



# Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association E-Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: Cecilia Zhang Stiber, VP of Communications

December 2010

## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of CAPABA,

As we begin our second decade of CAPABA, we have much of which to be proud - our membership, sponsorship, and supporters have grown immensely; our programming has become more varied as we continue to provide our members with significant opportunities in public service, networking, education, and support; and we have successfully partnered with other bar associations through the sponsorship and planning of numerous events and programs - all while maintaining our focus of promoting and supporting Asian Pacific Americans and their interests in the Connecticut legal community and beyond.

As most of you may know, we celebrated our first decade of CAPABA with our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Silent Auction in Stamford, Connecticut. This event featured a reunion of Founders Ivan Fong, Amy Lin Meyerson, James Wu, and Mony Yin; the awarding of our Diversity Award to United Technologies Corporation; the awarding of our first Founder's Award to Ivan Fong; the awarding of the CAPABA Educational Foundation's First Scholarship Award to University of Connecticut law student Heidi Cha; and an esteemed panel of speakers that included Ivan Fong, the Honorable Denny Chin, and Don Liu. Anyone who attended this event witnessed how far we have come as an organization in just ten years. And we are just getting started. . . .

Looking forward, we are fortunate to welcome to our board, Sandra Lalli from Diageo, who will serve as a Director, and Alvin Lim from GE Capital, who will serve as our Secretary for the New Year. Our Board will truly benefit from the new ideas and enthusiasm from both Sandra and Alvin.

I am also proud to announce that CAPABA will serve as the host for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Northeast Regional, which is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Stamford Marriott Hotel and Spa. Like in years past, this Regional will feature all of the great panelists, speakers, events, and networking opportunities for our members and friends. I

welcome all of you to learn how you may get involved in what will truly be a wonderful event.

I am also happy to note that our Mentoring Program is well underway for the new school year with several of our attorney members already being matched up with many of our law student members. These newly established relationships are already yielding great results for the participants. I encourage our members to get involved in this very rewarding program as either a mentor or a mentee.

Finally, we are thankful for Diageo's generosity in holding our first Open Membership Meeting at their offices in Norwalk, CT on December 14<sup>th</sup>. This meeting served as our holiday gathering for our members and friends, and featured some great networking opportunities, as well as food and drinks provided by Diageo.

I am excited for what this year holds for us, and to serve as your President as we begin the next decade of CAPABA. I urge you to get involved in our many events and opportunities. I also welcome the opportunity to discuss our organization with you, and to hear any suggestions on what we can do to better serve you as our members.

Best regards,  
Calvin Woo  
CAPABA President 2010-2011

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## ***NAPABA's 22nd Annual Convention Attracts 1800 Asian Pacific American Attorneys to Los Angeles, CA***

The 22nd Annual Convention of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) was held at the JW Marriott at L.A. LIVE in Los Angeles, California, from November 17th to 21st, 2010. The Annual Convention's "INSPIRE" theme celebrated the successes of Asian Pacific American (APA) lawyers and encouraged them to continue to strive for excellence and to give back to their communities. Over 1,800 APA attorneys in private practice, corporations, government, and the private sector attended, along with state and federal judges, law professors from around the country, and local law students.

Highlights of the Annual Convention included the largest gathering of state and federal APA judges in history, a celebrity-studded welcome reception, the International Law Symposium, a public interest summit, and many other special events, such as the Trailblazers Awards ceremony and the Partners-In-House Counsel Dinner at the Japanese American History Museum.

CAPABA members Amy Lin Meyerson, Calvin Woo, Carlton Chen, Don Liu, Sandy Lalli, and Tanya Bovée attended the Convention. Don Liu also served as moderator for "Lessons Learned from the Great Recession and How to Prepare for the Next One." Carlton Chen served as program chair, moderator and a panelist for "Supply Chain Management in a Post Recession Economy: Critical Legal Issues to Promote U.S. Outbound/Inbound Production of Goods."

The Convention featured a team of NAPABA all-stars in a re-argument of *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, the landmark birthright citizenship case of 1898. Participants

included the Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice-elect, California Supreme Court; the Honorable Denny Chin, Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; the Honorable Susan Oki Mollway, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court of the District of Hawaii; the Honorable A. Wallace Tashima, Senior Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and the Honorable Amul Thapar, District Judge, U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Actress Tamlyn Tomita (*Joy Luck Club* and *Karate Kid*) hosted the Anniversary Gala and Celebration Dinner, to close out the Convention. The Dinner featured remarks by the Honorable L. Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs in the United States Department of Veteran Affairs.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of NAPABA will be held next November in Atlanta, Georgia. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lakBfMj6ScM> for an introductory video on YouTube and please mark your calendar to attend next year!



