



## May/June 2009

### Executive Board

*President:*  
Dharmesh Vashee

*Executive Vice-President:*  
Anita Khushalani

*Vice-President of Programming:*  
Habib Ilahi

*Vice-President of Communications:*  
Manas Mohapatra

*Vice-President of Finance:*  
Tina Rao

*Secretary:*  
Padma Shah

*Newsletter Editor-in-Chief:*  
Hussain Karim

*Programming Director:*  
Ritu Kelotra

*General Directors:*  
Anuradha Banerjee

Anjali Desai

Ajay Gohil

Rabeha Kamaluddin

Sairah Saeed

*Immediate Past-President:*  
D. Rahul Das

South Asian Bar  
Association  
P.O. Box 65349  
Washington, DC 20035

© 2009 The South Asian  
Bar Association of  
Washington, D.C.

## In this issue...

Fellowship Awards	1 - 2
Public Interest	3
Upcoming Events	4
Spotlight Articles	5 - 6
Appointments and Endorsements	7 - 8
Recent Events	9

## NASABA Foundation - SABA-DC Public Interest Fellowships

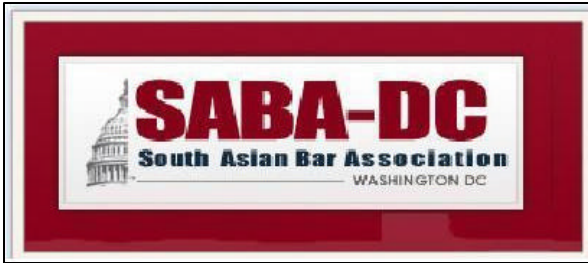
### SABA-DC Awards 2009 Public Interest Fellowships

The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. (SABA-DC) is pleased to announce that Ms. Zahra Khan and Ms. Zara Haq are recipients of the NASABA Foundation—SABA-DC Joint Public Interest Fellowships for 2009.

The Fellowships provide financial assistance in the form of summer stipends to law students working at public interest agencies in the metropolitan D.C. area. The primary purpose of each Fellowship is to help fund a student's internship with a public interest organization affecting the South Asian community in the D.C. area.

Ms. Khan will be a law clerk this summer with the Asian American Pacific Legal Resource Center, which advocates for the legal and civil rights of Asian Americans in the Washington, DC area. She is presently the co-chair of the Domestic Violence Outreach Committee in the Immigrant Rights Coalition and Junior Staff on the Modern American Publication. Ms. Khan has previously served as a law clerk for the Public Defender Service Juvenile Division of DC. She is a graduate of Stony Brook University with honors in History and Political Science, and is expected to graduate from American University Washington College of Law in May 2010.

Ms. Haq will intern this summer with South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), which advocates for issues affecting South Asian communities in the United States. As an intern, she will track various policy issues and analyze their impact on the South Asian community, develop community education and advocacy materials on such policy issues, and assist with policy advocacy efforts with Congressional offices and administrative agencies. Prior to law school, Ms. Haq was a commercial litigation assistant at Howrey LLP. At Howrey, she was involved with the pro bono program and also volunteered with Howrey's DC school tutoring program. Ms. Haq earned a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Virginia, with a minor in South Asian Studies. She is expected to graduate from American University Washington College of Law in May 2011.



# Fellowship Awards (cont.)

May/June 2009

## Public Interest Fellowship Recipients



**Zahra Khan**  
American University  
Washington College of Law

Zahra is a rising 3L at Washington College of Law and a graduate of Stony Brook University with honors in History and Political Science.

She is currently a summer law clerk at the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center. She is presently the co-chair of the Domestic Violence Outreach Committee in the Immigrant Rights Coalition and Junior Staff on the Modern American Publication.

Zahra has previously served as a law clerk for the Public Defender Service Juvenile Division of DC.



**Zara Haq**  
American University  
Washington College of Law

Zara Haq is currently a law student at American University Washington College of Law. Prior to law school, Zara was a commercial litigation assistant at Howrey LLP. At Howrey, she was involved with the pro bono program and also volunteered with Howrey's DC school tutoring program.

