



The APABA Reporter

Newsletter of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County

Volume III, Issue 2, August/ September 2002

STOP!

Did you remember to renew your APABA membership for 2002? Please take a moment and fill out an application to insure your copy of The APABA Reporter

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Proposed Ban on Racial Data Threatens California's Asian Pacific Americans

By Kathay Feng and Jyoti Nanda

APAs: Get Educated! Just last week, a dangerous new ballot initiative authored by University of California Regent Ward Connerly has qualified for the March 2004 primary election. The Initiative is designed to prohibit the collection of data on race, ethnicity, and national origin by state agencies. If successful, the Initiative promises to devastate the state's ability to collect vital information on the race and ethnicity of Californians for critical purposes such as safeguarding health and safety, establishing effective education policies, and combating discrimination.

Proponents misleadingly call their proposal the "Racial Privacy Initiative." In reality the Initiative affords no greater protection for privacy rights, but surely threatens to roll back important gains in civil and political rights for Asian Pacific Americans (APAs). Without critical data on race and ethnicity, there is no way to effectively measure strides made by APA's in health care, employment, education and other areas.

One of the critical challenges is to educate as many voters as possible so they can make an

informed choice. Taking a lead in this effort in the APA Community is the statewide coalition, *APAs for an Informed California*. APABA has taken a position against the Initiative along with several APA groups [including the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Asian Health Services, Asian Law Caucus, Asian Pacific American Legal Center and Organization of Chinese Americans]. Following are just a few of the dangers posed by the so-called "Racial Privacy Initiative".

Endangers Public Health

Like other ethnic groups, APA communities face varying rates of disease and illness that impact which medical practices and health education strategies are used to address their unique health needs. For example, the incidence of Hepatitis B and liver cancer are disproportionately high among immigrants from China. Vietnamese American women face greater rates of invasive cervical cancer. This initiative will block the lifesaving efforts of doctors by taking away information they need to do their work effectively. Public health officials agree that the narrow exemption for medical research in the initiative will leave huge blind spots.

(Please see PROPOSED BAN on page 9)

2002 APABA BOARD**President**

Rita Gunasekaran 310-449-6000

President-Elect

Paula Daniels 310-442-7900

Executive Vice President

Paul J. Estuar 213-386-3114

Secretary

Kathryn G. Hirano 323-226-8152

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Teri T. Pham 310-777-1990

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 Jacqueline H. Nguyen 213-894-0619
 Julie Nguyen 323-655-4700
 Anna Y. Park 213-386-3114
 Minah Park 213-382-3578
 Mona Patel-Sikora 213-385-2977
 Raymond Sakai 626-304-7830
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 Michael K. Suzuki 818-374-2768
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 Derek K. Yu 310-553-6822

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 Jerry Kang Hon. Robert M. Takaksugi
 Eileen Kurahashi Hon. Kathryn Doi Todd



INTRODUCING THE
2002-2003
APABA OFFICERS
AND
BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Paula Daniels, the President-Elect, will succeed to the position of President of APABA for the 2002-2003 term. The following individuals have been appointed by their respective bar associations as representatives to the APABA Board:

David Halm - Representative, Japanese American Bar Association
 Candice Kim - Representative, Korean American Bar Association
 Anna Lisa Biason - Representative, Philippine American Bar Association
 Sandeep Baweja - Representative, South Asian Bar Association
 Takashi Cheng - Representative, Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association

Your vote is needed to decide the remaining spots on the board of governors.

OFFICERS**Paula Daniels (President)**

Ms. Daniels is Of Counsel at Litt & Associates, a public interest law firm. She is also a mediator and arbitrator. A 1980 graduate of Southwestern University Law School, Ms. Daniels has served on the State Bar's Committee on the Administration of Justice and as a Commissioner with the California Coastal Commission. She was a member of the L.A. Superior Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and is a Board member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center. She is also on the Advisory Council for the Korean American Democratic Committee and past president of the Korean Youth and Community Center. She is a longtime member of the Board of Heal the Bay and serves on the Boards of the California League of Conservation Voters and the Liberty Hill Environmental Justice Community Funding Board.