*CAPABA officers and members of the Board of Directors, including (from left to right) Carlton Chen, Amy Lin Meyerson, Tanya Bovée, and Calvin Woo, attending the NAPABA Convention*

***Tanya Bovée, CAPABA Director and Past President, Receives 2010 NAPABA Best Under 40 Award***

Congratulations to Tanya Bovée on her selection as one of NAPABA's best lawyers under the age of 40 for 2010. Tanya received her award, known as "BU40," at the NAPABA 2010 Convention in Los Angeles. CAPABA nominated her earlier in the year.

Tanya is a partner in the Hartford office of Jackson Lewis LLP. She represents management in employment litigation and counsels employees on personnel matters. A CAPABA Board member and past President, she is active in many activities that serve the APA community.

According to Jim Goh, Chair of the NAPABA BU40 Selection Committee, "this year's nominees were impressive and the decisions extremely difficult." From a highly competitive field, Tanya was one of 20 young lawyers to receive this award, which recognizes those who have attained excellence and prominence in their respective legal endeavors. Recipients also must exhibit steadfast commitment to community and public service, particularly in the APA community.



*Tanya Bovée*

***The CAPABA 10th Annual Dinner & Silent Auction***

***By Jaclyn Leung and Cecilia Stiber***

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, CAPABA hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Silent Auction at the Holiday Inn in Stamford, Connecticut. The event marked a memorable and significant milestone in CAPABA's history as our organization celebrated its 10-year anniversary. CAPABA members and friends from various business industries and legal sectors attended the program in support and recognition of our organization's achievement in the past decade.

A cocktail reception with a featured lion dance kicked off the evening. Guests networked and mingled in the spacious Atrium area of the hotel. The main portion of the program began with welcoming remarks by CAPABA's immediate past President, Douglas Hirai. The evening proceeded with the recognition of CAPABA's founders, including Mary Chang, Ivan Fong, Amy Lin Meyerson, James Wu, and Mony Yin. CAPABA member and General Counsel of Xerox, Don Liu presented the CAPABA Founders Award to Ivan Fong, General Counsel of US Department of Homeland Security. After the dinner portion of the event, guests were treated to an informal discussion with a panel consisting of: the Honorable Denny Chin, U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, the Honorable Ivan Fong, General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Don Liu, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Xerox Corp. The esteemed Panelists provided anecdotes about their careers and personal lives and answered questions from attendees on a variety of topics.

During the evening, CAPABA's President Calvin Woo presented CAPABA's Annual Diversity Award to United Technologies Corporation, a longstanding supporter of the

organization. An-Ping Hsieh, Associate General Counsel, United Technologies Corporation and CAPABA Board of Directors member, accepted the award on behalf of the company. Amy Lin Meyerson, CAPABA Board of Directors member also provided an address on behalf of the CAPABA Educational Foundation and presented the CAPABA Educational Foundation Scholarship to UConn Law student, Heidi S. Cha. Ms. Cha was selected as the recipient of the scholarship because of her service and dedication to addressing the legal concerns of the Asian Pacific American community. Ms. Cha is currently the Co-President of the UConn chapter of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

Attendees also received an informative update of events from representatives from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA). NAPABA's Northeast Regional Governors, Jin Hwang, Verizon Wireless and Jeffery Hsi, Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP, provided a brief update on NAPABA's upcoming regional and national conferences and congratulated CAPABA on its 10th anniversary on behalf of NAPABA. The evening concluded with the installation of the new Board for the 2010 – 2011 year.