This summer, Zara will be interning at SAALT, tracking various policy issues and analyzing their impact on the South Asian community, developing community education and advocacy materials on such policy issues, and assisting with policy advocacy efforts with Congressional offices and administrative agencies.

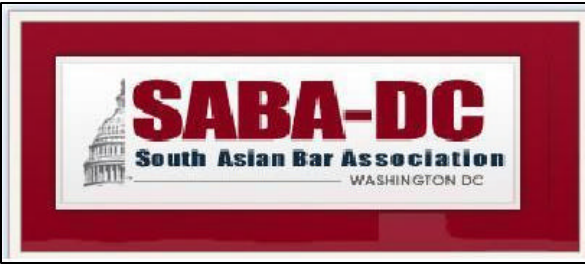
Zara earned a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Virginia, with a minor in South Asian Studies.

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

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>

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.



## Pro Bono Program

### D.C. Bar Pro Bono Advice and Referral Clinic

SABA-DC provides pro bono assistance on a quarterly basis through the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program's monthly Advice and Referral Clinics. We are currently seeking four to five volunteer attorneys to staff the Saturday, June 13 clinic. Subsequently, we will need volunteers on September 12 and December 12. Attorneys with limited experience are welcome to volunteer; expert mentors and other resources will be available on site. Law students may volunteer to provide non-legal assistance in the form of interviewing clients prior to their consultations.

**When: Saturday, June 13  
from 9:30 AM-1:00 PM**

**Where: Bread for the City  
1525 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Green Line to Shaw/Howard  
University. Street parking is  
also available.**

**To volunteer/register or for more information, please contact Padma Shah, secretary@sabadc.org.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Attorneys that work in the federal government and/or barred in D.C. are allowed to provide brief advice at this Clinic. Unless you are barred in D.C. or have an application pending, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program's malpractice insurance cannot cover you. If you are not barred in D.C., you can still attend the Clinic and provide non-legal assistance in the form of interviewing clients prior to their consultations.

#### **ABOUT THE ADVICE & REFERRAL CLINIC**

It is estimated that about 70% of those individuals requesting free legal assistance require only brief services – and not full representation – to solve their

legal problems. The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program Advice & Referral Clinic is designed to provide those brief service by offering pro se individuals the opportunity to discuss with volunteer attorneys certain kinds of matters governed by D.C. or federal law including bankruptcy/debt collection, consumer law, employment law, family law, health law, housing law, immigration/asylum, personal injury, probate, public benefits, and tax law. All services are provided free of charge. The Clinic is limited to providing generation information, advice and brief services, and does not provide representation.

Providing "brief services" may not always be achievable by the end of the Clinic session. For example, calling a third party or government agency to ascertain about a client's matter, writing a demand letter to a landlord or a judgment-proof letter to a creditor, or reviewing a contract or settlement agreement may require some of the volunteer attorney's time after the Clinic. However, Clinic volunteers do not appear in Court or otherwise establish an extended attorney-client relationship unless they wish to do so and discuss the matter with Pro Bono Program staff.

If brief service is not enough to resolve the problem or if a different type of service is required, Clinic volunteers attempt to refer individuals to or provide information about a legal or social service provider appropriately suited to handle the case.

The Clinic is held on the second Saturday of each month at two sites (Bread for the City's NW and SE locations). The clinic is staffed by volunteers from law firms, government agencies, voluntary bar associations, and DC Bar Sections.

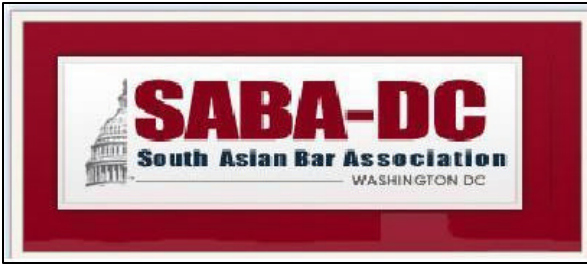
#### **WHAT VOLUNTEERS NEED TO KNOW**

On the second Saturday of every month from 10:00 am until noon, the Advice & Referral Clinic operates out of two locations – Bread for the City, Northwest Center located at 1525 7th Street, N.W. and Bread for the City, Southeast Center located 1640 Good Hope Road, S.E. The Clinic is staffed by volunteers from law firms, government agencies, voluntary bar associations, and DC Bar Sections. SABA-DC helps with the Clinic at the Northwest Center.

