

# NOTA BENE

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<http://www.abassacramento.com/>

February 23, 2012

## ABAS 2012 Board Takes Office



Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye administers the oath of office to the 2012 ABAS Board at the California Supreme Court.

By Angela Lai, ABAS President

On January 11, 2012, Chief Justice of California Tani Cantil-Sakauye swore in the boards of ABAS and ABAS Law Foundation at the California Supreme Court courtroom in San Francisco. Also present at the swearing-in ceremony were: NAPABA Past President, Phillip F. Shinn; Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley (APABA-SV)

President, Chester Te; ABAS Past President, Mark Morodomi; ABAS Law Foundation past board member, Gene Woo; and California Women Lawyers President, Patricia Sturdevant.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, ABAS met with the Chief Justice and Supreme Court Associate Justice Ming Chin in their chambers. Our boards were at the Supreme Court for over two hours. ABAS is grateful that Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and Associate Justice Chin were so gracious and generous with their time and for their interest in our organization and our work.

A few days later on January 14, 2012, the ABAS board met for an annual retreat. The retreat started with an hour-long board governance training by NAPABA and ABAS Past President Nancy P. Lee.

## Message from the Editors

We'reeee backkkk!

Yes, *Nota Bene* has been revived and we're back to bring you articles, profiles and news about Asian/Pacific lawyers, and probably a whole lot more! *Nota Bene* will be published in every even numbered month so feel free to drop articles on us by the beginning of the month, or whenever you get inspired to make a contribution.

This time around, we have three co-editors: Teresa Chan, Stephen Lau, and Jeff Ogata. Although Jeff edited *Nota Bene* in the past, we're letting him take another shot at it, hoping he will finally get it right.

You can contact us at [teresa.w.chan@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.w.chan@gmail.com), [slau@mgsllaw.com](mailto:slau@mgsllaw.com), or [jefferyo@yahoo.com](mailto:jefferyo@yahoo.com).

Inside this edition, read about the incoming ABAS Board and the impressive swearing-in ceremony administered by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, as well as profiles of Rick Uno, Joshua Kaizuka and Grace Arupo. There are stories about what ABAS has been up to so far in 2012 and what plans we have in store for the rest of the year! We plan to have an extremely active year, so I hope you'll take some time to take a look at Page 5 to check out what events we have planned!

In the future, we will also be planning to have a section letting people know more about who our members are and where they're headed in our "Updates/ On the Move" column! So if you know of someone (or ARE someone) who is "on the move" or "moving up" at work, please email us to let us know!

We would love to get your feedback about what you want to see and help us make *Nota Bene* another award-winning publication.

Your humble editors,  
*Jeff, Stephen & Teresa*

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## President's Corner:

### Change is in the Air

Change is in the air for Asian/Pacific Bar Association, as it is for *Nota Bene*. We hope you enjoy this inaugural edition of *Nota Bene* in electronic form.

The newly elected board met on January 14<sup>th</sup> for a board retreat and planning session for our new year. The board came away with our goals for this year: to maintain a closer relationship with our members; to provide more opportunities for fellowship and relationship building among our members; and to be more involved in the advocacy of issues of profound social, political or legal implications of concern to our members.

We have made a solid start on this year's agenda:

**A Closer Relationship with You.** To fulfill our commitment to maintain a closer relationship with you, we now present to you a renewed *Nota Bene* – in electronic form. Our Publications Committee hopes you will find our bi-monthly newsletter a useful tool to stay connected with ABAS. Our Publicity and Community Relations Committee will also keep you updated with our news and events on our website, [www.abassacramento.com](http://www.abassacramento.com), and on Facebook.

**More Opportunities for You to Build Relationships and Get Involved.** This year, our Continuing Legal Education and Programs Committee will launch a series of MCLE lunch programs. Our first program on "Biases in Jury Selection" will be held on March 15, 2012. Our Mentorship Committee will continue to host mentorship programs for law students and young lawyers. Our first Mentorship Mixer – the Third Annual Mixer Bowl – was held on February 11, 2012. In addition to our Membership Mixer in the summer and Holiday Mixer in December, our Social Committee will launch monthly informal mixers, with the first mixer to be held in March.