Teri Pham (President-Elect)

Ms. Pham graduated from UCLA School of Law in 1997, and received her bachelor's degree in Social Ecology from UC Irvine in 1994. While in law school, she served as an Associate Justice for the Moot Court Honors Program and as a Graduate Student Representative for the law school. She has also served as a Bankruptcy Fellow at Bet Tzedek Legal Services and volunteered with the Public Law Center and the Southeast Asian Legal Outreach Project in Santa Ana. She presently practices in the area of business litigation with Reuben & Novicoff in Beverly Hills. She is a member of the Inter-Pacific and Beverly Hills Bar Associations, and is APABA's representative to the LACBA Bench and Bar Committee. She also co-chaired APABA's membership committee this past year. Languages: Vietnamese.

Paul J. Estuar (Vice President)

Mr. Estuar is an associate at Litt & Associates where he litigates civil rights cases. Prior to that, he specialized in general civil litigation at Vakili & Leus LLP. He is a past president of the Philippine American Bar Association and former chair of its Board of Directors. A 1993 graduate of Loyola Law School, he served as President of APALSA in 1992-93. In 1996, Mr. Estuar received the Pro Bono Service Award from the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. He continues to promote pro bono services and community education as a member of APABA's Pro Bono/Community Education Committee.

Kathryn G. Hirano (Treasurer)

Ms. Hirano, a 1983 graduate of Hastings College of Law, has been a Deputy Public Defender with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office for the past decade. She served as a Board

member of JABA and on the LACBA Judicial Election Evaluation Committee and Judicial Appointments Evaluation Committee. Ms. Hirano was one of the founders and the first president of the Asian Pacific Islander Public Defender's Association. Languages: Conversational Spanish.

Belle Hsu (Secretary)

Ms. Hsu is currently an associate in the Labor Department of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and was previously at Littler Mendelson, P.C. She is a graduate of Pomona College and UCLA Law School. In addition to co-chairing APABA's MCLE/Programs and Social committees, Ms. Hsu has been an active member of the LACBA's Committee on Equity in the Profession and helped organize the NAPABA Convention in Los Angeles. She also provides pro bono assistance to various organizations, including the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, and East West Players.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sandeep Baweja (Board Member - Representative, South Asian Bar Association)

Mr. Baweja received his B.A. in Philosophy and History from UC Santa Barbara. He obtained his J.D. from Syracuse University. Mr. Baweja served as Law Clerk to Hon. Elaine Houghton, then Chief Judge of the Washington State Court of Appeals. Thereafter, he joined a national law firm in its insurance litigation department. Mr. Baweja currently practices municipal and public law with the law firm of Burke, Williams & Sorensen. He is co-chair of the APABA Hate Crimes Committee and Vice President of the South Asian Bar Assn.

Anna Lisa Biason (Board Member - Representative, Philippine American Bar Association)

Ms. Biason received her B.A. in History and Sociology from UCLA and her J.D. from Whittier College School of Law. Ms. Biason works at California Educational Financial and Legal Centers, Inc., practicing immigration and nationality law. Prior to that, she worked at the Orange County office of Parker Stanbury LLP. She also served as an intern in the U.S. Army's Office of the Judge Advocate General, stationed at NATO headquarters in Belgium.

Frank W. Chen (Board Member)

Mr. Chen, a 1985 graduate of Stanford University and 1988 graduate of UCLA School of Law, is a partner in the law firm of Ku, Fong & Chen, LLP in Los Angeles. He has an established practice in the areas of real estate, employment, and business litigation, with a specialty in serving the legal needs of the Chinese community in Southern California and in the Pacific Rim. From 2000-2001, he was President of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association. He currently is an At-Large Trustee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Takashi Cheng (Board Member - Representative, Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association)

Mr. Cheng is associated with the law firm Jung & Yuen, LLP, specializing in all aspects of business, civil, insurance, construction, professional liability, products and premise liability, personal injury, bankruptcy, contracts and real estate litigation. In March 1998, Mr. Cheng founded A-United Attorney Service, Inc., which provides general attorney services including court filings, process service, and asset investigations. Mr. Cheng is currently serving as the Vice President of the Asian Business League and is on the Board of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Betty Chia (Board Member - Law Student Representative)

Ms. Chia received her B.A. from UCLA and is currently in her second year at UCLA School of Law. An active participant in Asian American community organizations, Ms. Chia has been a writer for YOLK magazine, one of the nation's only Asian American magazines. As the PABA fellow for 2002, she worked at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center to heighten the community's awareness of hate crimes against Asian Americans.