Volunteers should arrive at the Clinic by 9:30 am for a brief orientation of Clinic operations. Bagels and juice will be served. Dress is very casual. Volunteers should be prepared to stay until the last client is served (usually around 1:00 pm).

Although it is impossible to predict, most individuals have pretty basic questions. However, volunteers are not expected to be familiar with every area of the law. In fact, we anticipate that most volunteers will have very little, if any, experience in the types of matters on which they will advise. Therefore, Pro Bono Program staff and expert mentors are available on-site, as well as access to [www.LawHelp.org/dc](http://www.LawHelp.org/dc), reference manuals and guidebooks.

Regardless of your practice area or lack of experience, this is a great opportunity for attorneys to engage in a very important, although very manageable pro bono project. The D.C. Bar Advice & Referral Clinic is providing incredible services to hundreds upon hundreds of individuals each in their own communities.



## Upcoming Events May/June 2009

### June/July Events

#### SABA-DC June Dinner Series: Party Perspectives on U.S. Healthcare Reform

**Date:** Tuesday, June 16th  
**Time:** 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
**Where:** Thai Chili Restaurant  
701 7th Street, N.W., #F (in Gallery Place)  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202-393-2905)  
**Metro:** Gallery Place/Chinatown (Green, Red & Yellow lines)  
**Cost:** Cost of your dinner (optional)  
Please RSVP to Anjali Desai at [anjali120@gmail.com](mailto:anjali120@gmail.com).

As a follow-up to their articles written on the future of U.S. healthcare reform and policy from Republican and Democratic perspectives, Aarti Shah and Kathy Kulkarni will be speaking at our June Dinner Series on the same topic.

Aarti Shah serves as counsel to the Minority Staff on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce. Kathy Kulkarni serves as Principal at Rubicon Advisors, a lobbying and government relations firm, and previously served as legislative director and healthcare policy aide to U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ).

Come listen to our informed speakers discuss what is inevitably going to be a popular topic for the Obama administration and the rest of the country in the upcoming months.

#### Law Students Know Thy Career Options!

**Thursday, June 25, 2009**  
**Time:** 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM  
**Where:** JONES DAY,  
51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001  
(near the Judiciary Square & Union Station Metro Stations)  
Kindly RSVP to Tacie Yoon, President-Elect, [president-elect@apaba-dc.org](mailto:president-elect@apaba-dc.org), by June 19th.

Co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area (APABA-DC), the APABA Educational Fund (AEF), and the South Asian Bar Association of Washington D.C. (SABA-DC), and hosted by Jones Day.

Understanding your career options following law school is an endeavor that can, at times, be overwhelming. APABADC, AEF, and SABA-DC have partnered together to offer a program that will shed light on the hiring process, work environment, strengths, and merits of four paths that attorneys take once the bar exam is behind them: private practice, government, the public defender's office, and legislature. APABADC In-Coming President Tacie Yoon will moderate a panel discussion. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

#### SABA-DC KSA Drafting Workshop

**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2009  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Where:** Georgetown University Law School, 600 New Jersey Avenue, NW, McDonough Hall, Room 109  
**Metro:** Union Station (Red Line)  
Please RSVP to Anuradha at [Anubanerjee@gmail.com](mailto:Anubanerjee@gmail.com).  
Cost: Free for members, \$20 non-members. Checks can be made out to SABA-DC and mailed in advance to Anuradha Banerjee 1112 N. Randolph Street, Arlington, VA 22201.  
For information on membership, please visit [sabadc.org](http://sabadc.org)

In light of the unprecedented number of layoffs in the legal industry, more attorneys are seeking legal jobs within Government, legal careers that have traditionally been more stable and have offered a better work-life balance than private practice. Securing some federal legal positions requires submission of a KSA (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities) Statement. A solid understanding of how to write a competitive KSA Statement will greatly enhance your potential for securing a federal position. This workshop explains the secrets to successful KSAs and shows you how you can distinguish yourself from other qualified candidates.

