

NAPALSA

The National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association

Quarterly Newsletter 1

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Letter from the President . . .

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings on behalf of the 2010-2011 Board of Directors!

As the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (NAPALSA) enters our 30th year, we are excited to continue our mission to represent the interests of Asian Pacific American law students and provide advocacy, support, and networking opportunities for its members throughout the United States.

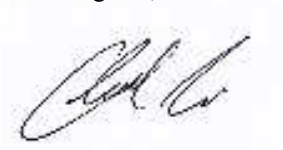
This year's Board of Directors is comprised of very talented and committed individuals, each with their own perspectives to help build a stronger Asian Pacific American community. Currently, the NAPALSA Board is working hard to strengthen our relationships with affiliates, raise new funds, and plan our annual conference. We also hope to expand our membership to APALSA chapters not yet affiliated with NAPALSA.

Additionally, the Regional Directors will be hosting an event in their respective region. All affiliates in the region will be invited to attend. It is our goal to build stronger relationships with our affiliates to better serve their needs and develop foundations of support to meet goals both locally and nationally.

Lastly, the NAPALSA Board will be working diligently to plan for our upcoming 2011 NAPALSA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on November 16-20, 2011. This year's theme, "Cultivate," affirms our dedication to provide support and help develop Asian Pacific American law students to become successful professionals. Scheduled events include panels, mentoring workshops, receptions, social events, and numerous networking opportunities with NAPABA attorneys and fellow NAPALSA members. We invite you to join us at the conference and look forward to seeing you there.

As NAPALSA continues to evolve, I hope we may provide new avenues to strengthen and promote the connection between law students, professionals, and the community. We welcome your feedback throughout the year and I personally invite you to share your thoughts and ideas with me directly at president.napalsa@gmail.com. I look forward to a year of progress and success.

Best Regards,



Chad Li
President
National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association
president.napalsa@gmail.com



WHY JOIN NAPALSA?

NAPALSA continues to be the only national student-led organization to link affiliated Asian Pacific American law student organizations and law students across the country, and promote their interests. By joining NAPALSA, you and your APA organization are directly benefiting from our national network of students and attorneys as well as our experience and know-how from our twenty five years of existence. In addition, as a member of NAPALSA, you are contributing to the strength, voice, and power of NAPALSA and the greater APA community. Being an official affiliate of NAPALSA will provide your community with great benefits:

- **Networking Opportunities**
 - Annual NAPABA (National Asian Pacific American Bar Association) Convention
 - Regional workshops (e.g. Bay Area APALSA Conference)
 - Inter-APALSA events (e.g. New York Inter-APALSA Council meetings & mixers)
- **Career and Professional Development**
 - Lawyer/Judge Regional Mentorship Program (Connect to practicing legal professionals in the region you intend to practice in post-law school)
 - “First Bite” Program (NAPALSA posts open internships/jobs before these opportunities are made known to the public)
 - APA Resource Handbook (includes information on local bar association and other contacts from across the nation)
- **National Updates**
 - Biannually NAPALSA newsletters (includes spotlights on chapter affiliates and interviews with attorneys/judges)
 - NAPALSA online blog
 - Shared calendar between all affiliate members so that everyone is in the “loop”
- **APA Unity and Solidarity**
 - An APA issue is highlighted in each NAPALSA newsletter
 - Regional workshops involving APA issues have open invitations to affiliates
 - Exchange of statistics and findings on APA enrollment and admissions to law schools, law firms, and public interest organizations



It is time...

NAPALSA continues to add members, and there is still time to pay membership dues!

Please contact NAPALSA Treasurer, Nathan Zhang, treasurer.napalsa@gmail.com or check our website for the current membership form.

Dues are \$75 per year for Affiliate Organizations and \$35 a year for individual Members (if your law school has no APALSA Affiliate Organization).

NAPALSA VOICES PROJECT



Rachany Son is the Vice President of NAPALSA and first year law student at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

Over the past few years, NAPALSA has actively been gathering stories, opinions, and commentaries written by law students across the country. Our hope is to use all of these "voices" to better connect our large national network of aspiring lawyers. It is this hope that materialized into the *Voices* project.

