

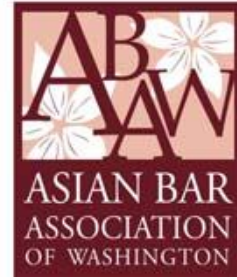
## Spring 2011 Newsletter

**Welcome from ABAW.** Thank you for being here with us. We are honored to serve our membership as your Officers and Board of Directors for 2011, following a strong year under the leadership of Michele Wong and the 2010 Board. Over 20 years after its formation, ABAW remains a vibrant, financially healthy, and strong organization because of YOU. YOU have made it possible for us to exist—to matter—and to make a difference in our community. We invite you to read more about what ABAW has planned for this year, including making ABAW more accessible (and affordable) to our members.

**Continuing Legal Education.** Our re-invigorated CLE Committee will be organizing quarterly educational programs, including an ethics CLE as well as a CLE program in Spokane this year.

Our first CLE will be **April 20 at noon to 1:30 pm: *Ten Mistakes Lawyers Make in Arbitration: Tips and Best Practices.*** Venue: American Arbitration Association, 701 Pike Street, Suite 950. This 90-minute working lunch CLE is geared towards attorneys preparing for their first arbitration and for more experienced attorneys who would like to learn of the common mistakes advocates make in arbitration. John Chun, a trial attorney at Summit Law and an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, will provide his perspective as an arbitrator on why these tactics and mistakes can erode your ability to succeed in arbitration and alternative approaches that are more effective. The cost of the CLE, which INCLUDES a boxed lunch, is \$10 for ABAW members and \$25 for non members. Please mail a check made out to the Asian Bar Association of Washington to John Butler at the AAA (address above) **before April 13, 2011**. When you RSVP, please also indicate if you are vegetarian so that we may order a vegetarian boxed lunch. This program has been approved for 1.5 CLE credits in Washington State. If you have any questions, please email [cle-rsvp@abaw.org](mailto:cle-rsvp@abaw.org). Additionally, if any ABAW members are interested in serving as faculty for future CLEs or have an idea for a CLE, please contact CLE Committee Chair Serena Lee at [Lees@adr.org](mailto:Lees@adr.org) for more information

**Mentorship.** Our active Mentorship Program provides law student and attorney members with guidance and mentoring through small groups. ABAW forms groups of three to five members with at least one senior attorney (more than 10 years), a junior attorney (less than 10 years), and a law student. In addition to the groups informally meeting on their own, ABAW sponsors quarterly formal meetings throughout the year. The formal meetings have a networking component and an interactive group session. Stay tuned for a scavenger hunt event this summer. During the scavenger hunt, ABAW members will be navigating through a custom designed course in a high-tech, outdoor treasure hunt using GPS receivers, PDAs and digital cameras to assist them in searching for hidden caches, finding answers to puzzles using provided clues, and documenting finds! This is your chance to live out your *The Amazing Race* fantasies! Please contact Mentorship Committee Chair Jeff Liang at [jeff@jefflianglaw.com](mailto:jeff@jefflianglaw.com) to sign up as a mentor or as a mentee.



**Formed in 1987, the Asian Bar Association of Washington is the voice for the Asian Pacific American legal profession in the State of Washington, promoting justice, equity and opportunity for APAs. We serve as a resource for our members and foster professional development, legal scholarship, advocacy and community involvement. ABAW's membership includes over 500 attorneys, judges, professors, and law students in a wide-range of sectors, practice areas, and locations.**

### **2011 ABAW Board:**

*Thuy Nguyen-Leeper, President*  
*The Honorable Ken Kato (ret.), President-Elect*  
*Kris Yoshizawa, Vice-President*  
*Ryan Ko, Secretary*  
*Jeff Liang, Treasurer*  
*Michele Wong, Immediate Past President and NAPABA Northwest Regional Governor*

**At Large Board Members:**  
*Asser Aldana (Scholarship)*  
*Andrew Chan (Social)*  
*Claire Hur*  
*Amy Hwang*  
*Janet Kim Lin (Social)*  
*Serena Lee (CLE)*  
*Tana Lin (JAJEC)*  
*Tom McGirk*  
*Serin Ngai*  
*Commissioner Pat Oishi*  
*Raymond Takashi Swenson*  
*Keith Talbot (Rapid Response/Amicus Brief)*  
*Diana Young (Membership)*