David Halm (Board Member - Representative, Japanese American Bar Association)

Mr. Halm, a 1995 graduate of Loyola Law School, practices civil litigation with an emphasis in real estate and business matters with Fainsbert Mase & Snyder, LLP. Mr. Halm also serves on the Board of Governors of the Japanese American Bar Association

APABA Committee Chairs

Membership

Teri T. Pham	310-777-1990
Margaret Johnson	213-243-6257
Chung Mar	213-897-2397

Public Appointments

Michael K. Suzuki	818-374-2768
Anna Y. Park	213-386-3114

Community Education/Service

Mona Patel-Sikora	213-385-2977
Chirag Shah	323-655-4700
Dolly Gee	323-655-4700

Social

Michael K. Suzuki	818-374-2768
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Scholarship/Law Students

Frank Chen	213-488-1400
Minah Park	213-382-3578
Kasie Lee	213-446-3682

Asian Concerns

Michael F. Yamamoto	213-489-7361
Michael K. Suzuki	818-374-2768

Newsletter

Derek K. Yu	310-553-6822
Kasie Lee	213-446-3682

MCLE/ Programs

Belle Hsu	213-687-5000
Raymond Sakai	626-304-7830
Hyacinth Leus	213-380-6010

Fundraising

Mona C. Soo Hoo	213-623-5255
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AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
11- Bowers Museum Exhibit- "The Forgotten History of Chinese Americans in Los Angeles": Info (714) 567-3600	5- APABA Brown Bag Lunch with Judge Takasugi @Courtroom 22, Noon: Info- bhsu@skkaden.com	6- An Evening with Keiko Matsui @ The Grove in Anaheim; Info (213)473-1660. www.asianmarrow.org	7, 8, 9- 14th annual NAPABA Convention @ Atlanta, GA. Info www.napaba.org
15- Latina Lawyers Bar Association Fifth Annual Installation @ Wilshire Grand Hotel: Info- (626) 585-9600	6- ABL Mooncake Golf Tournament @ California Country Club: Info- (213) 624- 9975	10- OCA 11th Annual Image Award Banquet @ Omni Los Angeles Hotel; Info (213) 250- 9888.	13- APABA 5th Annual Installation Dinner @ Japanese National Museum
20- Fee Arbitration Training @ LACBA from 5:30 to 8:30 pm; Info (213) 896-6441	8- APABA First Annual Softball and Picnic @ Pacific Palisades	25- Asian Youth Center 13th Anniversary Celebration @ Westin Bonaventure Hotel. Info- Nancy Yen (626) 309- 0622	
22-- MCBA /Barristers Reception Honoring Chief Judge Consuelo B. Marshall @ Taipan Restaurant, 330 S. Hope St.- 5:30 to 8:30 pm	19- Reception for Appointment of Jacqueline H. Nguyen and Tammy C. Ryu @ Empress Pavillion	26/27- Virtual Trial Skills Reality Workshop@ Loyola Law School	
26- APABA Board of Governors Meeting	20- Chinatown Service Center 31st Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction @ Empress Restaurant; Info (213) 808-1700	28- APABA Board of Governors Meeting	

**APABA CONGRATULATES THE HONORABLE CAROL
LAM ON HER NOMINATION FOR ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA**

The Honorable Carol Chien-Hua Lam (San Diego), has been nominated by President George W. Bush to be the Attorney General for the Southern District of California. If confirmed, Judge Lam would be the first Asian American and the first woman to serve as the chief federal prosecutor for the Southern District. Judge Lam has served as a Superior Court Judge in San Diego County since 2000. From 1986 to 2000, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of California. Judge Lam is a graduate of Yale University and Stanford University Law School

The APABA Reporter

Editors
Kasie Lee
Derek K. Yu

Staff
Michael F. Yamamoto
Tracy Kann

The APABA Reporter welcomes all comments and inquiries. Please direct all newsletter contributions and questions to:
Derek Yu



ABAPA COMMITTEE REPORTS

MCLE COMMITTEE

On June 14th, APABA held its first brown bag judicial luncheon with Judge Jennifer Lum, federal magistrate judge of the Central District. On the evening of August 6th, APABA plans to co-sponsor a one-hour seminar with the Beverly Hills Bar Association on "Plaintiff and Defense Pre-Trial and Trial Tactics" with speakers Howard Halm, Esq. and Barry Drucker, Esq. More details will follow.

AD HOC HATE CRIMES COMMITTEE

Victims of 9/11 Need Your Help! Hundreds of South Asian Americans across the country, including many here in Southern California, have been victimized by the fall-out of 9/11. South Asian Americans are discriminated against at the airports, in shopping malls, by businesses, in schools, restaurants, and many other establishments. South Asian Americans are also being discriminated against in their workplaces and in housing.

