

2006 Annual Report



Officers

Chair

Patricia E. Lin

Vice-Chair

Catherine Than

Secretary

Rina Chang

Treasurer

Kristy Ton/Hugh U. Chong

Trustees

Rina Chang (2005-2006)

Kristy Ton (2006-2007)*

Hugh U. Chong (2006-2007)*

H. Quan Vu (2005-2006)

Patricia E. Lin (2006-2007)

Andrea Tran, *ex officio*

Catherine Than (2006-2007)

* Mr. Chong replaced Ms. Ton on the Board of Trustees following Ms. Ton's resignation and relocation to Japan.

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

The Asian American Bar Foundation's inaugural year was a great success. After receiving our 501(c)(3) status from the IRS in May, we focused our efforts on introducing ourselves to the Asian American community and the bar community of the greater Houston area. In July, we formally kicked off the AABF's programming and fundraising campaign at a bubble tea mixer hosted by the Asian American Bar Association.

The AABF's community grant program attracted such qualified applicants that the Board of Trustees decided to award two grants instead of just one. Boat People SOS Houston, an organization that provides immigration and legal assistance to Vietnamese refugees, received a grant for its Immigration Outreach Program. Daya Inc., an organization that serves South Asian families affected by domestic abuse and violence, received a grant for its Community Based Legal Education Initiative. Boat People SOS Houston and Daya Inc. will report about the outcome of these programs in 2007.

In November, the AABF underwrote the first ever Pro Bono Summit for Asian American Legal Service Providers and Referral Agencies. This summit was hosted by the Asian American Legal Center and OCA-Greater Houston and brought together organizations that serve the legal needs of the Asian American community to discuss how to ensure that the poor in the Asian American community are able to access adequate and effective legal services. We are pleased and honored to have been able to participate in this important discussion and in the publication of the first ever Houston Area Asian American Pro Bono Legal Services Directory.

On a more somber note, the AABF was gratified to be selected as the recipient of donations made in the memory of Ann-Hwa Kao, mother of AABA member Joyce Kao Soliman. The funds will be awarded in a future grant or scholarship program to be designated at Ms. Soliman's discretion.

In closing, I would like to thank the AABF's exceptional Board of Trustees. This organization was born of off-hand comments made during AABA officers meetings in years past and daydreams during board meetings of other charitable organizations. Without the dedication and drive of my fellow Trustees, the AABF would still be just a good idea instead of a live, active organization that is already helping to shape Houston's Asian American legal community for the better. My deepest gratitude goes to Rina Chang, Catherine Than, Kristy Ton and Quan Vu for helping me make the AABF a reality and to Hugh Chong for joining us as quickly as he could!

PATRICIA E. LIN
2006 AABF CHAIR

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of year 2006, the AABF had a total asset balance of \$31,089.24. This amount was composed of \$7,812.63 in the AABF's operational account and \$23,276.61 in the AABF's interest-bearing money market account. The operational account is used for the routine activities of the AABF and organized in a QuickBooks accounting file in a monthly financial statement basis. The money market account was established to generate an interest income on the funds not in current use.

Since the AABF is not a for-profit business, there was no 2006 income in a traditional sense. The funds contributed to the AABF are charitable donations from donors and not an income source to the AABF. During the year, the AABF made the following major disbursements:

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|--|------------|
| • Daya Inc. | \$1,000.00 |
| • Boat People SOS Houston | 1,000.00 |
| • Asian American Legal Center of Texas | 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 the 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 immediate financial strategy is to grow a corpus sufficient to support the long-term charitable mission of the organization.

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 50% of the net proceeds from its annual gala to an appropriate charitable organization. The AABF is intended to be the recipient of such funds henceforth and is gratified to have received 50% of the net proceeds from the AABA's 2005 Gala as its initial endowment. In addition to the AABA's support and partnership in such fundraising activities as the Silent Auction and the Golf Tournament, the AABF wishes to thank its other donors and supporters, especially those who provided support at Fellow levels:

AABF BENEFACTORS

Mr. H. Quan Vu and Ms. Catherine Than (in-kind)

AABF PATRONS

Mr. John Tsai and Waste Management, Inc.

AABF DONORS

Mr. Benjamin Bai

Harry Gee, Jr. & Associates

Mr. Warren Huang

Ms. Emily Kuo

Mr. Mark Lee

Ms. Patricia Lin

Mr. Jason Luong

AABF 2006 COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM



AABF Chair Patricia Lin (l) presenting Community Grant checks to representatives from Daya Inc. and Boat People SOS Houston.

ASIAN AMERICAN PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