The APA community has numerous voices, varying in opinion, degree, and thought. However, as students scattered throughout the nation, we are often unaware of the events that occur outside our local communities. This project serves to increase awareness of such events and provides law students across the country an opportunity to share their legal views, current issues, and community events with each other. Let your voice be heard and submit an op-ed article to your local NAPALSA Regional Director for publication on this website and in our national newsletter.

Below is only the first of many articles to come. We hope you enjoy them and form your own views on the issues mentioned in the articles.*

*Please note that the opinions reflected on this forum are of the author's alone and not of the law school, workplace, or any other entity referred to on this page. All writings published on this page do not represent opinions of NAPALSA. Our goal is to share as many voices as possible.

Reaching Out and Reaching Up

Jonathan C. Li is the Regional Director of the Northeast for NAPALSA. He is also the current President of the New York Inter-APALSA Council.

Prior to law school, I had not taken any leadership roles in organizations such as the Asian student groups or professional organizations. However, that all changed when I got to law school.

Asians in the workforce today face what is called the "bamboo ceiling." This refers to the phenomenon in which Asians are well represented in the lower-echelon of professional jobs, but are much underrepresented in the executive and upper-management levels. There is a disproportionate ratio between those who start out at entry-level positions and those who manage to work their way up. This is especially prevalent in the legal field where there are a far smaller percentage of Asian partners and judges as compared to Asian attorneys. Some of this can be attributed to the fact that there are far fewer Asians in the legal field than in medicine or business. (I can personally attest to this as I have many relatives who have attended to med school or business school but not one went to law school.) However, a lot of it is due to stereotypes and misperceptions that Asians are hardworking and diligent but lack communication and people management skills. Asians are also viewed as passive. I have no doubt that some of my former coworkers prior to law school saw only me as the quiet Asian guy who comes in and does his work and leaves.

All of this has motivated me to get more involved in the Asian American legal community. I have served on the board of Hofstra's APALSA, and am the current President of the New York Inter-APALSA Council and Northeast Regional Director of NAPALSA. I have had many positive experiences as a result of my involvement in these organizations. I believe that change is possible but it must start at the roots. Asians are now in the position other minorities groups were once in. As law students we can start by collaborating and supporting each other's APALSA events, workshops, trainings, forums, and conferences. It is also important to network and build solidarity within the Asian community. Organizations such as NAPALSA are especially vital because they bring students together and represent them and give them a voice. It is only by helping each other can we help ourselves to prepare for successful future legal practice. To quote Chris Chan, "it would be great if there were more chopsticks in the offices."



NAPALSA VOICES PROJECT (cont.)

The Significance of Birthright Citizenship in the APA Community



Jonathan Le is a 1L at Southern Methodist University and current Central South Regional Director.

I recently had the pleasure of reading an article about birthright citizenship by former Texas Solicitor General Jim C. Ho. In his article, Mr. Ho addressed how many opponents of birthright citizenship support state legislation to disqualify children of undocumented immigrants. I strongly agree with Mr. Ho's stance that children born in the U.S. are entitled to American citizenship, regardless of their parents' status

Though I am far from a constitutional scholar, I believe that the opening language of the 14th Amendment is quite clear. The first sentence states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States." To me, there are no implied exceptions or exclusions to the guarantee of citizenship to those born in the U.S. I think that a person would be hard pressed to read in any other interpretation.

As future lawyers, I feel that we should be cognizant of this enduring issue. While the debate over birthright citizenship may not be as pressing to APAs as it was 20 or more years ago, it continues to directly impact our community. Even if our legal careers do not take us into the field of immigration law, I think we should make an effort to help immigrant families. Regardless of how long ago their family immigrated here, every person that is born in the U.S. should not be deprived their constitutional right to citizenship.



NAPALSA VOICES PROJECT (cont.)