**Make Our Voices Heard.** Our Advocacy and Issues Committee will continue to take an active role in helping ABAS stay involved in the advocacy of issues of profound social, political or legal implications – including feature articles on advocacy issues in *Nota Bene*, and partnership with Sacramento and statewide bar and community organizations to make our voices heard. Our Public Appointments Committee looks forward to an active year of evaluating candidates for public and judicial offices, and improving the public appointments process. Our Community Outreach Committee will continue to provide our members with opportunities to provide service to the general and local community. At the recent LSNC Valentine Run, our ABAS "Legal Eagles" team showed a collective support to legal aid, and LSNC's mission to defeat poverty. For more than three years, ABAS members have supported a weekly legal clinic at My Sister's House, a non-profit organization to specifically identify and address the unique needs of women and children impacted by domestic violence in the Central Valley's highly diverse Asian and Pacific Islander community.

As in previous years, the highlight of the year is our annual **Anniversary & Awards Dinner** – which this year will also feature our celebration of the **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ABAS Law Foundation**. This year's annual dinner will be held on April 11, 2012, at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria. Please join us in a most memorable event, with keynote speaker **Associate Justice Goodwin Liu** of the Supreme Court of California, President's Award honoree **Mona Pasquil**, Appointments Secretary in the Office of the Governor, and Community Award honoree **Derek Ledda** of Lions Club International.

As you can see, this is an exciting year for ABAS! In return, here's our appeal to you: ABAS needs your support. **Please join ABAS or renew your membership**, if you have not already done so. (If you have already joined or renewed – thank you!) You may join ABAS or renew your membership by returning the form inside this newsletter, or on our website at [www.abassacramento.org](http://www.abassacramento.org). Please also recommend your friends and colleagues to join as well. Our Membership Committee will be happy to answer any questions regarding your membership. **And please join us in getting more actively involved!** We cannot accomplish our missions and goals without you.

Happy New Year!

*Angela M. Lai*

## Off to a Running Start...

By Grace Arupo and Teresa Chan

While most people in Sacramento might have been sleeping in on Saturday, February 11, ABAS members were up early and out in the cold up in Sacramento's beautiful Arden Park neighborhood. The LSNC Valentine Run is held every year to support legal aid and the Legal Services of Northern California's mission to defeat poverty. This year's ABAS team (aptly dubbed the "Legal Eagles") also participated in the 2011 Run for a Safe Haven, last year in November 2011. This run

is one of the major annual fundraising events held by My Sister's House. A special thanks goes



to Chris Lee for organizing the Legal Eagles team.

Later that day, ABAS hosted its first mentorship event, the Third Annual Mixer Bowl. The crowd was a good mix of students and attorneys. There were over 30 people in attendance, including, ABAS President, Angela Lai and President-Elect, Kara Ueda, who were coming straight from the LSNC Valentine Run! The Bowling Mixer gave students from the local law schools of UC Davis-King Hall, and University of the Pacific, McGeorge, an opportunity to meet ABAS members who are licensed attorneys and currently working in various practice areas in a fun, laid-back atmosphere.



Questions from students ranged from wanting to know about work experience that attorneys had in various practices and

sectors to questions about interviewing and job-hunting techniques.

ABAS plans to keep this event as an annual tradition. The mentorship committee would like to thank all of those who came out to support the Third Annual Mixer Bowl, as well as Alexa Choi who helped spearhead the activities.

## Happy 15th Anniversary ABAS Law Foundation!

By Teresa Chan

This year promises to be a big one for the ABAS Law Foundation, the 501 (c)(3) educational and charitable counterpart to ABAS, as we celebrate its 15th anniversary. The Foundation was established in 1997 to initiate and support educational and charitable works in Sacramento's API community.

Each year, two major fundraisers help fund ABAS Law Foundation's education and charitable works—the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction each spring, and the ABAS Invitational Golf Tournament each fall. This year, the 10th Annual Wine and Food Tasting will be held on May 10, 2012. The ABAS Invitational Golf Tournament will be held on September 9, 2012.

These two fundraisers fund its major expenditure: scholarships to nurture law students and very recent law school graduates from local law schools who have demonstrated potential for community service and leadership in the Asian-Pacific Islander community, academic achievement, and financial need. In recent years, the Foundation has predominantly awarded scholarships to students and recent graduates from Lincoln Law School of Sacramento, U.C. Davis School of Law, and the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. In 2011, the Foundation awarded a total of \$17,500 in scholarship awards.

For those interested in applying for the 2012 ABAS Law Foundation scholarships, the deadline to apply is February 24, 2012. More information is available at <http://www.abaslawfoundation.org/scholarships>.

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## Joshua Kaizuka: Weekday Courtroom Warrior, Weekend Road Warrior



By Mike Iwahiro

"I was speaking English within 3 months," says new Foundation Board Member, Joshua Kaizuka, when recounting his family's move from Tokyo, Japan to the Bay Area, where he was promptly inducted into first-grade schooling. Josh remains proficient in conversational Japanese, which, if I'm not mistaken, qualifies him as one of only a very few Japanese-speaking attorneys in our area.

Josh practices as a criminal defense attorney. After graduating from McGeorge in 2000, he worked in the Yolo County Public Defender's office for around six years and spent a couple of years doing civil rights litigation. The day I caught up with Josh, he had just finished dealing with a preliminary hearing matter and was planning for the next day's court appearance in Vallejo to be followed by a road trip to visit an "in-custody" client. I got the sense that Josh spends a lot of time on the road.

Josh is glad to see the ABAS community "getting back to its roots" and taking leadership roles in important issues such as funding for California courts. I know he is doing his part to support the *Nota Bene* revival because during our interview I heard him mutter something about his rapidly approaching article deadline (which was

significantly shorter than mine and therefore instantly made me feel a whole lot better).

I managed to pry a bit into Josh's personal life. It turns out that that evening he was to be "pinned" as a ride captain for the Sacramento Road Cruisers, a motorcycle club with which Josh will make a 3,300 mile road trip this summer including visits to Mt. Rushmore and Sturgis, South Dakota. (Yes, it is *that* "Sturgis," but Josh says they will be there one week before the official start). The Sacramento Road Cruisers bear some interesting similarities to ABAS. The club supports local charities and appears to be quite an inclusive group: "[N]o discrimination against any makes or models (a wide variety of bikes is found among the membership)." For the record, Josh rides a Harley.

The road seems to suit Josh.

Favorite law school course: "Being a TA because I didn't have to study and I got to grade other students' work."

Last website visited: "You don't want to know."

Paper or Plastic: "Paper"

## “Human Trafficking: Law Enforcement Responds.”

By Angela M. Lai

For over five years, ABAS has had a legal clinic at My Sister’s House. Our legal clinic assists domestic violence victims with legal issues such as restraining orders, family law filings, housing assistance, and immigration.

On February 9, 2012, ABAS co-sponsored a conference entitled “Human Trafficking: Law Enforcement Responds.” The conference was presented by My Sister’s House. In addition to ABAS, other co-sponsors included The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT) at Alliant International University, the Sacramento Employment & Training Agency (SETA), Sacramento Asian Peace Officers Association, WEAVE, Inc., Opening Doors, and the Soroptimist of Sacramento. The conference offered 4 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits.

ABAS is currently working with My Sister’s House on two additional CLE sessions this spring—one session on culturally appropriate services to domestic violence victims, and one session on domestic violence restraining orders.

## Getting to Know Grace

By Ruthe Ashley

Grace Marie Arupo, Asian Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento’s Immediate Past President, embodies her name and did much to raise the visibility of ABAS during her year as president.

Grace received her JD in 2002 and was hired for her first job at Downey Brand in Sacramento. Then-hiring partner Rick Sueyoshi (now Honorable Richard Sueyoshi) encouraged Grace to join ABAS. In 2007 she joined the California ISO as corporate counsel where she continues to practice general corporate law, licensing, intellectual property and real estate. With 10 years of practice under her belt, she has learned the business and art of lawyering and continues to gather information that will help her find her perfect place in the law.

Grace is passionate about mentoring, having been mentored by heavyweights and seeing what an impact mentoring has individually and for the profession. She reached out for leadership roles early on in her career, first as an ABAS board member in 2002 and also as a board member of the Sacramento Women Lawyers from 2002-2004. Grace has been on the ABAS board for 10 years and remains as an advisor to the board in her role as immediate past president. Currently, Grace also sits on the UC Davis Alumni Board.

Grace loves to salsa dance and will dance the night away if you give her an opportunity to do so. In 2006, she was having a great time at a Salsa Club in Sacramento when a young handsome Puerto Rican impressed by her dancing, asked her to dance. Hard to turn that down....so Grace had her first dance with Luis Rodriguez. After five years of dating, Luis and Grace have set a wedding date for this fall.