*Guests at the 10th Annual Dinner and Silent Auction*



*Panelists, including (from left to right) Don Liu, the Honorable Ivan Fong, and the Honorable Denny Chin, discuss APA attorney's role and experiences in public service at the 10th Annual Dinner and Silent Auction.*

***Heidi Cha, UConn Law Student and CAPABA Member – Recipient of the 2010 CAPABA Educational Foundation Scholarship Award***

Heidi H. Cha is currently a third year student and a member of the class of 2011 at the University of Connecticut School of Law, where she is the president of the Corporate & Securities Law Society and the co-chair of the Student Bar Association Diversity Committee. She is also a recipient of The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association's First Annual Priscilla Greene Scholarship (2010); the recipient of the CALI Excellence for the Future Awards in Clinic, Tax (2009) and the CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Regulations of Financial Institutions (2009). Ms. Cha served as a teaching fellow with the UConn School of Law/Robinson & Cole Summer Law Institute in Hartford's Law and Government Academy and as a legal intern with the UConn Law Tax Clinic, working with and researching issues facing the Asian Pacific American and immigrant communities. She holds bachelors of art degrees in Journalism & Mass Communications & East Asian Studies from

New York University. Before entering law school, Ms. Cha was a structured finance legal assistant with Thacher Proffitt & Wood LLP in New York, New York. She is an accomplished cellist, épée fencer and fluent in Korean.

***Achievement Mentoring Program by CAPABA and CHBA***  
***By Tanya Bovée, CAPABA Director and Past President***

CAPABA and Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association's joint Achievement Mentoring Program is in its third year. The mentoring program was established to assist students in Connecticut who are in law school or plan to attend law school to become successful attorneys by matching them with practitioners who have a shared area of interest. Through the program, students have an opportunity to gain information about the actual practice of law and discuss other questions or concerns they have about law school and a career in the legal profession with their assigned mentor. This year's class is currently comprised of thirteen mentees who are law students at Yale, UCONN, Quinnipiac, and Western New England who have been paired with mentors from CAPABA and CHBA. On behalf of the Achievement Mentoring Program, we are grateful to the mentors who graciously coach and counsel the students. If anyone you know is interested in becoming a mentee or a mentor, please contact Tanya Bovée at [boveet@jacksonlewis.com](mailto:boveet@jacksonlewis.com) or (860) 522-0404.

***CAPABA Open Membership Meeting and Holiday Gathering***  
***By Angel Feng, CAPABA Director and Past President***

On December 14th, 2010, CAPABA held its Open Membership Meeting/Holiday

Gathering. The event was sponsored by Diageo and held at its headquarters in Norwalk, Connecticut. Diageo hosted CAPABA at its bar for refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. Attendees were treated to Diageo's collection of branded premium spirits, beer and wine.

CAPABA President Calvin Woo gave an update on our activities, including the upcoming NE Regional to be hosted by CAPABA. CAPABA Director Carton Chen shared with us pictures and highlights of the NAPABA Annual Convention in Los Angeles.

The event was a true success drawing long-time as well as new CAPABA members. CAPABA thanks Diageo for providing us with a great venue to network, meet old and new friends, and celebrate the holiday season.



*CAPABA members and friends gather for the holidays at the recent Open Membership Meeting.*



*Calvin Woo, CAPABA President, talks to members and friends about recent activities and upcoming programs.*

## ***CAPABA Members Become James W. Cooper Fellows***

The Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF) recently elected CAPABA members Calvin Woo, Carlton Chen, Don Liu, Doug Hirai, Susan Kim, and An-Ping Hsieh as James W. Cooper Fellows. Don Liu was also recently appointed to the CBF Board. Fellows are selected based on their outstanding professional, public and private careers in which they have demonstrated extraordinary legal ability and devotion to the welfare of their community, state and nation, as well as advancement of the legal profession.

The Fellows Program is named in honor of James W. Cooper, who was a senior partner in the law firm of Tyler, Cooper & Alcorn. He served as President of CBF, the Connecticut Bar Association, the New Haven County Bar Association, and was a member of the faculty at Yale Law School. Attorney Cooper left a generous bequest to the CBF upon his death.

CBF, established in 1952, is a non-profit organization based in Hartford that develops and administers programs to enhance understanding and improvement of the law and legal institutions, and sponsors educational symposia. CBF also administers the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA), the Judicial Branch-Grants-in-Aid, and the Court Fees Grants-in-Aid programs for the benefit of legal services agencies in Connecticut. CAPABA Board member Amy Lin Meyerson is a member of the CBF Board of Directors.