**Law Student Representatives:**  
*Richard Hy, Gonzaga University*  
*Andrew Lee, Seattle University*  
*Jefferson Lin, University of Washington*

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**Social Events.** Our super Social Committee co-chairs Andrew Chan and Janet Kim Lin are busy planning your social calendars! We co-hosted the Lunar New Year Celebration with the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington last month. The next event will be in May; details coming soon on date and venue. And please reserve on your calendar the date of **December 20** for our yearly Holiday Celebration at House of Hong (might want to start thinking now about that gift exchange). Please contact Social Committee Co-Chairs Andrew Chan at [andrewc@mhb.com](mailto:andrewc@mhb.com) and Janet Kim Lin at [janet.lin@bullivant.com](mailto:janet.lin@bullivant.com) for more information.

**Solo/Small Firm (NEW!).** In 2011, ABAW created a new committee to support solo/small firm attorneys and any ABAW member interested in starting their own practice. The Solo/Small Firm Committee will sponsor monthly lunches that consist of networking, a presentation (members can make presentations), and time to bounce ideas off each other. The next meeting is **March 25, at noon**. Please contact Solo/Small Firm Committee Chair Jeff Liang at [jeff@jefflianglaw.com](mailto:jeff@jefflianglaw.com) for more information. We have also created a new category of membership dues at the \$50 level for solo/small firm attorneys (firms of five attorneys or less).

**Rapid Response/Amicus Brief.** The Rapid Response/Amicus Brief Committee functions as a clearinghouse for issues that require expedited ABAW response. The purpose of the Rapid Response/Amicus Brief Committee is to ensure timely and meaningful responses to such requests and crises. In the past, the ABAW has received requests to become involved in a broad range of issues affecting our community. Some situations have directly affected our members. Others matters have involved issues affecting our community as a minority group or have been related to discrimination that APAs historically faced in this country. Recent requests to ABAW have included joining as an amicus in an anti-discrimination case (*In re Kataré*) and responding to pending legislation (House Bill 1126 which sought to impact gang activity). Please contact Rapid Response/Amicus Brief Committee Co-Chairs Keith Talbot at [kat@pattersonbuchanan.com](mailto:kat@pattersonbuchanan.com) or Lam Nguyen-Bull at [lam@gsblaw.com](mailto:lam@gsblaw.com) for more information.

**Judicial Evaluations.** ABAW (along with the Filipino Lawyers of Washington, Korean American Bar Association of Washington, South Asian Bar Alliance of Washington, and Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington) is a member of the Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee (JAJEC). JAJEC evaluates individuals seeking either appointment or election to judicial office. JAJEC evaluates candidates for a variety of judicial positions, including municipal and district courts, superior courts, superior court commissioner seats, courts of appeals, and the Washington Supreme Court. Since its inception in 2006, JAJEC has rated over 140 judicial candidates. In 2010 alone, JAJEC rated over 40 judicial candidates; a special thanks to ABAW Board Member Tana Lin for chairing JAJEC last year. Also last year, JAJEC participated in the judicial evaluation process for the open position in the Federal District Court of the Eastern District of Washington. JAJEC met with the Judicial Selection Committee and created a process whereby JAJEC, along with the other Minority Bar Associations of Washington, interviewed and rated final candidates for nomination. Thank you to Filipino Lawyers of Washington for chairing JAJEC this year; please contact 2011 JAJEC Chair Abigail Daquiz at [daquiz.abigail@dol.gov](mailto:daquiz.abigail@dol.gov) for more information.

**Legal Clinics.** ABAW, in conjunction with the King County Bar Neighborhood Legal Clinics, operates the International District and Rainier Valley Legal Clinics. Under the leadership of Jonathan Yeh, our ABAW Legal Clinics continue to flourish, serving individuals of our community in a variety of ways. The clinics provide pro bono legal counseling sessions with ABAW attorneys and professional interpreters and legal workshops that target the Asian/Pacific Islander community. Volunteer lawyers are typically scheduled for one night every 2-3 months and see up to 4 clients during the night. It is a rewarding experience and an opportunity for you to use your skills to make a difference! To volunteer, please email Jonathan Yeh at [jyeh@digital-legal.com](mailto:jyeh@digital-legal.com).

