

2009 Annual Report



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Vice-Chair	Emily Kuo
Secretary	Warren Huang
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Hugh U. Chong (2008-2009)	Trang Q. Tran (2009-2010)
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Patricia E. Lin (2008-2009)	Emily Kuo (2009-2010)
Catherine Than (2008-2009)	Warren Huang (2009-2010)

The Asian American Bar Foundation of Houston, Inc. (AABF), which was incorporated in 2005, is a non-profit, charitable and educational affiliate of the Asian American Bar Association of Houston (AABA) that is tax exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3). The AABF's mission is to educate and serve Asian American lawyers and Asian American communities in the greater Houston and surrounding counties. In furtherance of its mission, the AABF through the grant of scholarships, stipends and/or research funds strives and aspires to do the following:

- Encourage Asian American participation in the legal profession, legal scholarship and legal support services;
- Sponsor seminars, conferences and workshops on legal topics of interest or benefiting the Asian American community;
- Help fund legal aid facilities benefiting the Asian American indigent or working poor;
- Support new immigrants and Asian American youths through legal and educational forums; and/or
- Support activities which will promote and aid an improved system for the administration of justice and the improvement of the Bench and Bar in Harris County, Texas and surrounding areas.

CHAIR'S NOTE

We spent 2009 continuing to serve the legal and educational needs of the local Asian American community. In the past, the AABF has given funds in support of Boat People SOS, Daya Inc., the Asian American Pro Bono Summit, the Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition, Lone Star Legal Aid, and the Texas Access to Justice Foundation's Hurricane Ike Relief Fund. This year, we disbursed the following Judicial Internship Stipends and Public Interest Scholarships:

- \$1,000 Judicial Internship Stipend to Stacy Ly, from Appalachian School of Law
- \$1,000 Judicial Internship Stipend to Nicholas Shum, from University of Houston Law Center
- \$1,000 Judicial Internship Stipend to Margaret Tung, from Texas Tech University School of Law
- \$1,000 Judicial Internship Stipend to Catherine Yen, from University of Houston Law Center
- \$1,500 Public Interest to Natalie Nguyen, from Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- \$1,500 Public Interest to David Wu, from South Texas College of Law

I would like to thank the AABF's exceptional Board of Trustees for their work and dedication. I am very happy that this year, with the help of the board members, we were able to streamline the bylaws of the AABF to comply with the recently adopted Texas Business Organizations Code. I would also like to thank our sister affiliate, the Asian American Bar Association of Houston. The AABF was born of off-hand comments made during AABA officers meetings in years past and daydreams during board meetings of other charitable organizations. As a result, the AABF is a direct offspring of the AABA, and its goal is to act as the charitable arm of the AABA. More importantly, the AABA has continuously demonstrated its commitment to pro bono, civic and charitable causes through its unwavering support of the AABF, for which we remain extremely grateful. Finally, I would like to thank the many donors, patrons and supporters of the AABF for their kindness and help throughout the year.

In its short life, the AABF has had a positive impact on thousands of people in the Houston area. I have great hopes that our impact will grow rapidly in the coming years.

HOANG QUAN VU
2009 AABF CHAIR

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of year 2009, the AABF had a total asset balance of \$110,064.30. This amount was comprised of \$19,564.30 in the business checking account and \$90,500.00 in a time deposit account (CD). The business checking account is used for the routine activity of the AABF and organized in a QuickBooks accounting file in a monthly financial statement basis. The time deposit account was established to generate an interest income on the funds not in current use.

Since AABF is not a for-profit business, there was no 2009 income in a traditional sense. The funds contributed to AABF are charitable donations by donors and not an income source to AABF. During the year, AABF made the following major disbursements:

• Public Interest Scholarship (Natalie Nguyen)	\$1,500.00
• Public Interest Scholarship (David Wu)	\$1,500.00
• Judicial Internship Stipend (Stacy Ly)	\$1,000.00
• Judicial Internship Stipend (Nicholas Shum)	\$1,000.00
• Judicial Internship Stipend (Margaret Tung)	\$1,000.00
• Judicial Internship Stipend (Catherine Yen)	\$1,000.00

Other expenses incurred by the AABF were for routine office expenses in running the foundation.

