

# 2013 Annual Report



## Officers

Chair	Catherine Than
Vice-Chair	Emily Kuo
Secretary	Audrey Chang
Treasurer	Hugh U. Chong

## Trustees

Hugh U. Chong (2012-2013)	Audrey Chang (2013-2014)
Dat Tran (2012-2013)	H. Quan Vu (2013-2014)
Alice Huang (2012-2013)	Emily Kuo (2013-2014)
Catherine Than (2012-2013)	Daniel Chen (2013-2014)
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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 2013 continuing our mission to serve the legal and educational needs of the local Asian American community. In the past, the AABF has given to not only students, but to organizations such as 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. Below is a breakdown of our major disbursements.

I would like to thank the AABF's exceptional Board of Trustees for their continuing work and dedication. I would also like to thank our sister affiliate, the Asian American Bar Association of Houston. 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, acting as the charitable arm of the AABA, has had a positive impact on the people of the Greater Houston area. I have great hopes that our impact will grow rapidly in the coming years.

CATHERINE TRAM THAN  
2013 AABF CHAIR

## TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of year 2013, the AABF had a total asset balance of \$172,429.69, which includes \$38,427.46 in a checking account, \$94,002.23 in a savings account and \$40,000.00 in a PIMCO investment account. The AABF's business checking account is used for the routine activity of the AABF and organized in a QuickBooks accounting file. The AABF's timed deposit account and PIMCO investment was established or made to generate an interest income on the funds not in current use.

Since AABF is not a for-profit business, there was no 2013 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:

- \$2,000 Herbert W. Gee Memorial Scholarship to Nickie Tran
- \$5,000 Community Organization Grant to Boat People SOS
- \$5,000 Community Organization Grant to Daya Inc.
- \$1,500 APALSA Grant to UH APALSA
- \$2,000 APALSA Grant to South Texas APALSA
- \$2,000 APALSA Grant to Thurgood Marshall APALSA

Attached are reports from the Community Organization Grant recipients relating to their use of the 2013 Community Organization Grants. Other expenses incurred by the AABF were for routine office and miscellaneous 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:

### *Presidential Circle*

AABA (\$20,000+)

### *Patron*

AIG

Greater Houston Community Foundation

Harry Gee & Associates PLLC

### *Benefactor*

Mark and Alice Lee

Warren Recruiting – in honor of Katie Suh

Loan-Anh Tran Kao

### *In-Kind Donors*

FosterQuan LLP

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Jones Day

Latham & Watkins LLP

Sidley Austin LLP

### *Silent Auction Donors*

Al Torres Photography

Alamo Draft House Cinema

Alice Huang

Alvin Gee Photography

Amit Jain

Audrey Chang

Auto Exotic Rental

Avante Laser & MediSpa

Backstreet Café

Bath Junkie  
Beautify Cosmetics (in Ranch 99)  
Bite Macarons  
Bombay Pizza Co.  
Bradford Portraits  
Catherine Than and Hoang Quan Vu  
Central Market  
Clinton and Abigail Yu  
David Hsu Brogden  
Eddie V's  
Helene Dang  
Hotel Ella  
Houston Sports Connection  
Houston Symphony  
Howl at the Moon  
I.W. Marks Jewelers  
James Howard  
Jeremy Lin  
Joyce Kao Soliman  
Judy Liu  
Julie Pi Evans Law Firm  
Khurram Jiwani  
Laurenzo's El Tiempo  
Lucky Strike  
Major, Lindsey & Africa  
Mark's American Cuisine  
Masraff's  
Matthew Goff, LLC  
Melody and Jeremy Wang / Houston Rockets  
Michael Carr Photography  
Monica Pope  
Natural Pawz  
New Addiction  
Norris of Houston Day Spa & Salon  
Olive & Vine  
Omni Hotels  
Oxheart Restaurant  
Pampered Pet Inn  
Pinot's Palette  
Porter Hedges LLP  
River Oaks School of Dancing  
Robert and Anna Chon  
Robin Jackson Photography  
Roula's Nail Spa  
Ruggles Green  
Sea World

Sensia Studio and Japanese Day Spa  
The Capital Grille  
The Houston Astros  
The Houston Ballet  
The Houston Club  
The Houston Dynamos  
The Houston Grand Opera  
The Mad Potter  
TUTS  
Warren Recruiting  
Westwood Golf Club



Celebrating 34 Years of Service  
to the Community

WWW.BPSOS.ORG

July 31, 2014

Re: 2013-14 Grant Report

Asian American Bar Foundation of Houston, Inc.  
Attn: Scholarship/Grant Committee  
P.O. Box 1351  
Houston, Texas 77252

Dear Members of the AABF of Houston:

On behalf of Boat People SOS-Houston, Inc. (BPSOS-Houston), I would like to thank the AABF for their continued support of BPSOS-Houston in our provision of quality legal and social services to the immigrant and refugee population of Greater Houston.