Preventive and Responsive Efforts. The Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA) and the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) are undertaking efforts to address the problems created by 9/11 and beset upon the South Asian American community. Attorneys are needed to assist the South Asian Network (SAN), a grassroots community organization, whose legal task force reviews and advises on specific cases as well as general matters involving discrimination against South Asian Americans. The associations will be promoting community educa-

tion by talking with students in public schools about the wrongfulness of discrimination as perpetuated by 9/11, a project coordinated through the ABA. Both programs are specific and task-oriented, aiming to result in tangible accomplishments.

Neither Project Will Succeed Without Your Help. If you can spare 3 hours of your time, you've done your share. And yes, it is a duty that we have as Asian Americans—as members of the legal community, to step up during a time when some fellow members of our Asian American community are being subjected to such profound and prolific immoral acts. Sure, we all have families, and we all have demanding day jobs, but so do the victims of the 9/11 fallout. We need to help them get back on their feet, to have their rights vindicated, so they can return to and serve their families with some peace of mind and a better quality of life.

Your Help is Needed Now! The numerous incidents of discrimination and hate crimes have resulted in many cases requiring legal attention. Please take the first step by joining either or both of these organizations. Second, and more importantly, please dedicate a few hours of your time this summer to one of these projects.

For more info, contact Sandeep Baweja at (213) 236-0600 or sbaweja@bwsllaw.com, or David Halm at (310) 473-6400 or dhalm@fms-law.com.

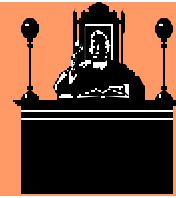
The APABA REPORTER NEEDS YOU!!!!

The APABA Reporter Is Searching for a New Editor!!!

Please visit contact Kasie Lee at kasiekasem@yahoo.com for more information



PROFILE: **U.S. ATTORNEY DEBRA YANG**



By Michael Fern

Given the opportunity to become either a federal judge or the chief federal prosecutor in the Central District of California, Debra Yang made history by choosing the latter.

Appointed in May 2002 by President George W. Bush, Debra became the first Asian American to serve as a U.S. Attorney. From the 12th floor of the U.S. District Courthouse in Los Angeles, she oversees the largest U.S. Attorney's Office outside of Washington, D.C., prosecuting federal crimes in Southern California and helping formulate national crime-fighting policies.

Law was an unlikely path for the native Californian, who grew up in a traditional Chinese household with limited exposure to politics and current events. Early on, she thought she would follow her father's footsteps and go into business. But in 1981, she graduated from Pitzer College with degrees in political studies and Asian studies. Following a brief hiatus to study Chinese history and philosophy at National Taiwan University, she earned her J.D. at Boston College in 1986.

Upon graduation, Debra practiced commercial litigation in law firms at Chicago and Los Angeles, before obtaining a clerkship with District Court Judge Ronald Lew in 1990. After the year-long stint in federal court, she worked at the entertainment law firm Greenburg, Glusker, Claman, & Machtinger in Century City.

Eager to expand her trial advocacy skills, Debra left civil practice in 1990 to join the Criminal Division of the US Attorney's Office in Los Angeles. She quickly distinguished herself there with successful prosecutions of several high-profile cases, including US v. Shue, which involved the kidnapping and rape of a real estate agent by a

defendant whose extensive criminal record became progressively bolder. The experience made her especially sensitive towards victims of crime and the criminal justice system.

In 1996, Debra was appointed by then Governor Pete Wilson to a judgeship in the Los Angeles Municipal Court, and became Supervising Judge of the Hollywood Court in 1998. Following the unification of the trial courts, she was elevated to the Superior Court in 2001, serving in the Santa Monica Courthouse until her recent appointment.

Debra's achievements as a litigator, prosecutor, and judge are even more impressive given her active contributions outside the courtroom. Just two years out of law school, she founded the Asian American Bar Association of Chicago, and later served on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers' Association. As a judge, she instructed newly appointed judicial officers at the Bernard Witkin Judicial College, presented lectures for the Legal Education Office of the Department of Justice, and joined an FBI delegation to Bulgaria to present a seminar on White Collar Crime.

From 1997 to 1999, she taught Trial Advocacy at USC Law School, where she found students "hungry for clinical training and extremely vibrant participants." She also serves as the President of the Chinese American History Museum in Los Angeles. And among her greatest achievement is raising three children with her husband.

