



Jan/Feb 2009

Executive Board

President:
Dharmesh Vashee

Executive Vice-President:
Anita Khushalani

Vice-President of Programming:
Habib Ilahi

Vice-President of Communications:
Ranga Sourirajan

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

In this issue...

Welcome Message from the President	1
SABA-DC 2009 Executive Board	2-3
In the News	4
Membership Special	5
Upcoming Events	6
Recent Events	7-8

Message from the President

To the Members of the South Asian Bar:

I am honored to serve as President of the South Asian Bar Association for the upcoming year. On behalf of the Board of Directors of SABA-DC, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

As your president, I will provide the organization with the direction it requires to capitalize on the opportunities before it in the coming year. Over the past year, SABA-DC has developed a solid foundation that allows for tremendous growth in the near future. SABA-DC has become one of the leading South Asian civic organizations in the DC area. This status has been bolstered by the massive increase in substantive programming by the organization over the past year.

This is an exciting time for the South Asian community. Last month we witnessed the inauguration of a new President, who was elected in no small part through the efforts of many members of our community and who has shown an eagerness to foster a relationship with our community. As we welcome the new administration, we look forward to a new age of increased participation of South Asians in all levels of our government. To that end, we were pleased to see President Obama's appointment of Preeti Bansal and Neal Katyal to senior positions in the administration (see page 4). We hope their appointments are the first of many to come.

There has never been a better time to join. Our plans for this year include introducing more of you to the benefits of membership in SABA-DC. As a member for almost five years, I can attest to its tremendous value as a network and as a resource that provides attorneys with needed educational, professional, and pro bono opportunities. Our membership currently includes attorneys of all industries and practice areas – all seeking to expand their network or their knowledge base. So whether you are in private practice, government, in-house, legislative affairs or public interest, SABA-DC has something for you.

I hope to see you all at a future Dinner Series, Networking Event, Legal Services Clinic, or one of many other events we have planned for 2009. Thank you for your continued support of SABA-DC!

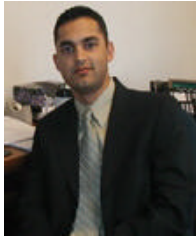


Dharmesh Vashee

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

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

SABA-DC Executive Board of Directors



Dharmesh Vashee
President

Dharmesh Vashee currently serves as an Attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, a government corporation that insures the pensions of approximately 45 million American workers. Prior to his position with the PBGC, Mr. Vashee was an associate in the Financial Restructuring practice group of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP. At Akin Gump, Mr. Vashee's practice focused primarily on representation of creditors' committees in large Chapter 11 cases.



Anita Khushalani
Executive Vice-President

Anita Khushalani currently practices employment law in the Office of General Counsel at the AARP. Anita's prior legal experience includes working in the litigation department of Arent Fox LLP. Anita is also active in her community; most recently, educating high school seniors on the subject of employment law. In addition, Anita has volunteered as a tutor for a local literacy program.



Habib Ilahi
Vice-President of Programming

Habib is Counsel at the law firm of Schertler & Onorato, L.L.P. His practice focuses on white collar defense, Government investigations, and securities litigation. Mr. Ilahi has represented individuals in criminal, civil, and administrative cases in both federal and state matters. Mr. Ilahi previously served on the SABA-DC Board as Programming Chair (2008) and Programming Director (2007).



Ranga Sourirajan
Vice-President of Communications

Ranga is an associate at McKool Smith P.C., where he practices IP litigation and commercial litigation. Previously, he was an associate at a general practice firm where he successfully represented pro bono clients in immigration and domestic relations matters. He served on the SABA-DC Board as a Programming Director (2008), and is an active member of an AIPLA committee.



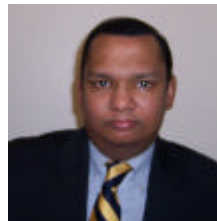
Tina Rao
Vice-President of Finance

Tina is an associate in the Health Care and Litigation practice groups at the law firm of Epstein Becker and Green, P.C. Her practice concentrates primarily in the area of fraud and abuse litigation, managed care, reimbursement, and health care compliance. Tina is active in pro-bono activities such as Street Law and advocates for domestic violence victims with the Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE) in DC.



Padma Shah
Secretary

Padma Shah is an Associate at The H.T. Than Law Group, an intellectual property law boutique located in Washington, DC. Previously, Mr. Shah was an attorney at Arent Fox PLLC and Keil & Weinkauff in Washington, DC. Mr. Shah is active with different professional and civic organizations. Mr. Shah is an active volunteer with South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT).



Hussain Karim
Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

Hussain Karim currently serves as a Senior Analyst with Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI), a diversified energy company. Prior to his position with PHI, he was an in-house counsel for VICCS, Inc., a consulting firm based in Rockville, Maryland. Mr. Karim has been a member of SABA-DC for several years, and is also a member of and volunteer for SAALT (South Asian Americans Leading Together).