Over \$1,100 Raised for Japan Relief Efforts

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Central Ohio in collaboration with the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association hosted a Fundraising Happy Hour on March 30, 2011.

Despite the sudden onset of snow, in just two hours, over thirty-five attorneys, law students, and other professionals joined together at Bar 23 in the Short North to raise over \$1,100 to be donated for relief efforts in Japan. To make as large of an effort as possible, NAPALSA pledged to contribute \$10 on behalf of every law student that attended and APABA-CO provided a \$500 match. 100% of the proceeds of the event will be donated directly to the American Red Cross.

Local organizations that were invited include: the Young Asian American Professional Network, American Constitutional Society, Asian American Community Services, the John Mercer Langston Bar Association, and the Columbus chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals. Our thoughts are with the people of Japan and our friends and family affected by the tragic earthquake and tsunami. We want to thank to everyone came out and showed their support!

This article is contributed by Larissa Murakami, a 2L at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in Columbus, Ohio. She is currently Central North Regional Director.



World save the date.

SUSTAINABILITY: renewal and growth for today and tomorrow

SUSTAINABILITY 2011

The NAPABA Convention in Atlanta



November 16-20, 2011 • Atlanta Omni / CNN Center Hotel

Reservations now available: (800) 524-0500 • NAPABA Conference Rate: \$165/night

CULTIVATE

YOUR CAREER



THE OMNI @ THE CNN CENTER | ATLANTA, GEORGIA | NOVEMBER 16-20, 2011

Hotel Accommodations

For room reservations, call (800) 524-0500 and indicate you are attending NAPABA's Annual Convention. Be sure to call by October 27, 2011 to receive our group rate of 165+tax.



NAPALSA

THE NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

NAPALSA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010-2011



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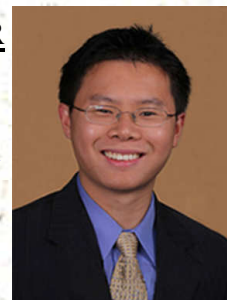


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INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL SPONSORS

NAPALSA is pleased to highlight special opportunities for your company or organization to gain valuable exposure in the community, while supporting a worthy cause. Please read through the following benefits and consider a year-long or specific event sponsorship.

2011 Sponsorship Levels & Benefits: *The following four levels will receive year-round exposure.*

- **Platinum Level (\$1,000) sponsors**
- **Gold Level (\$750) sponsors**
- **Silver Level (\$500) sponsors**
- **Bronze Level (\$250) sponsors**

If none of the above levels meet your needs, it would be our pleasure to discuss other options. Thank you for supporting NAPALSA. We appreciate your sponsorship and look forward to a lasting partnership. In an effort to fully promote your organization, payment for sponsorship is due immediately from when we receive the following completed contract. For more information, visit www.napalsa.com/sponsors.html or contact NAPALSA Treasurer, Nathan Zhang, at treasurer.napalsa@gmail.com.



ABOUT NAPALSA

The National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (NAPALSA) represents the interests of Asia Pacific American law students and provides advocacy, support, and career development opportunities for its members throughout the United States.

Established in 1981, NAPALSA was the first national organization to connect Asian Pacific American members of the legal profession.

In 1988, NAPALSA helped to springboard the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and has facilitated a conjoint conference with NAPABA since 2002. NAPALSA is proud of its partnership with NAPABA to create a unique networking and professional event for students

NAPALSA continues to be the only national student-led organization to link affiliated Asian Pacific American law student organizations and law students across the country and promote their interests. NAPALSA remains the consolidated voice of Asian Pacific American law students and also serves as an advocate and representative for all Asian Pacific Americans.

THE MISSION OF NAPALSA

- To advance Asian Pacific American law students through support, advocacy, and professional development on a national level
- To develop a network of Asian Pacific American law student organizations across the nation
- To foster the exchange of ideas and promote a deeper understanding of the legal, political, and social status of Asian Pacific Americans in society
- To encourage leadership, participation, and involvement in the greater Asian Pacific American community