Our presenter Kate Neville is founder and principal of Neville Career Consulting, LLC, which provides guidance to attorneys considering a job change or career transition, whether within the practice of law or to another field. Additional information is available at [www.nevillecareerconsulting.com](http://www.nevillecareerconsulting.com)

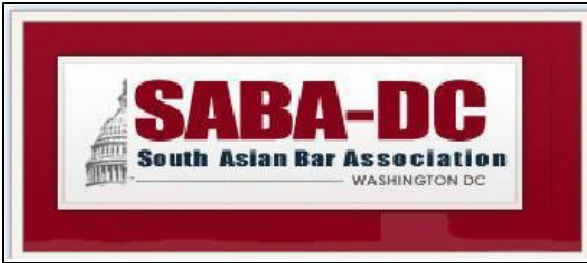
#### SABA-DC and NetSAP Summer Happy Hour Event

**Date:** Thursday, July 16th, 2009  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Where:** IL MULINO 1110 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20005  
**Metro:** McPherson Square (Orange/Blue Lines) or Farragut North (Red Line)

Join the Network of South Asian Professionals (NetSAP) and the South Asian Bar Association of Washington DC (SABA-DC) for a fun evening of networking on Thursday night, July 16th at 6:30 PM. This will be a joint event in conjunction with NetSAP's monthly "Third Thursday" series.

**If you plan on attending, please RSVP Ajay Gohil at [ajay.gohil@yahoo.com](mailto:ajay.gohil@yahoo.com) by July 15th.**

The event is free for SABA-DC and NetSAP members. To join SABADC, please visit our website at <http://www.sabadc.org/default.asp?contentID=587> and following the simple instructions. Dues are only \$40/year (or \$70 for a two-year membership) and payment can be made with a credit card through our ERSVP system. The NetSAP website is at <http://www.netsap.org/netsapdc/>



# Spotlight: Health Care Reform May/June 2009

## The Need for Health Care Reform in 2009 – Kathy Kulkarni

More than 47 million people in the U.S. do not have health insurance, and millions more have coverage that does not protect them from high medical costs if they become seriously ill. With rising unemployment and a depressed economy, it's a delicate balance having health care today. There are those Americans that have health insurance coverage, but cost is still a burden and often times medications and tests are skipped. The main problems being experienced today are the cost of providing coverage to the insured and uninsured; denial of coverage for the uninsured; and guaranteeing that insured patients have access to the services they need.

Making sure every American has access to high quality health care is one of the most important challenges of our time -- the number of uninsured Americans is growing, a robust health care system is essential to strengthening the economy, and health reform is necessary for maintaining healthy fiscal policies on the federal and state levels.

The good news is there is a whirlwind of opportunity and public and political motivation to reform

the health care system in three key ways – improving quality and efficiency, expanding coverage and reducing cost. In fact, in health care unlike other areas, higher quality of care can lower cost if done correctly.

Already the President has signed Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) legislation to add 4 million children to the federal-state program, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including measures to adapt to electronic medical records, prioritize preventive care, and shore up state Medicaid programs.

President Obama's inclusive approach, along with bipartisan leadership on health reform among key Congressional committees, indicates a greater likelihood of success in health reform passage than in previous administrations. With the White House outlining broad principles that should be applied to achieve universal

coverage, Congressional lawmakers are afforded the opportunity to develop the detailed blueprint.

What this means is that we are in the midst of seeing a range of health care reform options focused on improving the quality and efficiency of health care delivery, expansion of coverage, and financing

***In health care, unlike other areas, higher quality of care can lower cost if done correctly....President Obama's inclusive approach indicates a greater likelihood of success in health reform passage***

or cost-cutting reforms under consideration by the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Health Education Labor Pensions Committee, the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. The details of every policy option are being laid out, the cost of each policy is being analyzed, and the legislative process is underway and likely to be finalized by August.