Anuradha Banerjee
General Director

Anuradha is a corporate attorney, focusing on corporate transactional matters including mergers and acquisitions, financings and securities matters. She is currently an attorney with the legal department of the World Bank Group. Ms. Banerjee also devotes a considerable amount of time representing immigrant victims of violence through her pro bono practice.

SABA-DC Executive Board of Directors (continued)



Ritu Kelotra
Programming Director

Ritu is currently an associate at Kirkland and Ellis LLP, where her practice area is general litigation. She received her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 2007, where she served as an executive editor of the Georgetown Law Journal, participated in the civil rights area of the Institute for Public Representation clinic, and worked as a research assistant focusing on the intersection of law, class and education.



Anjali Desai
General Director

Anjali Desai is an associate in the Financial Services and Products practice group at Alston & Bird LLP. Her practice concentrates primarily on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance issues, and securities law. Ms. Desai is admitted to practice as a member of the New York State Bar, and her admission to the District of Columbia Bar is currently pending.



Ajay Gohil
General Director

Ajay Gohil is a Health Care attorney, who has handled regulatory and administrative work with various federal, state, and city agencies. He previously served as a Board Member to the South Asian Bar Association in Atlanta (the IndusBar of Georgia) from 2003 - 2006. In 2006, he helped organize the NASABA (North American South Asian Bar Association) annual convention in Atlanta.

For full biographies, go to <http://www.sabadc.org/>



Rabeha Kamaluddin
General Director

Ms. Kamaluddin works as an associate in the energy practice of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Her practice focuses on the representation of natural gas pipelines, oil pipeline companies, and energy service providers on various regulatory matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).



Sairah Saeed
General Director

Ms. Saeed is a graduate of Notre Dame Law School and the University of Michigan (BA in Political Science, Women's Studies, and Afro American and African Studies). She works for Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. in the Center for Religious Immigration and Protection. There she provides direct legal representation to Roman Catholic Dioceses and religious communities and to foreign born priests, sisters, brothers, and lay workers to work for the Catholic Church in the United States.



D. Rahul Das
Immediate Past-President

D. Rahul Das is an associate in the Litigation Practice Group of Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP. His practice focuses on patent litigation with an emphasis on chemical cases and pharmaceutical cases arising under the Hatch-Waxman Act. He has experience counseling both brand and generic pharmaceutical companies. He has also handled a pro bono criminal matter before the D.C. Superior Court where he has successfully obtained an acquittal for an indigent client.

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 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.

Appointments and Endorsements

SABA-DC Congratulates Preeta Bansal and Neal Katyal

The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, DC congratulates Professor Neal Katyal and the Honorable Preeta Bansal, on their recent appointments to senior positions in the Obama administration.

In January 2009 President Barack Obama appointed Ms. Bansal as General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the White House. President Obama also appointed Mr. Katyal as Principal Deputy Solicitor General. Mr. Katyal will be the number two official in the Office of the Solicitor General and the highest ranking Indian American in the US Department of Justice.

Both Ms. Bansal and Mr. Katyal have been featured in past SABA-DC events. In October 2008, Ms. Bansal represented the Obama campaign in SABA-DC's Election 2008 Town Hall Meeting. Shortly following his victory in the landmark case of *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* in 2006, Mr. Katyal spoke at a SABA-DC event honoring his achievement in that case. We look forward to their participation in future SABA-DC events in their capacity as members of the Obama administration.

SABA-DC applauds Ms. Bansal and Mr. Katyal for their tremendous accomplishments and congratulates them on their recent appointments.

Honorable Preeta Bansal
General Counsel and Senior Policy
Advisor, Office of Management and
Budget (OMB)



Ms. Bansal is currently a Partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP in New York City. Ms. Bansal served as Solicitor General of the State of New York from 1999-2002, served as a counselor in the Office of Policy Development and Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice, and as a Special Counsel in the Office of the White House Counsel from 1993-1996.

Professor Neal Katyal
Principal Deputy Solicitor General
Office of the Solicitor General
Department of Justice



Mr. Katyal is currently a Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center. Mr. Katyal earned a position in legal history with his victory in the landmark Supreme Court case *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, 548 U.S. 557 (2006). Mr. Katyal served as National Security Adviser to the Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice between 1998 and 1999.

SABA-DC Endorses Florence Pan

On January 26, 2009, the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission submitted to President Barack Obama the names of three nominees to fill a vacancy on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Among those named was Ms. Florence Pan, who is currently an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia where she serves as 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. She received her law degree from Stanford Law School, and following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Michael B. Mukasey.

SABA-DC is also impressed by Ms. Pan's demonstrated commitment to the Asian American community through her service on the Mayor's Commission for Asian Pacific Islander Affairs and as a member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association. SABA-DC believes that Ms. Pan would be an outstanding addition to the D.C. