



## Mar/Apr 2009

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## Featured Event

### SABA-DC to Host Civil & Human Rights Symposium

**When:** Wednesday, April 1, 2009

**Time:** 7 PM

**Where:** Georgetown University Law Center, McDonough Hall, Room 156  
600 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington DC 20001

**Metro:** Union Station & Judiciary Square (Red Line)

SABA-DC, the South Asian Law Students Association at the Georgetown University Law Center, and experts in the fields of surrogacy, adoption, and violence against South Asian women will participate in an interactive panel discussion about contemporary issues affecting South Asian women in the East and West. The program will take place on April 1, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Georgetown University Law Center.

The topics to be addressed in the program will include: 1) Adoption - Although adoption is not only about women or South Asians, many couples in the United States are seeking to adopt children from South Asian countries. The program will examine the process and how the decision of adoption affects the birth mothers abroad and the women at home. 2) Surrogacy - An increasing number of South Asian women - particularly in India, where the process is unregulated - have been getting paid to be surrogates for American parents. The panel will discuss the ethical issues involved, whether surrogacy should be regulated, and what economic and legal implications it may have. 3) Violence Against Women in South Asia - News of honor killings, acid attacks and dowry deaths has increased in the United States. The panel will consider whether this violence is a product of cultural and religious traditions making their way across the ocean and whether the violence is growing in the US.

The panel will be moderated by SABA-DC Programming Director Ritu Kelotra, an Associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and will feature three distinguished speakers: T. Kumar, Advocacy Director for Asia & Pacific, Amnesty International USA; Hilary Neiman, Founder, The National Adoption and Surrogacy Center, LLC; and, Kathleen Strottman, Executive Director, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI).

## March Dinner Series

On March 4, 2009 SABA-DC held a Dinner Series program entitled Rule of Law Reform in Developing Countries featuring Angana Shah, a practitioner with years of experience in commercial legal reform. Rule of law reform has been brought to the forefront of political discourse in recent years due to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. SABA-DC's program focused on the realities of implementing such reforms by focusing on the experiences of Ms. Shah in non-democratic, newly democratic and developing areas of the world such as the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The program covered a variety of issues such as enforcement of judgments, alternative dispute resolution, and commercial law reform.

Ms. Shah also spoke to the students and younger attorneys in the group about entering the field and the many opportunities available to those interested in of rule of law reform. The program was attended by 20 private-practice and government attorneys, students, and practitioners in the area of rule of law reform. SABA-DC's Dinner Series is a monthly program highlighting pertinent issues of interest to its membership. SABA-DC's April Dinner Series is entitled Staying Healthy in a Stressful Legal Industry and Economy and will take place on April 16, 2009.



## 2009 SABA-DC Fellowship

### 2009 SABA-DC Public Interest Fellowship Applications Now Available

SABA-DC will again be providing its annual public interest fellowship this year to at least one deserving law student. The SABA-DC public interest fellowship gives financial assistance to law students working at public interest organizations in the metropolitan D.C. area. The primary purpose of the fellowship is to help fund a student's internship with a public interest organization for the benefit of the South Asian community and the metropolitan D.C. area. The number of Fellowships awarded, as well as the amount of each grant, will be determined by the SABA-DC Fellowship Committee and is based on SABA-DC's fundraising efforts and the number of quality applicants it receives. SABA-DC will be sponsoring at least one fellowship grant of at least \$1500 this year.

Each applicant must be a current law student in good standing, and must plan to be employed or intern with a public interest organization during the summer of 2009. Public interest law can be practiced in five types of settings: nonprofit organizations; legal services organizations; district attorneys/public defenders; federal, state, and local government; and public service law firms. SABA-DC considers all of the materials submitted by the applicant, with particular weight given to the applicant's essay. Other factors that SABA-DC may consider include commitment to public service, financial need, academic achievement, and other personal circumstances.