Michael Fern is a second-year law student at the University of Southern California Law School

A CLOSER LOOK:



Can a Wicked Law Change a Wicked World?

By: Chirag Shah

The horrific slaughter of thousands of Americans on 9/11 called on our legislators to make policy choices that were unimaginable prior to that tragedy. But does that mean that we can completely ignore the U.S. Constitution, the quintessential symbol of freedom and democracy throughout the world?

Less than two months after 9/11, Congress passed the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required To Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, H.R. 3162 (the "USA Patriot Act"). Accompanying the USA Patriot Act are a host of other laws, all designed to increase the powers of the federal government to fight this new evil we call "terrorism." Countless commentators have called for a re-examination of the USA Patriot Act's more notorious provisions, including Section 213, which disposes of the Fourth Amendment's notice of a warrant rule; Section 216, which authorizes the monitoring of virtually all electronic commerce; Section 218, which allows the FBI and CIA to gather information by simply showing that intelligence gathering is a "significant" (as opposed to "primary" as under prior law) purpose; Section 411, which enables the government to deport any person associated with a "terrorist organization," including peacekeeping and political groups; and Section 412, which permits the indefinite detention of immigrants and other non-citizens.

Although the law is neutral on its face, it has been applied to target Arabs, Muslims, and South Asians. The detainment, without charges, of over 1200 individuals to the deportation of over 6000 Arab and Muslim Americans on Visa violations suggests that there is little question that the government has been and is continuing to engage in the unlawful and ineffective practice of racial and ethnic profiling. The latest evidence of such profiling involves the Justice Department's recently-formulated policy of fingerprinting almost every

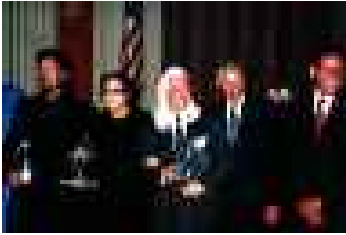
Muslim, Arab or South Asian who enters this country.

In giving unquestioned authority to law enforcement officials, the USA Patriot Act provides vague and unduly burdensome definitions, for such terms as "terrorism" and "terrorist organization." If the USA Patriot Act were to serve as a guidepost in our understanding of terror and terrorism, it would seem that almost any action undertaken by any American, particularly those who are or are perceived to be Muslim or Arab, could be categorized as terrorism or terrorism-like activity. Furthermore, the USA Patriot Act grants unprecedented levels of discretion and enforcement authority to law enforcement officials as well as administrative regulators. This level of unabridged enforcement authority is an unacceptable infringement upon the civil liberties of all Americans.

Is this really all that much different than the mass internment of Japanese Americans in the 1940's? If yes, have we failed once again to learn from the lessons of the past? If not, what is the difference between what is happening now and what happened then? How can a practice that had been discounted prior to September 11 as an ineffective law enforcement tool be effective in our "war against terror?" Now, there is no question that increased authority for law enforcement is absolutely necessary today in order to keep our nation safe. The question, however, is one of *balance*. What is the right balance between sacrificing our liberties and keeping us safe? In so hastily enacting the USA Patriot Act, Congress seems to have completely overlooked these questions.

In order to strike a fair balance between keeping our country safe and preserving, to the extent possible, our constitutional and civil freedoms, we must at a minimum seriously consider these alternatives.

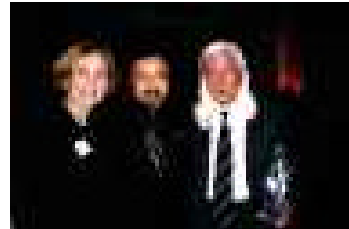
FACES AND PLACES



Congratulations to our own Michael Yamamoto who was honored by the Los Angeles County Bar Association as "Defense Attorney of the Year" on May 30, 2002 at the Criminal Justice Awards Dinner at the Biltmore Hotel. (From left to right- Justice Lillie, Michael Yamamoto, Former Gov. Deukmejian and Manny Medrano)



APABA President Elect for 2003 Teri Pham and happy groom making first public appearance as Mr. And Mrs.