## ***CAPABA Welcomes New Secretary Alvin Lim***

Alvin is employed by GE Capital and holds the titles of Senior Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer. Alvin first joined GE Capital in February 2008, initially supporting GE Capital's Bank Loan Group's

interest rate management platform. Currently, Alvin supports the Bank Loan Group's core business of managing GE Capital's portfolio of senior syndicated loans as well as various Bank Loan Group's initiatives, including structured financial products. In addition, Alvin is the Chief Compliance Officer for a registered investment adviser affiliate of GE Capital. Prior to joining GE, Alvin was an associate in the New York offices of Milbank, Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP, Allen & Overy LLP and Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP. His practice focused primarily on finance, including CDO's and cross-border leveraged leasing.



*Alvin Lim*

## ***The Giving Pledge, The Law Student Version*** ***By Heidi Cha***

The recent news that Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg has signed onto the "Giving Pledge" which asks its signatories to commit publicly to give away the majority of their wealth got me thinking: not about philanthropy, not about the tax consequences of such giving, but about myself. The thought process from Zuckerberg, the 26-year old billionaire with personal net worth of \$ 6.9 billion in 2010 according to *Forbes*, to myself, the 25-year old law student with uncertain net worth in 2010 according to Sallie Mae, my student loan lender, may not scream similarities. After all, last time I checked, Mr.

Gates and Mr. Buffet did not leave any messages with my secretary asking me to be the next signatory to the aforementioned pledge.

I thought of myself because I consider myself, along with my generation, to be privileged. I belong to a generation that can make change every day – if we want to. Such a privilege starts with only a mouse click away. We can communicate instantly: with a click of a mouse, we can make our voices heard anywhere in the world and react proactively to other voices. We can have access to infinite amounts of information: with a click of a mouse, we can learn about virtually anything and put things into context. We can even advocate for a cause without leaving the house: with a click of a mouse, we can connect with other likeminded individuals to fundraise or sign a petition online.

As easy as this all sounds, the irony of our generation is that most of us do not aim to make meaningful changes, big or small, every day or in our lifetime. This is because although such ‘privilege’ is a mouse click away, commitment is not. And real change requires commitment. In order to make real change, it is not enough to simply write an op-ed piece in the local paper, have access to information equivalent to an entire library building, or “like” the Facebook group of a non-profit of your choice. Real change requires time, dedication and hard work. Real change requires our generation to commit.

This commitment factor, in my view, is only heightened for lawyers. Lawyers play a crucial role in shaping the lives of individuals with their learned trade, especially in the United States, and should bear a greater responsibility. The most important realization that escapes many lawyers is the power that they yield to dramatically improve the lives of many, especially in the low-income and ethnic communities. Instead of

the disconnect with the world outside the legal community, lawyers need to see beyond billable hours and their client base to commit to a change – a change for a bigger cause.

So this is my “Giving Pledge:” I was honored to be the first recipient of the CAPABA Educational Foundation Scholarship and The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association Priscilla Greene Scholarship in 2010. With great honor comes greater responsibility, and I commit myself to making change happen and giving back in my capacity now as a law student and in the future as a lawyer. In whatever endeavor I pursue, I promise to commit myself fully and hope to inspire a broader group of young generation to commit to “giving,” however you define it, in our lives. And I hope to share the stories that were inspired in my journey at a future CAPABA Dinner, 10 or 20 years down the road, as I remember myself as a 25-year old, at a similar dinner, being the first recipient of the scholarship that inspired me to sign the “Giving Pledge” of my own.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Angel Feng, CAPABA Director and Past President, Joins Wiggin and Dana LLP***

Angel Feng, a member of the CAPABA Board of Directors, and a CAPABA past President joined the law firm of Wiggin and Dana at their Stamford office in November, 2010. Angel is an associate in the firm’s Labor, Employment and Benefits Department, and focuses her practice on representing employers in all aspects of federal and state court employment litigation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

***NAPABA Northeast Regional  
Conference, June 3-5, 2011,  
Stamford, CT***

CAPABA is pleased to announce that the 2011 NAPABA Northeast Regional Conference will be hosted by CAPABA at the Marriott Hotel and Spa in Stamford, CT, from June 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please save the date and look out for more details to follow.

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*Please send any articles or information, such as news or announcements, that you would like to have published in the next issue of the CAPABA E-Newsletter to **Cecilia Zhang Stiber** at **[cstiber@daypitney.com](mailto:cstiber@daypitney.com)**. Please also feel free to provide suggestions for future articles or comments on what you read. Note: The opinions expressed in the CAPABA E-Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect association policy or editorial concurrence. Publication of any written materials or advertisements does not constitute an endorsement. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or edit materials or advertisements in accordance with their editorial judgment.*