The 2009 Public Interest Fellowship Application can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.sabadc.org/default.asp?contentID=547>

To be considered, all application materials must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than May 1, 2009 to either [secretary@sabadc.org](mailto:secretary@sabadc.org) or the following address:

South Asian Bar Association Fellowship Application  
c/o Mr. Padma Shah  
The H.T. Than Law Group  
1010 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Suite 560  
Washington, DC 20007

### Donate to the SABA-DC Public Interest Scholarship Fund for 2008

SABA DC invites you to contribute to its Public Interest Scholarship Fund. Your donation will be applied towards the SABA DC Public Interest Fellowship, which is awarded each year to law students working in the field of public interest law on issues affecting the South Asian community. If you have any questions about the Fellowship or would like additional information, please contact us at [sabadc@sabadc.org](mailto:sabadc@sabadc.org).  
<https://secure2.ersvp.com/donate/fellowship>

### SABA-DC Public Interest Programs

SABA-DC is committed to pro bono and other public service activities, and encourages its members to get involved in various activities that serve the South Asian community as well as the DC area more generally. SABA-DC has co-sponsored the DC Bar's Advice and Referral clinic, at which individuals who typically do not have the resources to hire lawyers are offered free legal advice and, when necessary, referred to other available resources.

SABA-DC has participated in efforts spearheaded by the South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT), including its annual Be The Change event which fosters leadership and community engagement through service and volunteerism. SABA-DC also participates in broader, policy-oriented efforts such as organizing panel discussions on a variety of issues of interest to the South Asian community and attending meetings at the Department of Justice relating to a variety of issues associated with access to the judicial system by minority groups.

SABA-DC encourages individuals or organizations to contact a member of the SABA-DC Board with suggestions for activities or potential projects for SABA-DC and its members to serve the public interest.

## April Events

### AAPI-DC and SABA-DC Third Annual Spring Happy Hour Fundraiser

**When: Thursday, April 9, 2009**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

**Where: Skye Lounge**

**1919 Pennsylvania Ave, NW (entrance on 19th and I)**

**Washington, DC 20036**

**www.skyedc.com**

Join the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and the South Asian Bar Association of Washington DC (SABA-DC) for an evening of networking that will benefit the Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF), a non-profit organization based in the United States dedicated to eradicating curable blindness in India. SEF's mission is to realize the goal of 20/20 vision for the people of India by the year 2020.

Take a moment to mix and mingle with young professionals in the area and support the Sankara Eye Foundation to help give the gift of vision. ([www.giftofvision.org](http://www.giftofvision.org))

Metro: Farragut West and Foggy Bottom Metro Stations  
 Phone: 202.331.5800

Cost: \$10 (Recommended Donation)

For more information, please contact:

Chirag Parghi (AAPI)  
 Poonam Sood (AAPI)  
 Ajay Gohil (SABA-DC)  
 Rahul Das (SABA-DC)

Drink Specials until 9:30

### Event: Upakar Foundation presents Paul Varghese, "One night only in DC"

**When: Saturday, April 25, 2009**

**Time: 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM**

**Where: Landsburg Theatre**

What: Performance

Host: Upakar - Indo American Scholarships  
[www.upakar.org](http://www.upakar.org)

### SABA-DC April Dinner Series

#### Staying Healthy in a Stressful Legal Industry and Economy

**When: Thursday, April 16, 2009**

**Time: 7 PM - 9 PM**

**Where: Thai Kingdom**

**2021 K St NW, Washington, DC 20006**

**Metro: Foggy Bottom (Orange and Blue Line),  
 Farragut North (Red line)**

**Phone: (202) 835-1700**

The economy is deeply affecting the legal industry. For some, it is the hard financial facts and the stress, fear, frustration and depression that it brings. Others may not be in a desperate financial situation, but they may still experience a "psychological recession", meaning that they fear the recession is happening and this gives them a sense of loss of control, anxiety about what might happen to them in the future and angst that whatever is happening to others they cannot prevent happening to them. April's dinner series will be attended by professionals from CHAI (Counselors Helping (South) Asians/Indians) who will offer suggestions and resources on how to stay healthy and positive during this difficult time in the legal profession.

Cost: The cost of your dinner (optional)

As always, space is limited, so please RSVP Anuradha at [ABanerjee3@ifc.org](mailto:ABanerjee3@ifc.org).

CHAI is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide outreach, referral and educational services to the South Asian community on issues related to mental health and wellness in the Baltimore / Washington metropolitan area. CHAI also works with mental health professionals and social services agencies to increase their cultural proficiency when working with the South Asian community.

### NetSAP DC / SABA DC - Second Saturday of Service April 11, 2009 - 12 PM - 4 PM - National Mall - Washington, DC

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual National Park Service (NPS) event that celebrates springtime in Washington, DC as well as the 1912 gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan. Volunteer activities will include picking up recyclables, tree watching as the Save our Trees team, and providing information at the main entrance tent. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt and lunch will be provided. <http://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/>

RSVP: By 4/2/09 to [community@netsap.org](mailto:community@netsap.org).

Once your RSVP is received via email detailed information will follow.

**Stress – What Does it Mean and How Does it Affect You?**

– By **Razia Kosi, LCSW-C**

Attorneys work in high stress environments and with clients who are under a great stress. The difference in early identification of stress and responses to the pressure can mean the difference in a person's healthy or unhealthy response to the challenges. Stress is a response to any change that a person must adapt to. A stressor, or identified factor causing stress, can range in intensity from life-threatening danger to loss of one's job. Most people experience some level of stress on a daily basis, for example: nervousness over a court hearing, swerving to avoid an accident, or even a disagreement with a colleague.

A person's prolonged responses to stress can create a state of emotional or mental tension that can result in psychological or biological imbalance impacting a person's long-term health. In today's uncertain economic times, demands on a person can be stretched, and ordinary stressors may become magnified and even greater stressors such as losing one's job can lead to more serious issues with stress. Evidence of how stress can result in serious concerns for lawyers are identified in the following two studies. A 1990 Johns Hopkins study found that lawyers had the highest incidence of depression among 104 occupations.<sup>1</sup> In another study from Washington, 70% of the attorneys in the US were found to be likely candidates for alcohol related problems in during their legal career.<sup>2</sup>

Feelings of anger,

frustration, being overwhelmed, sadness, overreaction to small problems and lack of concentration are some emotional symptoms of stress. Immediate physical responses to stress may include muscle tension, headaches or nervousness. Long-term physical responses to not managing stress include stomach ulcers, high blood pressure, heart disease, strokes and insomnia. Psychological consequences include depression, anxiety, substance abuse, intimate partner violence, social isolation and suicidal thoughts or ideation. One of the most important things to do in managing stress is to recognize the symptoms, identify stressors and change some responses to stress.

A barrier to coping with stress in the South Asian community is overcoming the stigma in the culture to openly discussing stressors in one's life. The perpetuation of the Model Minority Myth, as well as shame in the community about accessing help for emotional or mental health issues, all contribute to the silence on this issue. Creating a safe environment among friends and family to talk about challenges in our lives offers us a release from the pressure valve that may be building up inside us. This is also an important step in breaking the stigma in the South Asian community in talking about mental health and wellness.

**Creating a safe environment to talk about challenges offers us a release from the pressure valve that may be building up inside us.**

Working with doctors and mental health professionals to treat stress can help a person become healthy with both physical and emotional support options. A doctor can assess and treat any physical reactions to the stress, such as increased blood pressure or digestive maladies, and can provide information on changes in lifestyle and coping mechanisms for stress. A mental health professional can offer a safe venue to identify and discuss the stressors and work with the person to build a strategy to either eliminate the stressors or cope with the stressors in a more manageable way.

A common stressor that has surfaced in the South Asian community is family pressure or expectations for marriage and economic success. Learning new patterns of communication, learning to set realistic and challenging goals and also learning to set boundaries that are both culturally appropriate and address the stressor can be some strategies that help to lessen the person's response to stress.

There are many self-directed changes a person can make to change their body's response to stress. Some of the activities are breathing exercises, progressive relaxation, meditation, self-hypnosis, visualization, time-

management, exercising and proper nutrition. Progressive relaxation is a simple technique that involves the tightening and relaxing of the muscles in a systemic manner that allows the release of negative energy from the body. This technique also involves heightening a person's awareness of their physiological state and redirecting their body's energy while clearing their mind of negative thoughts.

Stress, even with serious life challenges, can be managed in more healthy and supportive ways. Learning to talk about stress and recognizing the symptoms of stress are still two important steps toward health and wellness.