## Issues and Advocacy Corner

By Joshua Kaizuka

With the restart of *Nota Bene*, we hope to bring you articles relating to issues affecting not only the API community, but also those relating to civil rights in general. More in depth articles will appear in future issues, but for now, a brief recap of issues in the news now:

In recent months, we have all read about budget cuts to the courts as well as AB 1208 that would strip the authority of the California Judicial Council to control budgets. The net effect is that there is a funding crisis for the courts statewide that has impacted the ability of the courts to conduct its business. In some counties courtrooms have been shuttered, in most counties public access to court services have been reduced, and civil cases cannot be sent out to trial in a timely manner because criminal trials have priority. With all that is going on, what we will see is a dwindling of the ability of the courts to serve its function, a timely resolution of civil and criminal litigation for the residents of California.

Of course there is Prop. 8. The gay marriage issue in California has been on-going with many twists and turns. In a nutshell, gays could not marry, then the California Supreme Court said that under the California Constitution, there was a right for gays to marry. Then came Prop. 8 and a majority of those voting took that right away by amending the State Constitution. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in a 2-1 decision held that there was no rational basis for the amendment pursuant to Prop. 8. There is a dispute on whether the U.S. Supreme Court will hear this case because of its narrow ruling.

Finally, Lin-sanity. It is unclear why some individuals seem to think that Jeremy Lin, an API who grew up in Palo Alto, who graduated from Harvard, now playing for the NY Knicks, is not being recognized for just being a great basketball player. Sure he is an API, but really? He is as American as apple pie and a great success story and those in the know, know that he is hitting the news because of phenomenal ability on the basketball courts...not because he is an API. It is disturbing that some higher profile individuals have tweeted or publicly stated that Lin is being highlighted in the media because he is API. How do you not report about a player who scored 136 points in his first five games with the Knicks, a Harvard Grad in the NBA, and who seemingly is just a nice guy and a potential role model for all?

(Getting to Know Grace cont.)

Grace loves to travel, and together with her family has traveled the world from Bosnia to Mexico and everywhere else in between. Grace spent 6 weeks traveling around Europe with her sister after her bar exam. Since then Grace has been to New Zealand, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. In 2008 Grace traveled to the Philippines as a volunteer and helped build homes in the provinces for one week. Grace’s love of people and her warm infectious smile helps her build long-standing friendships wherever she goes.

The Sacramento legal community is so lucky to have Grace as part of the profession and as a growing influence and leader for the Asian Pacific American community.

## Mark Your Calendars!

**February 24, 2012:** Deadline for ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship applications. For more information, visit

<http://www.abaslawfoundation.org/scholarships>.

**March 7, 2012, 5:30 pm:** Monthly ABAS membership happy hour at *Il Fornaio*. Come out for a no-host bar happy hour and snacks to beat the mid-week blues and to mix and mingle with fellow ABAS members! No sign-up or RSVP needed. Just show up!

**March 11, 2012:** "Night Out with the Kings". ABAS is joining other API organizations for a fun evening at the Sacramento Kings v. Atlanta Hawks game to raise funds for Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs' (APAPA) internship and scholarship program. This will be a fun opportunity for ABAS members to network in an informal setting with fellow ABAS members and our community partners at a discounted price of \$35 per ticket for lower level corner section seats (normally \$79 to \$139 seats). If you are interested in joining ABAS for a fun night out, please contact Kara Ueda ([Kara.Ueda@bbklaw.com](mailto:Kara.Ueda@bbklaw.com)).

THE ASIAN/PACIFIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF SACRAMENTO  
PRESENTS

### Biases in Jury Selection

#### FEATURING

Patrice Truman, Esq.  
Jury and Trial Consultant

Please join the Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento for this unique and informative event, and learn about the conscious and unconscious biases jurors have and how they may affect jury selection techniques, and strategies.