Guaranteeing coverage for all Americans is estimated to cost \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, which understandably creates great financial maneuvering and philosophical hurdles to

cross. There are many factions within Congress with differing opinions on how best to tackle some of the biggest questions as essential as what government's role should be in providing and regulating health care coverage and how progressive or conservative should this legislation be. However, there is a sense of optimism amongst those inside Congress and outside stakeholders that comprehensive health care reform can be achieved.

A tremendous amount of difficult work lies ahead over the coming weeks, but progress has already been made in these early days of the new administration and the 111th Congress. With President Obama's resolve and the call of the public on Congress to act, comprehensive health care reform is well on its way to being accomplished this year and is a commitment that must be fulfilled.



## Spotlight: Health Care Reform May/June 2009

### Health Care Reform: Is a Public Plan the right option?

— Aarti Shah

Rising healthcare costs and the escalating burden that Medicare and Medicaid are putting on Federal taxpayers are a serious problem for every American and the national economy as a whole. This is why healthcare reform is at the forefront of Congress' agenda this year.

At the heart of this debate is the creation of a "public plan" option, which is a government-run health insurance plan paid for by American taxpayers. The purpose of the "public plan" is to provide insurance coverage for the uninsured or underinsured. The "public plan" would be operated by a Federal board, which has the ability to set payment rates and make coverage decisions. The costs of the "public plan" option would exceed \$1 trillion. Proponents of the "public plan" option argue that coverage would be less expensive than private plans, and quality would be improved through the increased coordination with other Federal health programs, primarily Medicare and Medicaid. Congress and the American public need to carefully assess the impact of creating a government-run health insurance program.

Lower costs and improved quality sound like good ideas, until you understand the true impact of a government-run insurance plan. The public plan would inevitably lead to millions of Americans losing their current health coverage, due to a phenomenon called crowd-out. The government would become both a player and the referee in the insurance market, regulating low payment rates that would drive private plans out of busi-

ness.

The Lewin Group, a health care policy research group, recently issued a paper analyzing the costs of this proposal. Assuming that the "public plan" is open to all employers at the Medicare payment rates, Lewin Group states:

It is estimated that approximately 131.2 million people would enroll in the public plan. Consequently, the number of people with private health insurance would decline by 119.1 million people. This represents a two-thirds reduction in the numbers of people with private coverage—170 million people. Furthermore, under this scenario, provider reimbursement rates would decrease significantly: \$36 billion (4.6 percent) decrease for hospitals, and \$33 billion (6.8 percent) decrease for physicians.<sup>1</sup>

A move to the government-run option means you may lose access to your private health insurance plan or your doctor, simply because the government option is cheaper. Ultimately, the move from private to government-run health insurance will cost those with private insurance more. Research shows that private payers currently pay \$90 billion annually in additional costs as a result of this cost-shifting from existing public programs—"crowd-out"? Crowd-out is a true phenomenon, an example of which can already be seen in the State Children's Health

Insurance Program (SCHIP), a State-Federal health insurance program in which parents can enroll their children. It is estimated that for every 100 children newly eligible for SCHIP, between 30 and 35 children lose private coverage.

As seen with SCHIP, neither worker nor employers have an incentive to purchase insurance. Essentially, why should either an employee or employer purchase an insurance plan if the government will bail them out?

Seventy percent of the population says they would like to keep their current insur-

**The "public plan" option will increase costs for private payers, potentially driving them out of business.**

ance provided by private insurance companies. However, because of crowd-out, government programs and taxpayer dollars will increasingly become substitutes for private coverage and funding. It is interesting to note that a 1 percent decrease in the cost of a health plan is associated with a 2.47 percent migration of enrollees to the lower cost health plan.<sup>2</sup> The "public plan" option will increase costs for private payers, potentially driving them out of business. Americans should have the ability to choose their health providers and plans, and not be forced into one option because it costs less.