*Razia Kosi, LCSW-C is the founder of Counselors Helping (South) Asians/Inc. (CHA), a nonprofit dedicated to education, providing information and referrals in the South Asian community on mental health and wellness. She is also a Cultural Proficiency Specialist with Howard County Public Schools.*

1. Sheldon & Krieger, *supra* note 36, at 262 (citing William W. Eaton et al., *Occupations and the Prevalence of Major Depressive Disorder*, 32 J. OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE 1079 (1990)).

2. Connie J. A. Beck et al., *Lawyer Distress: Alcohol-related Problems and Other Psychological Concerns Among a Sample of Practicing Lawyers*. 10 J. L. & HEALTH 1, 2 (1995).

**Language Access in the District of Columbia**

— By *Nadia Firozvi*

Approximately one year ago, I had the pleasure of writing a brief piece for the SABA newsletter on Language Access for D.C. residents and domestic violence. As a Staff Attorney with the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC), I have been afforded with the privilege of working on Language Access matters in the District, with the D.C. Language Access Coalition and the National Language Access Advocates Network (NLAAN). While limited English proficiency continues to serve as only one of a series of barriers preventing immigrants and limited English proficient individuals from accessing government services, both federal and District law work to address that inequality.

The District has passed one of the most comprehensive language access laws in the country, the 2004 D.C. Language Access Act. The Act mandates the D.C. Government to provide residents equal access to government programs, services, and information regardless of language spoken, through interpretation and translation of all vital services and documents. The Act also allows for the filing of administrative complaints when government agencies do not provide those services.

Last year the APALRC filed the first Language Access Complaint in the District. My client is a Korean speaking lawful permanent resident who works as a mechanic. In January, 2008, he was arrested at his home in Virginia at approximately 3:00am by Fairfax County police. After repeatedly asking for an interpreter by saying "I need Korea," he was never afforded with one. Rather, he was booked, processed, and placed in detention without being informed of why he was arrested.

After spending four days in detention, he was transferred to the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), at the 6th District, where he again asked for an interpreter during his four hours there; his language ability serving as notice of his limited English proficiency. Again he was never afforded with one. Rather, once the MPD conducted a check on his name, they discovered that he should have never been arrested. He was quickly ush-

ered out of the precinct and given a piece of paper in English that stated he was "Released Without Charge."

Only after contacting the APALRC did he learn that he had been unlawfully arrested for the burglary of a liquor store. We chose to file a Language Access Complaint on his behalf, as this was a case demonstrating that denial of language access could lead to the deprivation of one's liberty. The complaint was filed with the Office of Human Rights which found that the MPD had violated the Language Access Act,

and provided corrective action that the 6th District must make within a certain timeframe. Those corrective measures included:

- 1) Training of all staff in a public contact positions in matters of: cultural competency, refreshers on usage of language line, and training on all resources available for communication with limited English proficient individuals;
- 2) Placing informational posters in visible areas advising individuals of their rights;
- 3) Translating documents into various languages.

The APALRC was later informed that the entirety of the MPD would have to abide by these corrective measures, rather than just the 6th District of the MPD. This decision ultimately, served as an important step in ensuring equal access for all regardless of language. Since this determination, the APALRC has filed additional language access complaints against other D.C. government agencies.

For more information on the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, please visit our website at [www.apalrc.org](http://www.apalrc.org). Additionally, the APALRC is always looking for law student volunteers who want to get more involved in their community. If you are interested, please visit our website for more information.

*Nadia J. Firozvi*  
Staff Attorney  
Asian Pacific American  
Legal Resource Center

**While limited English proficiency [prevent] immigrants and limited English proficient individuals from accessing government services, both federal and District law work to address that inequality.**

## Appointments and Endorsements

### SABA-DC Endorses Anjali Chaturvedi



The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, DC has endorsed the nomination of Anjali Chaturvedi, for the Office of United States Attorney for the Northern District of California.

Ms. Chaturvedi has an impressive background that reflects the qualities we believe are ide-

ally suited to the position of United States Attorney. She has served as a Federal Prosecutor in both the District of Columbia and the Northern District of California, holding supervisory roles in both offices. She has also served as Counsel to Senator Dianne Feinstein and held teaching positions at the Georgetown University Law Center and Hastings College of the Law at the University of California. Currently, Ms. Chaturvedi is a partner in the Government Investigations and White Collar practice group of Nixon Peabody LLP.