For the foreseeable future, the goal of AABF is to bolster our total asset base so that we can allocate more of our assets to different fixed income securities and other financial equities that will give us best optimal return on our assets. The AABF's financial strategy continues to focus on building a sustainable corpus to support the AABF's charitable and educational mission.

AABF Supporters

The AABF was formed by a group of former AABA presidents and officers who identified the need for the AABA to have a charitable arm through which it could promote legal education, participation in the legal process, access to justice and other issues to benefit the Asian American community in the greater Houston area. The AABA has traditionally donated to the AABF a significant portion (frequently up to 50%) of the net proceeds from its annual gala and silent auction. The AABF appreciates the AABA's continuation of this tradition through its donation of a portion of the proceeds from the Gala. The AABF wishes to thank its other donors and supporters, including:

AABF DONORS

Presidential Circle

AABA (\$15,000)

Patrons

Greater Houston Community Foundation – Harry Gee Family Fund (\$2,250)

AGL Resources, Inc. and Dat Tran (\$2,000)

Benefactors

Don and Nancy Woo (\$500)

Sponsors

Catherine Than and Hoang Quan Vu (\$250)

Donors

Various donors to AABA Silent Auction (\$7,265)

In-Kind Donors

Gabriel Tran Photography

Houston Aeros Charities

Houston Ballet

Houston Symphony

Houston Texans

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner

InterContinental Houston

Laser Perfect

Laurenzo's El Tiempo Cantina

Main Street Theater

Mark's American Cuisine, 1658

Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Nick H. Sorensen, Porter & Hedges,

Niko Niko's

Noel Castro at Satori

Omni La Mansion Del Rio

Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt,
Redstone Golf Course
SeaWorld Adventure Park
Sensia Studio and Japanese Day Spa
Society for the Performing Arts

Letter from Natalie Nguyen

May 13, 2010

Dear Mr. Vu,

Thank you for the 2009 AABF Public Interest Scholarship. It is truly an honor for me to receive this award. I wish to describe to you my experience with public interest work had over the summer after my 1L year. I interned at the Harris County District Attorney's Office "HCAO" for 2 months. I was assigned to the White Collar Crime Section or previously known as the Special Prosecution Bureau. Then, I worked with the Family Criminal Law Division. At first, I did not know what public interest really meant. With no previous legal work or experience, I thought public interest is the basic theory of helping the public. However, after my experience at the HCAO, I realized the true meaning of public interest work.

Public interest means serving the public to protect individual rights, assisting people in need, and prosecuting criminals for a better community. My true sense of public interest was modeled by my mentor, Donna Goode. Donna Goode was the White Collar Crime Chief Bureau. She is currently the First Assistant of Galveston County District Attorney's Office. She helped opened my eyes to the legal world of public interest. She devotes her time tirelessly prosecuting criminals and selflessly protecting victims. I can see her dedication and feel her passion for the work she does. I am inspired to go into the public interest legal field because I saw the difference in people's life when justice was served, the victim's sense of dignity was restored, and the security of peace was made achievable when the court granted the protective orders against family violence.

My favorite experience is when I helped the Family Criminal Law Division with the protective order cases. I interacted with mostly mothers and sometimes with children who have experienced some type of family violence. Every week, I will go to court with the Assistant District Attorneys and the victims for the hearings on their request for a protective order against their spouses or boyfriends. In the two months I worked there, the courts have granted at least 80 protective orders. After each protective order that was granted, I saw relief and happiness in the victim's eyes. I do not believe there is a greater reward that one can get out of their job than to have helped another person and receive that look of relief at the end of the day. I hope all of them

will finally have a peaceful, healthy and normal life again. This inspired me and made me looking forward to going to court every week. This has been the most rewarding job I have ever had. I hope one day that I will be given this opportunity again.

Receiving the 2009 AABF Public Interest Award was an honor for me. This experience helped me solidify my desire to work for the interest of the public. My public service experience has improved my professional development and allowed me further define my true meaning of Public Interest work which I found in the people who do this work selflessly and in the impact their work has to the public. Again, I thank you for the award but most importantly for this experience because it has given me an opportunity to work side by side with such inspiring legal professionals and to know what it means to serve the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie Minh Nguyen". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Natalie Minh Nguyen

2L at Thurgood Marshall School of Law