Michael Yamamoto with Judge Lance Ito and his wife, Margaret at the Criminal Justice

(PROPOSED BAN Continued from page 1)

Hinders Hate Crime Prevention

APA's have been especially vulnerable to acts of hate violence in times of crisis. In just the first week following September 11, the media reported 81 bias-related incidents against South Asian Americans alone. Undoubtedly, hundreds of incidents across the nation went unreported. The initiative would prevent the state Attorney General and public agencies from analyzing and reporting on hate crimes trends, thus limiting their ability to track hate groups or to provide resources to stop them.

Allows Racial Profiling

Racial profiling is already supposed to be illegal in California, but without data it is hard to prove. This initiative prevents state agencies from collecting and analyzing data to ensure that racial profiling does not happen.

Ignores Employment Barriers

For decades, APA's and other groups have fought to make dents in the glass ceiling preventing women and people of color from attaining senior-level positions in the workplace. Without racial and ethnic data in public employment, it will be difficult to determine whether an employer is engaging in unlawful hiring, firing, and promotion practices.

All of these issues have a potential impact on the entire nation. Connerly's Initiative may be introduced to other states for passage, may stir up national debate, and may have far reaching impacts beyond California. APABA members are encouraged to educate themselves about the issue, make an informed choice and let their voices be heard by voting.

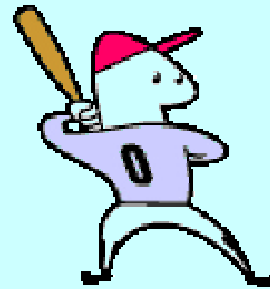
For the full text of the initiative, please visit: www.caag.state.ca.us/initiatives/pdf/sa2001rf0027.pdf.

Kathay Feng, Asian Pacific American Legal Center & Jyoti Nanda, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund

WITH THE STRIKE NARROWLY AVERTED APABA PRESENTS ITS

First Annual Law Students/Judges vs. Lawyers

Softball Game And Picnic



WHEN: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2002
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Palisades Recreation Center
851 Alma Real Drive
Pacific Palisades, 90272

Bring your family, friends, softball gear, and cheering section for a friendly game of softball and some good old fashioned hotdogs, hamburgers, and the best pre-packed salad that Costco offers.

Cost: \$6.00/person (children 6 and under free)

All players will receive a FREE APABA T-shirt!! (value: priceless)

Please RSVP to Teri Pham at (310) 777-1990 or ttp@rnlaw.com

(Continued from page 3)

and serves on the Young Lawyers Division Council of the American Bar Association behalf of the National Asian Pacific Bar Association.

Reid Honjiyo (Board Member)

Mr. Honjiyo is a 1987 graduate of the UCLA School of Law. He is a Deputy Alternate Public Defender for Los Angeles County. He previously served the Japanese American Bar Association as a board member, secretary, and as co-Chair of the Asian Concerns Committee. He is a founding member of APABA, and has served on the L.A. County Bar Association Judicial Election and Judicial Appointment Committees. He is a former instructor at the People's College of Law.

Margaret Johnson (Board Member)

Ms. Johnson is senior counsel with the law firm of McKenna & Cuneo, L.P., and a member of the firm's Appellate and Toxic Torts departments. Ms. Johnson has served as co-chair of the APABA Public Appointments and Membership Committees. In addition to her bar activities, Ms. Johnson has been active in community service as a member of the Junior League of Los Angeles and has served as a Commissioner for the City of Lomita.

Candice Kim (Board Member - Representative, Korean American Bar Association)

Ms. Kim is a graduate of Loyola Law School. She brings a wide range of experience to the practice of law, having been engaged in representation of minors, civil rights litigation, and public policy development and advocacy in the areas of transportation, banking, finance, and economic development. Currently, Ms. Kim is a member of the Board of Directors of the Korean American Bar Association.

Richard Kudo (Board Member)

Mr. Kudo is a graduate of UCLA and the Hastings College of the Law and is of counsel to Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl, Young & Jones, P.C., and specializes in bankruptcy, commercial, business and attorney malpractice litigation. He was actively involved with the Legislative Committee of the State Bar of California in analyzing new and proposed legislation affecting civil procedure and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Asian Pacific Alumni of UCLA and the Asian American Friends of the Center Theater Group. He has also served as a volunteer judge *pro tem* for the L.A. County Municipal Court.

Kasie W. Lee (Board Member - Law Student Representative)

Ms. Lee is currently a third-year student at USC Law School. Her involvement with the API community includes serving as a law clerk in the API Unit at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles during the summer of 2001 as well as creating and directing the Asian Outreach Program at the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center of Yolo County. She is the recipient of the Chao Suet Yee Scholarship, given annually to a student in the UC system who shows dedication to the API community.