#### DETAILS:

Thursday, March 15, 2012  
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
MCLE Credit: 1.0 Elimination of Bias

Mennemeier, Glassman & Stroud, LLP  
980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California

Lunch will be provided

\$25 - ABAS Members  
\$30 - Non-ABAS Members  
Please make checks payable to "ABAS" and send to:

Colleen Howard  
Porter Scott  
330 University Ave., Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95825

RSVP and payment to Colleen Howard at [choward@porterscott.com](mailto:choward@porterscott.com)  
by **March 13, 2012**

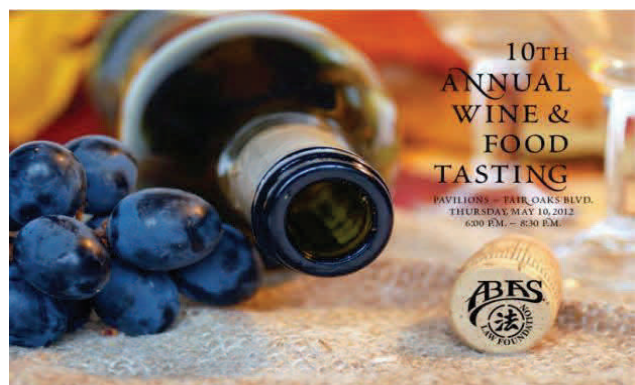
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**March 15, 2012, 12 to 1pm:** "Biases in Jury Selection". This year, ABAS will present a series of MCLE lunch programs. Our first program, will feature jury and trial consultant Patrice Truman, Esq. Patrice Truman is a national jury and trial consultant serving both plaintiff and defense attorneys in all areas of law. Her work involves various aspects of pretrial and post trial jury research, including focus groups, mock trials, prospective juror questionnaires, jury selection assistance, post trial interviews, witness preparation, and other strategic trial research. This program is approved for 1.0 hours of Elimination of Bias CLE credit.

**April 2, 2012:** Deadline to RSVP for the 31st Anniversary & Awards Dinner and 15th Anniversary Celebration of the ABAS Law Foundation! Please see the flyer and registration form on the following page for more detailed information.

**April 4, 2012, 5:30 pm:** Monthly ABAS membership happy hour at *Il Fornaio*. Come out for a no-host bar happy hour and snacks to beat the mid-week blues and to mix and mingle with fellow ABAS members! No sign-up or RSVP needed. Just show up!

**April 11, 2012:** 31st Anniversary & Awards Dinner and 15th Anniversary Celebration of the ABAS Law Foundation. Please see the flyer and registration form on the following page for more detailed information.



**May 10, 2012, 6 to 8:30pm:** 10th Annual Wine & Food Tasting fundraiser in support of ABAS Law Foundation. *Additional details to come.*

**September 9, 2012:** ABAS Invitational Golf Tournament. *Additional details to come.*



*The Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento*

*Cordially Invites You to Its*

***31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary & Awards Dinner***

*&*

***15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the ABAS Law Foundation***

**Wednesday, April 11, 2012 | Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I Street, Sacramento**

**Hosted Bar – 5:30pm | Dinner/Awards – 6:15pm | Keynote Speaker – 7:45pm**

***Keynote Speaker:***



***The Honorable Goodwin Liu***

***Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court***

*And the Presentation of*

***ABAS President's Award:***

***Mona Pasquil, Appointments Secretary in the Office of Governor Jerry Brown***

***ABAS Community Award:***

***Derek Ledda, Lions Clubs International***

***ABAS Law Foundation Annual Scholarships***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ABAS Member discount @ \$65 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-ABAS Member @ \$80 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Seating Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Student discount @ \$45 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Table (10) @ \$650 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP & PAYMENT BY APRIL 2, 2012**  
Please mail your checks, payable to "ABAS," to  
ABAS, Attn: Annual Dinner, P.O. Box 2215,  
Metro Station, Sacramento, CA 95812-2215

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To RSVP, please contact Jeannie Lee Jones at [jslee@water.ca.gov](mailto:jslee@water.ca.gov) or (916) 653-3710.

For sponsorship and all other questions, please contact Angela Lai at [alai@dmhc.ca.gov](mailto:alai@dmhc.ca.gov) or (916) 323-0435.