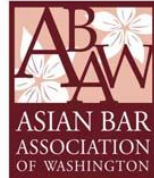
**NAPABA.** ABAW is an affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA). NAPABA is the national association of APA attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, providing a national network for its 40,000 members and 63 affiliates. The affiliates in the Northwest Region appointed Michele Wong as your Northwest Regional Governor. The Western Regional Conference will be held in **Portland June 3-5**. The Annual Convention will be held in **Atlanta November 17-20**. Please contact Michele Wong at [michwong@microsoft.com](mailto:michwong@microsoft.com) for more information about NAPABA. ABAW will be offering stipends this year for ABAW members to attend the National Conference in Atlanta. As the NAPABA Convention brings together over 1,400 APA attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, we created the ABAW/NAPABA stipend to make the NAPABA Convention more affordable for more of our members to attend. Please keep a lookout this summer for details about applying for the ABAW/NAPABA stipend.

**Annual Banquet OCTOBER 20.** The Banquet Committee, along with the ABAW Student Scholarship Foundation, plans and coordinates the Annual Banquet. At the Annual Banquet, student scholarships are awarded, and judges and community organizations are recognized. The Committee is responsible for determining the banquet theme, venue, entertainment, program, and keynote speaker. The Committee is also responsible for researching candidates and recommending recipients for the Judge of the Year Award and Community Service Award. Please contact ABAW Vice-President Kris Yoshizawa at [kyoshizawa@perkinscoie.com](mailto:kyoshizawa@perkinscoie.com) for more information. As our Annual Banquet is our largest membership event of the year, keep a lookout for our efforts to make the Annual Banquet (**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 20**) more affordable for more of our members to attend.



**Law Student Activities.** We are lucky to have law student representatives from all three of the Washington State law schools!

- The Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association (APILSA) at Seattle University School of Law held its annual Karaoke Night on February 11. Proceeds of the Karaoke Night will be donated to the Asian & Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center.
- The Asian Pacific Islander Law Caucus (APILC) at Gonzaga University School of Law is organizing a Karaoke Night (details coming soon!).
- The Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) at University School of Law will be holding its speed networking event on May 4.



## 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\*All of our Board Meetings are open to our members and special guests. To attend any of our Board Meetings, please email ABAW Secretary Ryan Ko at [ryan.ko@becu.org](mailto:ryan.ko@becu.org)

- March 22, **Board Meeting** at Seattle University School of Law, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm  
March 22, **General Membership Meeting** at Seattle University School of Law, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
March 25, **Solo/Small Firm Meeting**, 12 pm to 1:30 pm. Location TBD.  
April 20, **Ten Mistakes Lawyers Make in Arbitration: Tips and Best Practices** CLE, 12 pm to 1:30 pm, at American Arbitration Association, at 701 Pike Street, Suite 950, Seattle.  
April 26, **Board Meeting** at Davis Wright Tremaine, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
May 13, **Joint Karaoke Night** with KABA and VABAW, at Rock Box, times and details coming soon  
May 19, **Statewide Diversity Conference Pre-Reception** at University of Washington, 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm  
May 20, **Statewide Diversity Conference** at Seattle University School of Law, times TBD  
May 24, **Board Meeting**, location TBD, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
June 3-5, **NAPABA Western Regional Conference**, Portland  
Mid-Summer, **Mentorship Scavenger Hunt**, meet-up location and time TBD  
Mid-Summer, date and location TBD, **Joint Minority Bar Association Picnic**  
Mid-June, Annual **Asian Counseling and Referral Services' Walk for Rice**, Seward Park, meet-up time TBD  
June 28, **Board Meeting**, location TBD, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm  
June 28, **General Membership Meeting**, location TBD, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
August 23, **Board Meeting**, location TBD, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
September, date and location TBD, Mix 'n' Mingle  
September 27, **Board Meeting**, location TBD, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
October 20, **Annual Banquet**, location TBD, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
October 25, **Board Meeting**, location TBD, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
Early November, **Joint Mentorship and Social Event**  
November 17-20, **NAPABA National Convention**, Atlanta  
November 22, **Board Meeting**, location TBD, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
December 20, **Board Meeting**, House of Hong, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
December 20, **Holiday Party**, at House of Hong, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

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**Community Support.** As part of ABAW's focus on community involvement, we have partnered with various groups on the following efforts.