Raymond Sakai (Board Member)

Mr. Sakai is a litigation associate at Franscell, Strickland, Roberts & Lawrence, where his primary practice includes civil rights, employment law and governmental entity defense. For the past two years, he has been the Co-Chair of APABA's MCLE/Programs Committee. Additionally, he is on the Japanese American Bar Association's Community Education Committee.

Mona Patel-Sikora (Board Member)

Ms. Patel-Sikora is a Staff Attorney with the Immigrants' Rights Project at Public Counsel. She heads the Violence Against Women Act Project and provides legal representation for battered immigrants in the area of immigration law. Prior to coming to the U.S. she received a Master's Degree in Social Work and worked extensively with battered women and children. In 2002, she was named one of California's top 20 Lawyers under 40 by California Law Business Magazine.

Chirag Shah (Board Member)

Mr. Shah practices ERISA, employee benefits and labor and employment law at Schwartz, Steinsapir, Dohmann & Sommers LLP. Mr. Shah has served as co-chair of APABA's Community Education/Pro Bono Services Committee, APABA's representative to the Multicultural Bar Alliance, and the South Asian Bar Association's representative to APABA. He also serves on the SABA Board, where he is co-chair of its membership committee and representative to the MCBA.

Jean Song (Board Member)

Ms. Song obtained her B.A. at UCLA and her law degree from Loyola Law School. Jean practices in the area of tax law and is employed by the Office of Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service. She is also an appointed Special Assistant United States Attorney and represents the United States on behalf of the IRS in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Michael Suzuki (Board Member)

Mr. Suzuki obtained his B.A. from UC Berkeley and his J.D. from Hastings College of the Law. After being admitted to the bar, he began working in the Los Angeles County Public Defenders Office and has remained there ever since. He is currently assigned to the Mental Health Branch representing those subject to civil commitment. Mr. Suzuki has served as a board member and President of the Japanese American Bar Association, is currently the president of the Asian Pacific Public Defenders Association, serves as board member of the Japanese American Citizens League, and acts as co-chair of the Asian Concerns Committee. He recently wed Akemi Arakaki, another active bar member and Public Defender, and cruises with her on a "Hog" on the weekends.

Diane M. L. Tan (Board Member)

Ms. Tan, a 1979 alumnus of USC School of Law, is a Deputy Attorney General with the Health Quality Enforcement section where she practices administrative, health care and governmental law. Formerly, Ms. Tan served as President of the Japanese American Bar Association. She also has served as the President of the Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance.

Rosario Tobias (Board Member)

Ms. Tobias is a graduate of UCLA School of Law and served as a judicial extern for Hon. Robert M. Takasugi, U.S. District Judge, Central District. She obtained her B.A. at UC Berkeley. She practices in the area of employment law with Alvarado, Smith & Sanchez. Prior to that, she worked for Swerdlow Florence Sanchez & Rathbun in Beverly Hills. She is a former President of the Philippine American Bar Association and was PABA's representative to the Multicultural Bar Alliance. She has worked on various issues, such as the legislative bill for the Filipino Veterans of World War II, hate crimes legislation, and support for the family of Joseph Iletto and the issues surrounding his murder. She was also involved in the Planning Committee for the 2000 National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Conference in L. A.

Michael Yamamoto (Board Member)

Mr. Yamamoto, a 1971 graduate of UCLA School of Law, is in solo practice specializing in criminal defense. He is a former Deputy Public Defender for the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office and previously was a partner in the law firm of Horikawa, Ono and Yamamoto. He serves as APABA's representative to and is former chair of the Multicultural Bar Alliance. He has served as president of JABA and co-chair of the Asian Concerns Committee and formerly danced with Pacific American Ballet Theatre, Florence Sinay Ballet, and Ballet for Topanga. He continues to play rhythm guitar for the band, "Use a Guitar, Go to Prison."

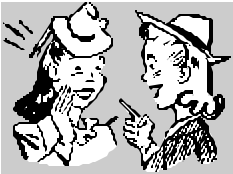
Please Return Your Ballots By September 15, 2002.