I am writing to report on the generous \$5,000 award given by the AABF for grant year 2013-2014 to provide direct legal assistance via our monthly mobile legal clinics to the vulnerable Southeast East Asian communities in Greater Houston include rural areas in surrounding counties. These clinics provided essential legal information to encourage individuals to apply for naturalization, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival, and other immigration and family legal issues. The combined funds from the AABF and other sources were used to cover staff time, travel reimbursements, equipment purchase, printing and copying costs, and promotion/advertising costs (including brochures, TV/Radio PSAs, etc.).

The AABF funds were used in conjunction with other funding sources to provide direct citizenship application assistance via monthly citizenship information forums, pro se application assistance, and direct legal representation on N-400 and N-600 applications. The Program Coordinator also worked with our Legal Assistant and Staff Attorneys to organization Advice and Counsel sessions at community health and social service fairs. We were also able to provide essential information to local radio and TV stations in Houston on various immigration legal issues.

With Asian American Bar Foundation support, BPSOS-Houston will continue to provide linguistically and culturally competent legal services to historically underserved and marginalized Asian communities in Greater Houston.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vinh Ho', is written over a horizontal line.

Vinh N. Ho, Esq.  
Executive Director - Houston  
Direct: 832-300-5547 Email: [vinh.ho@bpsos.org](mailto:vinh.ho@bpsos.org)

Enclosures



# Celebrating 34 Years of Service to the Community

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Detailed Expenditure Report  
 Grant Name: 084-LEGAL-AABF-TX  
 Grant Period: 09/1/13 - 7/31/2014

<b>Personnel, Transportation, Training</b>	<b>Total</b>
Program Coordinator	2,019.80
Fringe Benefits	472.95
Local Mileage Reimbursement	0.00
<b>Personnel, Transportation, Training Subtotal</b>	<b>2,492.75</b>
<b>Project Related Supplies</b>	
Printing/Copying	360.00
General Office Supplies	174.92
<b>Project Related Supplies Subtotal</b>	<b>534.92</b>
<b>Equipment, Software</b>	
Minor equipment purchase	286.55
<b>Equipment, Software Subtotal</b>	<b>286.55</b>
<b>Publicity/Advertising</b>	
PSA/Talk Shows	750.00
Informational Brochures/Event fliers/Postcards	550.00
<b>Publicity/Advertising Subtotal</b>	<b>1,300.00</b>
<b>Other</b>	
Indirect Costs (Administrative Costs)	385.78
<b>Other Subtotal</b>	<b>385.78</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>





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The Asian American Bar Foundation's 2013 Grant for \$5,000 has helped Daya strengthen its existing legal programs and build on new initiatives. The funds were used towards direct client legal services and outreach/education events.

Started in February 2008, Daya's Legal Clinic was as a result of direct collaborations with local immigration and family law attorneys. We currently work with a legal clinic consisting of 48 attorneys who provide free immigration and family law consultations to Daya clients. We have helped over 654 private clients since inception of the legal clinic. From September 2013 through July 2014, we helped over 233 clients in the legal clinic as well as 5 clients with their retainer fees through funding from The Asian American Bar Foundation. On the immigration side, we were able to support one client in receiving their citizenship while another's green card under the U Visa is pending. One client's divorce and custody was finalized while two custody cases are pending on the family issues side.

With funding support from The Asian American Bar Foundation, Daya's annual seminar, held on September 28, 2013, had the timely topic "Whitehouse to Hillcroft: Immigration Reform, Race Relations & the South Asian Community". This event included an interactive discussion on immigration reform, race relations and their impact on the South Asian community. The Immigration panel provided a policy-level overview, with national, state and local perspectives. The Race panel discussed how racial stereotypes and profiling have affected the community, especially in the aftermath of 9/11. Parallel break-out sessions gave audience members the opportunity to share their own personal experiences with respect to immigration and race and started a conversation on how the community can safeguard its interests and provide support to those affected by these issues.

**Speaker:** *Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg*, Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research

**Panelists:** *Gordon J. Quan* (Co-Chair Foster-Quan, Former Mayor pro-tem of City of Houston)  
*Deepa Iyer* (Executive Director, SAALT (South Asian Americans Leading Together))  
*Wafa Abdin* (Vice President for Immigration Legal Services, Catholic Charities)  
*Cherry Steinwender* (Executive Director, Center for the Healing of Racism)  
*Damaris Nicholson*, Disproportionality Specialist, Department of Family and Protective Services

**Moderator:** *Mustafa Tameez, Deepa Iyer & Cherry Steinwender*

Partnerships have included:

- Local women's organizations: Houston Area Women's Center; Fort Bend County Women's Center; Montgomery County Women's Center & the Bridge over Troubled Waters among others.
- Legal organizations including Tahirih Legal Justice; Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence; Lone Star Legal Aid; YMCA & Catholic Charities.
- Community organizations: Escape Resource Center, Alliance of Multicultural Family Services, ChildBuilders, Dress for Success, Family Services of Greater Houston, the Change Institute, SAS Rice University, Organization of Pakistan Entrepreneurs of North America
- 26 South Asian Sister domestic violence organizations in the US.
- State Agencies: Office of the District Attorney; Office of the Attorney General; Child Protective Services; Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Harris County Hospital District and the Social Security Admin.
- Local religious groups: Including Hindu, Sikh and Jain temples, mosques and churches which cater to the South Asian community