If payment rates for the "public plan" are based on Medicaid payment rates, hospitals and physicians will also see a significant decrease in their reimbursement. According to the Lewin Group, Medicaid on

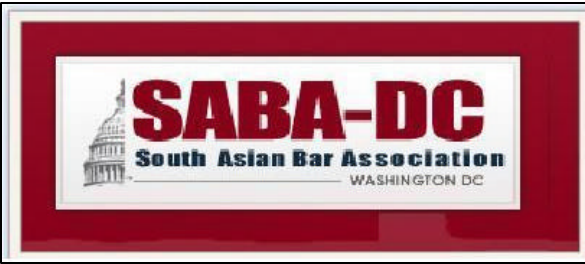
average pays only 56 percent of the price of medical services delivered by physicians in the private sector. Private health insurance plans are making up the shortfall in reimbursement. Thus, we are already seeing doctors put a halt to accepting new Medicaid and Medicare patients, or stop practicing medicine altogether, simply because the government reimburses the physicians at a rate that cannot keep the lights on in their practices. When doctors in rural areas alike stop practicing medicine, we truly will see dire consequences as access to good doctors will be even more heavily impacted.

The health care system needs reform, but there are better alternatives. Tax incentives for small employers, allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines, changing the tax treatment of health insurance, reforming our long-term care system, medical liability reform, and changing Federal laws to allow for associations and groups to pool together to obtain insurance for their members are less expensive options than the "public plan" option. Increased government control may generate jobs for Washington bureaucrats, but it will create more problems than solutions for the rest of America.

<sup>1</sup>Sheils, J., Haught, R. "The Cost and Coverage Impacts of a Public Plan: Alternative Design Options," Lewin Group, 2009.

<sup>2</sup>Milliman, "Hospital and Physician Cost Shift Payment Level Comparison of Medicare, Medicaid, and Commercial Payers," December, 2008.

<sup>3</sup>Sheils, J., Haught, R. "The Cost and Coverage Impacts of a Public Plan: Alternative Design Options," Lewin Group, 2009.



## Appointments and Endorsements

### SABA-DC Congratulates Preet Bharara on Nomination



SABA-DC congratulates Preet Bharara on his nomination as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. On May 15, 2009, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Preet Bharara and others for United States Attorneys.

Mr. Bharara is currently Chief Counsel for Senator Schumer (D-NY) and has served as Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts.

In 2006, Mr. Bharara spearheaded the Senate Judiciary Committee investigation into the firing of eight U.S. attorneys. On November 29, 2007, Mr. Bharara spoke about his role in the investigation at a SABA-DC program focused on the controversy and subsequent investigation.

From 2000 to 2005, Mr. Bharara served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, working in the General Crimes, Narcotics, and Organized Crime/Terrorism Units. From 1993 to 2000, he worked in private practice.

Mr. Bharara was named 2007 South Asian Lawyer of the Year by the North American South Asian Bar Association. He graduated from Harvard College (1990) and Columbia Law School (1993).

### SABA-DC Endorses Candidates for DC Bar Leadership Positions

SABA-DC received requests for endorsements from a number of candidates for leadership of the DC Bar. Based on its review of their qualifications, experience, leadership ability, and receptiveness to the needs of the South Asian legal community, SABA-DC proudly endorsed the following candidates for the DC Bar:

#### D.C. Bar President-Elect

Ronald S. Flagg, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP

#### Bar Secretary

Meredith Fuchs, The National Security Archive

#### Bar Treasurer

R. Justin Smith, U.S. Department of Justice

#### Board of Governors

Thomas W. Brunner, Wiley Rein LLP

Stephen I. Glover, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Geoffrey M. Klineberg, Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel, P.L.L.C.

James W. Rubin, Hunton & Williams LLP

#### American Bar Association's House of Delegates

Patrick McGlone, ULLICO Inc.