- In January, ABAW joined as a supporter of the *Diversifying the Bench Guidebook*, a project of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission's Workforce Diversity Committee.
- Also in January, ABAW was a Bronze Sponsor of the King County Bar Association's Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon.
- Last year, ABAW joined in the Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System. The Task Force was convened by the Honorable Steven C. Gonzalez, Chair of the Washington State Access to Justice Board and King County Superior Court Judge, and by Robert S. Chang, Professor of Law and Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University School of Law. Prompted by the remarks of two sitting justices on the Washington Supreme Court, the Task Force discusses racial bias in the criminal justice system in Washington state. The Task Force will be developing informational resources on racial bias in the criminal justice system; bringing into conversation all levels of the criminal justice system and to develop a set of recommendations to address racial bias at the systemic level; and working to implement the recommendations. Throughout, the Task Force will also be developing educational projects to reach judges, the bar, law enforcement, students, and the public. A special thanks to ABAW Board Member Commissioner Pat Oishi for his dedicated role with the Task Force. Task Force Members met with the Washington State Supreme Court on March 2.
- Also in 2010, ABAW made a significant monetary contribution to the American Bar Association's Judicial Intern Opportunity Program, which places minority and financially disadvantaged law students as interns for federal and state judges around the country. The internships allow students to develop one-on-one working relationships with a judge and encourage them to consider seeking judicial clerkships upon law school graduation. In its first year in 2000, the program placed 14 students in internships in Illinois and Texas. Last year, over 200 students were placed in internships with federal and state judges in Illinois, Texas, Miami, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Washington DC. This year because of ABAW's contribution, Seattle has been added to this list; ABAW's one-time contribution is expected to provide enough funds for the program to continue in Seattle for several years. A special thanks to ABAW Member and Former President Benes Aldana for bringing this exceptional program to Seattle and for persuading federal and state judges in Washington State to participate. A thank you in advance to our federal and state judges in Washington State who are participating in the 2011 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program in Seattle.
- ABAW was a co-sponsor of the Equal Rights Washington Mixer and Benefit, held on March 3. Along with QLaw (the GLBT Bar Association of Washington), ABAW supported ERW's efforts to raise money to begin an educational campaign regarding marriage equality. In prior years, ABAW was a coalition sponsor to Washington Families Standing Together and Referendum 71 in support of domestic partnerships.

#### **Joint Efforts with Our Minority Bar Associations of Washington.**

- ABAW, along with the ten other Minority Bar Associations of Washington, joined in the Law Firm Diversity Report. The Law Firm Diversity Report scores and grades the 50 largest law firms in Washington State on their diversity efforts related to ethnic minority, female, GLBT, and disabled attorneys. The Report was distributed widely, including distribution to the 50 largest law firms, the three Washington State law schools, in-house counsel, the membership of the Minority Bar Associations of Washington (as well as their respective national organizations), and the media (including the Puget Sound Business Journal). The results of the 2009-2010 Law Firm Diversity Report can be viewed on our ABAW website. A special thanks to ABAW Member and Former President Ken Payson for his leadership role with the Law Firm Diversity Report.

- Since 2006, the Minority Bar Associations of Washington have collaborated to present an annual statewide diversity conference for Washington lawyers, law students and legal professionals. ABAW is part of the planning committee for the Statewide Diversity Conference, which will be held on **May 20** at Seattle University School of Law (with a May 19 Pre-Event Reception at University of Washington School of Law). For more information, visit [www.wambac.org](http://www.wambac.org). A special thanks to ABAW Member and Former President Kim Tran and ABAW Member Dainen Penta for their leadership roles with the Statewide Diversity Conference.
- Since 2006, ABAW has been a part of the Initiative for Diversity, which was established to assist in diversifying the legal profession with respect to hiring, retaining, promoting, and elevating diverse lawyers into leadership positions.
- Last year, ABAW joined with the American Civil Liberties Union and other Minority Bar Associations of Washington to request the US Department of Justice investigate the pattern of multiple incidents of excessive force by the Seattle Police Department (SPD), particularly force used against persons of color.