# Have you renewed your membership yet? If not...



Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento  
P.O. Box 2215, Metro Station, Sacramento, CA 95812-2215  
[www.abassacramento.com](http://www.abassacramento.com)

## 2012 Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in, and continued support, of the Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento. The Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento (ABAS) was formed in 1981 to promote and protect the interests of Asian and Pacific Islander American attorneys and the API communities in the greater Sacramento area. We are a member association of both the Asian/Pacific Bar of California (ABC), the statewide umbrella organization for Asian lawyers' and judges' associations, and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the national umbrella organization for Asian lawyers' and judges' associations. ABAS is certified by the State Bar of California and is an affiliate member organization of the Sacramento County Bar Association. ABAS has been described as one of the most dynamic organizations in the Sacramento legal community and the Asian/Pacific Islander American communities. We are an advocate in the Legislature and the Governor's Office on issues of concern to the Asian American community statewide, and continue to participate, educate and serve a leadership role in local community issues.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Active Member (5 years or less)  
Admitted to practice in CA on or after 1/1/07
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$65 Active Member (5 years or more)  
Admitted to practice in CA before 1/1/07
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Law Faculty, Judicial, Inactive, and Retired Attorneys
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Non-Profit Organization Member
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Sustaining Member (OPTIONAL)  
Past and present board members & super supporters of ABAS
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Pre-Professional Member (Law students & recent graduates)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal? Yes/No

If you are a new member or your contact info has changed, please complete the information below:

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Practice: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Fluency of Languages? \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of joining ABAS: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please send the membership/renewal form to the address above.  
Thank you for supporting ABAS!

## Wise Words from Rick Uno

By Administrative Law Judge Dee Brown

This is an ongoing series of articles profiling ABAS veteran members who have been involved in and have supported ABAS throughout its 30-plus years in existence. This issue's member profile focuses on ABAS member Rick Uno.

I sat down with Rick during a recent ABAS Law Student Bowling Mixer at Land Park Lanes.

**Dee:** So tell me a little bit about your background.

**Rick:** I graduated from Hastings School of Law in 1980. My first law job was with the United Cannery Workers. I practiced labor law. In 1981, I became involved in ABAS. In 1983, I started my own law practice, doing business transactions, litigation, and estate planning. I did this for 17 years. After that, I worked for the Human Rights Commission. I started working at the Department of Real Estate 3 years ago.

**Dee:** What do you do outside of law?

**Rick:** I enjoy local trout and bass fishing with my son. He is 14 years-old. I also have a daughter. She is 22, and is a UCLA grad. I also enjoy going to Kings games. My wife is an attorney, too.

**Dee:** Discuss your involvement with ABAS.

**Rick:** I served on the ABAS Board in the late 80's and early 90's. I became the ABAS president. There were a few firsts for ABAS when I was president. I had strong committee leaders such as Tosh Yamamoto, who started the first ABAS golf tournament. Mike Iwahiro headed up the committee for the first ABAS scholarship for law students. There was no ABAS Law Foundation in existence yet. ABAS also had a subpanel of API lawyers for the Volunteer Legal Services Program. Our lawyers took referrals from the program.

**Dee:** Have you always been involved with ABAS since its inception?

**Rick:** I took a break from ABAS, and under ABAS President Kathryn Doi, I returned to ABAS and became involved with ABAS's mentorship program. On the committee, we coordinate socials, host small dinners, and mentor law students.

**Dee:** Do you see any current challenges for ABAS?

**Rick:** It's hard to get mentorship participation from the lawyers. Also, I'd like to see ABAS increase its membership. ABAS should be attractive for recruitment. ABAS should also increase its advocacy role, concentrating on API issues. The key to a strong ABAS board is to have strong committee leaders willing to take charge.

**Dee:** Any words of wisdom for young ABAS lawyers?

**Rick:** Commit yourself to a goal or project. Don't be a member, be a leader.



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## 2012 ABAS Board

### President

Angela Lai  
Department of Managed Health Care  
[alai@dmhc.ca.gov](mailto:alai@dmhc.ca.gov)

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[kara.ueda@bbklaw.com](mailto:kara.ueda@bbklaw.com)

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Mennemeier, Glassman & Stroud LLP  
[slau@mgslaw.com](mailto:slau@mgslaw.com)

Chris Lee

Department of Managed Health Care  
[clee@dmhc.ca.gov](mailto:clee@dmhc.ca.gov)

Joshua Kaizuka

Law Office of Earl Carter  
[jkaizuka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkaizuka@sbcglobal.net)

Steven Tsuyuki

Department of Social Services  
[steven.tsuyuki@dds.ca.gov](mailto:steven.tsuyuki@dds.ca.gov)

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CA Department of Water Resources  
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Teresa Chan

ICF International  
[teresa.w.chan@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.w.chan@gmail.com)

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California ISO  
[garupo@caiso.com](mailto:garupo@caiso.com)