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Dolly M. Gee

6300 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2000

Los Angeles, CA 90048-5202



In Flagrante Delicto



It very well may have escaped the notice of those overheated basketball fans who could not see past the annual victory parade from City Hall to Staples, past the hoopla, hype and hokum, to discover the real reasons for our seemingly uncanny success. Basketball scholars are just now beginning to realize that this current winning streak began, not with the acquisition of any player or coach, but with the inception of APABA. How did APABA resurrect "Showtime"? This, so it seems, is the Divine Secret of the APABA Sisterhood. Who are they? Like many of you, we know little more than that they are led by **APABA President Rita Gunasekaran** and though little is known about them, their influence has been far-reaching and unmistakable. In response to the enormous public curiosity about them, IFD set out to get some answers.

On May 17th, we wandered into the downtown reception honoring **Judge Fumiko Wasserman** for having been awarded the California Women's Law Center Joan Dempsey Klein Award, and noted several dignitaries including **Justice Joan Dempsey Klein** herself, **Judge Madge Watai**, **President Rita Gunasekaran**, **MCBA** and **APAWLA** co-chair **Diane Tan**, **Deana Chuang**, **Dolly Gee**, **Kathryn Hirano**, **Mona Soo Hoo**, **Anne Manalili**, **Luci-Ellen Chun**, **Bill Seki**, **Tomas Guterres**, **Gavin Wasserman**, **Steven Wasserman**, and, of course, husband **Ron Wasserman**, former law partner of recently-appointed **Judge Vincent Okamoto**. Congratulations, **Vince**.

May 23rd marked the raucous reception at Monterey Park's NBC Seafood, where a packed house of friends and supporters saluted **Janice Fukai**, new APD and first Asian American woman Los Angeles County department head. On hand to

celebrate this auspicious event were elite defenders, both public and private: **Akemi Arakaki**, **Reid Honjiyo**, **Angela Oh**, **Kathryn Hirano**, **Mona Soo Hoo**, **Craig Osaki**, **Mimi Kim**, **Robin Chew**, **Michael Suzuki**, **Terry Ng**, **Tommy Lee**, **Michelle Ahn**, **David Cho**, **Ken Nakamura**, **Gary Tanaka**, **Grace Ashikawa**, **John Y. Lee**, **Jon and Haydeh Takasugi**, as well as **Dolly Gee** and **Judge Fred Fujioka**. Congratulations to **Terry Ng** on the birth of **Audrey**.

Finally, on June 4th, a clear majority of the California Supreme Court, represented by **Justices Ming Chin**, **Carlos Moreno**, **Joyce Kennard**, **Marvin Baxter** and **Kathryn Werdegar**, appeared unanimous as they joined with **MC Betty Chim/Lieu**, at the downtown City Club, to celebrate the historic appointment of **Judge Debra Yang** United States Attorney for the Central District, first Asian American woman, etc. Among the notables there to congratulate **Judge Yang** were **Judge Ronald Lew**, **Magistrate Judge Jennifer Lum**, **Commissioners Joseph Biderman** and **Robert Kawahara**, **Judges Kenji Machida**, **Owen Kwong**, **Tomson Ong**, **George Wu**, and **Jon Mayeda**, as well as **Diane Tan**, **Elaine Lu**, **Phil Lam**, **Daniel Wu**, **Gordon Eng**, **Bill Seki**, **Takashi Cheng**, **Andy Yamamoto**, **Patti Horikawa**, **Tomas Guterres**, **Luci-Ellen Chun**, **Justin Lum**, **Alex Fukui**, **Robert Lum**, **Rosalind Patamakanthin**, **Torrance City Councilman Ted Lieu**, **APABA Past President Howard Halm**, **APABA President-elect Paula Daniels** and **APABA President Rita Gunasekaran**.

And so, once again, our keen investigative instincts and lofty journalistic standards have exposed the actual forces behind these victory parades, while providing a prophetic peek at the 21st century practice and revealing the Divine Secret of the APABA Sisterhood which is:

SISTERS RULE.



Come Celebrate the Historic Appointment of Our Own

Jacqueline H. Nguyen and Tammy Chung Ryu

**The First Vietnamese-American and the First Korean-American Women
Appointed to the Bench in California**



**Thursday, September 19, 2002 6:00 P.M. -8:00 P.M.
The Empress Pavilion
988 N. Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Admission \$15.00

Reception hosted by APABA Co-Sponsored by JABA, KABA, SCCLA, and WLALA

Please RSVP by September 16, 2002 to Jocelyn Ramos: jramos@hbblaw.com or (310) 215-7100, Ext. 7861

**The APABA Reporter
12021 Wilshire Blvd., #603
Los Angeles, California 90025**