**We Invite You to Renew (or Join for the First Time) Our ABAW Membership.** Our membership includes over 500 APA attorneys (in the public and private sectors), judges, professors, and law students in a wide-range of practice areas and locations. **Paid membership in ABAW provides the following benefits:**

- Earning CLE credits (including ethics credits) through our informative, quarterly lunchtime CLEs (one in 2011 will be held in Spokane). ABAW members who have paid their membership dues for 2011 will be able to attend the CLEs at the reduced \$10 rate (which covers the cost of lunch).
- Speaking at our quarterly CLEs.
- Receiving email announcements of job postings and opportunities for involvement in the community and various bar association events.
- Posting your profile on our attorney directory on our website [www.abaw.org](http://www.abaw.org). The directory lists members' contact information, practice areas and language skills.
- Promoting your accomplishments within our ABAW membership and on our website [www.abaw.org](http://www.abaw.org) and on Facebook page.
- Attending our quarterly general membership meetings, including our year-end Holiday Social party.
- Attending networking opportunities at our bi-monthly Mix 'N' Mingles.
- Attending networking opportunities organized jointly with other Minority Bar Associations of Washington, including Korean American Bar Association of Washington and Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington.
- Serving on the various subcommittees contained within our Annual Banquet Committee.
- Contributing back to the community through our various community involvement events, including the Annual Asian Counseling and Referral Services' Walk for Rice.
- Working toward increasing diversity in the legal profession by serving as the ABAW representative on various committees, including the Law Firm Diversity Survey and the Statewide Diversity Conference.
- Learning from a senior practitioner or serving as a mentor to a junior practitioner or law student through our Mentorship Program.
- Voting on the nominated candidates for the positions of officers and board of directors.
- Participating in the Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee, which evaluates individuals seeking either appointment or election to judicial office.

Membership in ABAW includes membership in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) (a \$50 value). NAPABA membership benefits include:

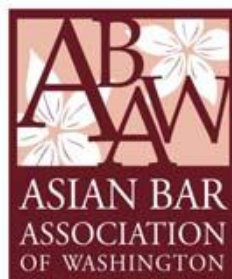
- A subscription to the *NAPABA Lawyer* newsletter, updating you with current happenings, events and programs.
- Opportunities and contacts for professional and personal Networking! Networking! Networking!
- Access to recent job postings.
- Discounts to NAPABA events including the annual Convention and continuing legal education programs.
- Membership in NAPABA Professional Development Forums, providing numerous opportunities for business development and professional growth.
- Participation in NAPABA committee activities.
- A guide to NAPABA affiliated organizations.

Your involvement in ABAW also provides you with the knowledge and satisfaction that your membership helps to sustain ABAW's vital programs and its efforts in advocating for the Asian Pacific American community in Washington State and in fostering the professional development of Asian Pacific American lawyers, law students, judges and professors in Washington state.

Anyone who is duly admitted to practice law in Washington State or another state (and is not suspended or disbarred from any bar association) is eligible to join. Membership is always free for currently-enrolled law students of any US accredited law school.

For 2011, we have reduced the fees for Public Sector Attorneys from \$65 to \$50 (Public Sector Attorneys include government attorneys, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, assistant attorneys general, legal services attorneys and attorneys for non-profit groups which qualify as 501(c)(3) organizations). We hope that lowering the dues to \$50 will make ABAW more accessible and affordable to more of our members in the public sector.

We have also added a new category for Solo/Small Firm Attorneys (firms of five attorneys or less) at the \$50 level. We hope this addition will make ABAW more accessible and affordable to more of our members.



***We hope you will join us in continuing to make a difference in our community. Thank you.***

***-- The 2011 ABAW Officers and Board of Directors.***

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