#### ABA's Under-35 Seat

Amy Yeung, WilmerHale LLP

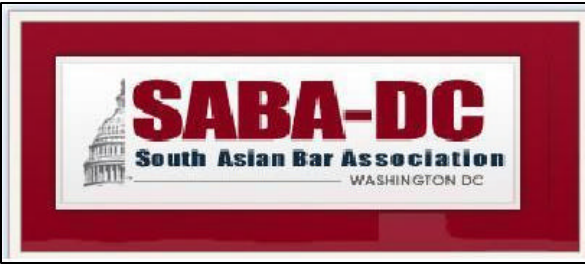
### SABA-DC Endorsement Policy

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



## Appointments and Endorsements (cont.)

### **SABA-DC Congratulates South Asian Appointees in the Obama Administration**

SABA-DC is proud to recognize the following South Asian Americans who have been appointed to senior positions in the Obama Administration. We commend President Obama's efforts to foster a stronger relationship with our community and we welcome the increased participation of South Asians in all levels of our government.

Preeti Bansal, General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, White House Office of Management and Budget

Anju Bhargava, Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Shaileen Bhatt, Special Assistant to the Administrator, US Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration

Arun Chaudhary, Videographer, White House

Aneesh Chopra, Federal Chief Technology Officer, White House

Shomik Dutta, Special Assistant to Greg Craig, White House Counsel's Office

Nayyera Haq, Press Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Neal Katyal, Principal Deputy Solicitor General, U.S. Dept. of Justice

Madhuri Kommareddi, Associate Staff Secretary, White House

Vivek Kundra, Federal Chief Information Officer, White House

Semonti Mustaphi, Deputy Press Secretary, White House Office of the First Lady

Eboo S. Patel, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Kal Penn, Associate Director, White House Office of Public Liaison

Gautam Raghavan, Special Assistant to the White House Liaison, U.S. Dept. of Defense

Nicholas Rathod, Deputy Associate Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Raj Shah, Under Secretary and Chief Scientist, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Sonal Shah, Director, White House Office of Social Innovation

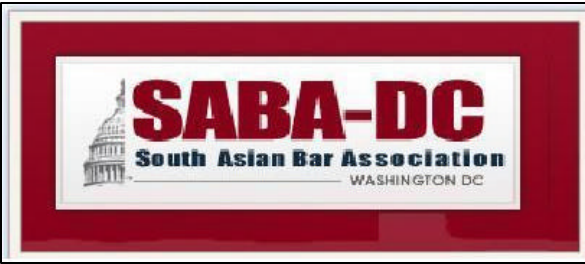
Priya Singh, Press Assistant, White House Press Office

Puneet Talwar, Senior Director of Iran, Iraq and Gulf Countries, National Security Council

Neera Tanden, Counsel to the Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Rich Verma, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State

*Source: Indian American Leadership Initiative*



# Recent Events

## May/June 2009

### May Dinner Series and Legal Recruiter Event

#### SABA-DC May Dinner Series - Transitioning from Private Practice to Government

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009, SABADC held a dinner series at Thai Chili that was relevant to attorneys who are interested in transitioning from private practice to government. In light of the layoffs in the legal industry, many attorneys have been trying to transition to the government after working for a private firm. We had five speakers who have successfully transitioned from private practice to a government agency, and a life coach who has helped individuals make this transition. The speakers and their respective agencies included: Alpa Gandhi (FTC), Manas Mahopotra (FTC), Sada Manickam (DOJ), Anuj Shah (FDA) and Dharmesh Vashee (Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation). These individuals highlighted how they networked and how they were able to find a government job. The life coach was Cathleen Szebrat from the O'Toole firm who discussed the importance of the government's assessments of knowledge, skills, and assessments (KSAs), and her experience of writing KSAs.

We had a large group of attendees who were interested in further education regarding the KSAs. Therefore, SABA-DC is planning a KSA workshop on June 24, 2009 to follow-up from this event (See page 4 for details).

#### SABA-DC Legal Recruiter Event

SABA-DC sponsored a Legal Recruiter Networking Event on May 21, 2009. DC-based Attorneys and law students had the opportunity to meet permanent placement and contract legal recruiters, law firm hiring partners, and Government representatives. The attendees discussed the recent changes in the legal industry and potential opportunities in today's legal market in a relaxed and informal setting.

