaluable contribution of mentors. Law students from previous years have reported finding career paths and job employment through their mentors. Mentors have helped law students to benefit from roads already traveled, to define career goals, to focus aspirations and to build upon the successes of previous generations.

If you are interested in being a mentor or mentee and have not signed up already, please send an e-mail to aaba_mentorship@yahoo.com.

The Mentorship Committee will send out an official Evite to everyone registered to participate in this year's Mentorship Program. You will also receive an email containing the mentor and mentee matches before the brunch. Please encourage each other to attend.

ABC Mixer

Attorneys, bankers, CPAs and other financial professionals are cordially invited to attend this

Annual Networking Event

Hosted by the San Francisco Chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants

Thursday, October 18, 2007

5:00pm - 7:00pm
(Registration at 4:45pm)

Bubble Lounge, San Francisco

Fee: \$50, Walk in Fee: \$65

RSVP online at www.calcpa.org/SF or call 650-802-2465 or email jane.dunbar@calcpa.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *continued from page 1*

On September 11th, AABA issued a press release regarding CBS' hiring of Craig Carton, a shock jock with a racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic history to replace the infamous Don Imus, of the Rutgers Womens' Basketball Team incident. Carton has a history of attacking Asian Americans, most notably Jun Choi, the mayor of Edison, New Jersey. The hiring slipped under many radar screens, but AABA and specifically, the Civil Rights Committee was there to respond, bring attention to this hire and remain vigilant about Carton's hire. Civil Rights Committee Chair Adrienne De Castro authored AABA's well-researched press release. For those who missed the press release, I've included it in this month's newsletter (page 4). I'd also like AABA members to meet and learn a little bit more about Adrienne, so you'll find her profile on page 2.

continue on next page

Upcoming Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

The Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California (VABANC) Annual Dinner, **October 12, 2007** in San Jose , CA (Location TBD). For more information, contact Quyen Ta at qta@kvn.com

AABA Mentorship Brunch - **October 13, 2007** at 11A.M. in the The Orrick Building: 405 Howard Street , San Francisco , CA 94105 . RSVP to aaba_mentorship@yahoo.com

ABC Mixer - **October 18, 2007**. 5:00 - 7:00pm at Bubble Lounge, San Francisco. RSVP online at www.calcpa.org/SF or call 650-802-2465 or email jane.dunbar@calcpa.org

The Inaugural Minority Bar Coalition Conference co-sponsored by AABA. Friday, **October 19, 2007**. " And Justice For All: Building Bridges Within The Legal Community." Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco.

NOVEMBER

AABA Open House . **November 9, 2007**

Please check for details on our website: www.aaba-bay.com

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *continued from page 10*

Last month, I also had the pleasure of attending a reception recognizing California Public Utilities Commissioner Rachelle Chong. Last year, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Commissioner Chong to the CPUC making her the first Asian American Commissioner to ever serve in the position. While Commissioner Chong is a true trailblazer in every sense (in 1993, she was also made the first Asian American commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission by President Bill Clinton), I came away supremely impressed with Commissioner Chong's dedication and commitment to technology, constantly changing regulations, the public interest and leveling the playing field. I've asked the Commissioner to allow me to profile her this month. That profile follows on page 2.

Lastly, AABA will have its first "Open House" on November 9th. The Board is very excited about this new event to allow everyone to get to know what AABA's various parts do. I'll have details next month, but until then, "save the date."

COMMISSIONER RACHELLE CHONG *continued from page 2*

Most AABA members probably don't know that... I went to work practicing law before the FCC because the concept of wireless phones reminded me of "Star Trek" communicators. Also, they may not know that that it was AABA that got my name to the White House to become the first Asian American FCC Commissioner. (Thank you! Thank you!)

AABA is... a cool networking organization for Asian American lawyers to do great things for the community and is a training ground for public service.

CAREER DAY *continued from page 5*

various backgrounds were matched with students interested in their practice areas. Difficult questions were asked and constructive feedback was given. "I appreciated the suggestions about telling stories to make the interviewer remember me and taking an active role in the conversation," said Liane M. Quan, a law student from University of San Francisco School of Law when she commented on her mock interview experience.

Many attorneys and students stayed for lunch following the mock interviews. In the midst of anecdotes and laughter, bonds were forged in the Asian American legal community. Thank you all

who helped make the Career Day a success. We wish all the participating attorneys continuing success, and to all students, the best luck in locating a job that is right for you!

ANYONE WANNA TO MAKE A BUCK *continued from page 3*

a 2-hour bus ride, during which we lost 3 of 5 Finnish fans festively donned in blue shirts and fluffy, white wigs, due to their inopportune bathroom breaks taken outside during the intermittent traffic jams, we arrived at Spa.

Set in the lush, dense pine-tree forest of the Ardennes, the race itself was fantastic. I cannot imagine what the artillery and bombing must have sounded like here during WWII's Battle of the Bulge, but the engines on these Formula 1 cars were deafening to the point where we could not walk anywhere without ear plugs firmly inserted. Hearts and feet vibrating, people instantly smiled each time the roaring cars came around the bend at over 200 mph. Beer aside, this was a happy crowd, including us. Finnish driver Kimi Räikkönen for Ferrari won, which pleased many fans as this race took place right after the McLaren-Mercedes team, which had been leading the races to date, was found guilty of and fined \$100 million for spying on Ferrari's technology.

For all these reasons, we really wanted to buy a cap, a t-shirt, anything as a token of this unusual event. Alas, we were denied entry into the "Gold" and "Silver" sections, which must have offered these goodies. Others, after fighting through throngs of people and litter, would have appreciated additional food stands, as the lines to the four existing vendors moved at a glacial pace. Considering that the Spa race has run annually since 1925, and that they draw approximately 50,000 people in attendance, shouldn't the average local business leap at the chance to fill these gaping holes of commercialism?

Then again, the American ambition to make a buck can raise even my eyebrows: did you know that Sausalito-based pizza vendors make deliveries to boats in the Bay? In any case, to my surprise, I find myself wanting to experience another Formula 1 race, hopefully in style, with Ferrari and McLaren caps in tow.

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