Ms. Chaturvedi has been a member of SABA-DC for several years and has often spoken at women's leadership events hosted by our organization. SABA-DC is proud to endorse Ms. Chaturvedi for the position of United States Attorney for the Northern District of California. We believe that her outstanding professional background, her commitment to public service, and her superior record of performance make her the ideal candidate for this position.

### President Obama Nominates Florence Pan for the DC Superior Court

On March 24, 2009, President Barack Obama announced his intention to nominate Florence Pan for the position of Associate Judge in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. SABA-DC endorsed Ms. Pan's candidacy earlier this year (see below) and applauds the President's decision to nominate her. Ms. Pan has a distinguished record of service to the District and a demonstrated commitment to the Asian American community. She serves on the Mayor's Commission for Asian Pacific Islander Affairs and is a member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association. SABA-DC congratulates Ms. Pan on her nomination and believes she will be an outstanding addition to the D.C. Superior Court.

Ms. Pan currently serves as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia where she is Deputy Chief of the Appellate Division. Ms. Pan has extensive experience in trial and appellate litigation, both in federal court and in the D.C. Superior Court and serves as a professor of criminal procedure at the Washington College of Law at American University.

### SABA-DC Endorsement Policy

Candidates for judicial nominations, Bar leadership, and senior government appointments seeking an endorsement from the South Asian Bar Association are encouraged to send their request to [sabadc@sabadc.org](mailto:sabadc@sabadc.org). The request will be reviewed by the SABA-DC Endorsements Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Board as to whether SABA-DC should endorse the candidate.

Factors considered by the Endorsements Committee include the candidate's qualifications, past accomplishments, a demonstrated interest in or commitment to the South Asian community, and any past work with the South Asian Bar.

Candidates are asked to submit the following information when seeking an endorsement from SABA-DC:

1. Statement of Interest and Qualifications
2. Description of Position Sought
3. Resume or CV
4. Timeline for the Endorsement
5. Instructions for Delivering Endorsement
6. Any other materials that may be relevant

**Mentorship Program**

SABA-DC invites attorneys and law students interested in participating in its Mentorship Program. All law students and attorneys interested in serving as mentees and mentors are encouraged to complete and submit the following form to [students@sabadc.org](mailto:students@sabadc.org). The form is also available on our website at [www.sabadc.org](http://www.sabadc.org). If you have any questions about our Mentorship Program please contact Anjali Desai at [students@sabadc.org](mailto:students@sabadc.org).

**SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, DC**  
**WWW.SABADC.ORG**  
**2009 MENTORSHIP FORM**

**INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION**

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>EMAIL:</b>
<b>PHONE:</b>	<b>ALT. PHONE:</b>
<b>UNDERGRAD SCHOOL:</b>	<b>UNDERGRAD MAJOR(S):</b>
<b>LAW SCHOOL:</b>	
<b>DEGREE RECEIVED/PURSUING:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> J.D. <input type="checkbox"/> LL.M
	<b>GRAD. YEAR:</b>

**For MENTORS**

<b>EMPLOYER:</b>	<b>POSITION/TITLE:</b>
<b>EMPLOYER TYPE:</b>	<b>TIME W/ EMPLOYER:</b> yrs.    mos.
<b>PRACTICE AREAS:</b>	
<b>OTHER INFO:</b>	

**For MENTEES**

<b>PAST EXPERIENCE (if any):</b>
<b>PRACTICE INTERESTS:</b>
<b>OTHER INFO:</b>

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO ANJALI DESAI AT [STUDENTS@SABADC.ORG](mailto:STUDENTS@SABADC.ORG).**

## SABA-DC Wants You!

Join today! Benefits of membership include:

- Discounted pricing or free entry to SABA-DC events
- Entry to SABA-DC members-only events
- Discounted pricing to the annual North American South Asian Bar (NASABA) Conference
- Information regarding job openings and community events
- Opportunity for placement on the SABA-DC Attorney Referral List

If you are unsure about whether your membership has expired or is about to expire, please contact Anita Khushalani at [sabadcyp@gmail.com](mailto:sabadcyp@gmail.com). For more information or to join go to [sabadc.org](http://sabadc.org).

The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. (SABA-DC) is a voluntary bar association dedicated to the needs, concerns, and interests of the South Asian American legal community in the Washington, DC area. SABA-DC was founded in 2001 as the successor to the Indian-American Bar Association of Washington, D.C. (IABA-DC). SABA-DC's key objectives are to:

- Advance the professional development of South Asian American lawyers and law students;
- Provide a forum for professional and social networking;
- Increase awareness and dialogue regarding legal issues concerning South Asian Americans;
- Improve access to legal services for the South Asian American community, particularly among the least fortunate; and
- Promote a greater understanding of the legal, political, economic, and cultural environment of South Asia.

In pursuit of these objectives, SABA-DC regularly organizes panels, conferences, receptions, community outreach efforts, public service projects, mentoring programs, political awareness campaigns, social and professional networking events and a variety of other activities

The SABA-DC Board is interested in hearing your opinions and ideas about our events and activities. Do you have a suggested topic for an upcoming Dinner Series? Do you have an idea for an event or fundraiser? Would you like to become involved in helping plan upcoming events such as the SABA-DC Annual Holiday Gala? If so, the Board would like to hear from you. Please contact Habib Ilahi, Vice-President of Programming at [programming@sabadc.org](mailto:programming@sabadc.org) with your ideas and suggestions and/or if you would like to become more involved with SABA-DC.

All meetings of the SABA-DC Board of Directors are open to SABA-DC members. We invite you to attend and get involved. Board meetings are held the first Monday of every month at location TBD each month.

## AILA/SABA-DC Citizenship Day

The Washington DC Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) *in partnership with* Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center - Ayuda - Capital Area Immigrants Rights Coalition - Carecen - Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School - CASA de Maryland - Catholic Charities DC and Baltimore - Centro de la Comunidad - CLINIC - DC Language Access Coalition - Just Neighbors - Korean American Community Services - Latin American Youth Center - Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service - Maryland Office for New Americans - Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association - National Council of La Raza - South Asian Americans Leading Together - South Asian Bar Association - Virginia State Bar Immigrant Outreach Committee - World Relief - Young African Professionals presents:

### CITIZENSHIP DAY

**Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009**

**Time: 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

**Attorneys will be available to assist persons in completing naturalization applications at the following venues**

**Cost: \$20 per person\***

#### WASHINGTON, DC:

**Carlos Rosario International  
 Public Charter School**

1100 Harvard Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20009

**Metro:** Columbia Heights (yellow/ green)

\* *No fee for Carlos Rosario students with  
 valid IDs*

#### MARYLAND

**Casa de Maryland Worker's Center**

734 University Blvd. E.  
 Silver Spring, MD 20903

#### VIRGINIA

**Northern Virginia Community College -  
 Arlington Center**

4600 North Fairfax Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 Arlington, Virginia 22201

**Metro:** Ballston (orange)

**St. Gregory's Church  
 Tobias Room**

5343 Virginia Beach Blvd  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23462

#### Citizenship Eligibility Requirements

- Be at least 18 years old by the date you file.
- Have been a lawful permanent resident for at least 5 years (or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen).
- Have been present in the U.S. for 2.5 out of the past 5 years (1.5 out of the past 3 if married to a U.S. citizen) and have not been outside the U.S. for 1 year or more within the last 5 years (3 if married to a U.S. citizen).
- Have been a resident of the state from which you are filing your application for at least 3 months.
- Be able to speak, read, and write ordinary English. (Exemptions may apply in some cases.)
- Be able to pass a U.S. history and government exam. (Exemptions may apply.)
- Be a person of "good moral character" (this will be difficult to establish if you have failed to pay child support, taxes, or have been convicted of crimes, among other things).
- Be willing to take an oath of loyalty to the United States.

SABA-DC and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of DC jointly hosted a Networking Mixer on February 19, 2009. Members of both organizations had the opportunity to meet their fellow South Asian and Asian Pacific American attorneys practicing in the DC area.

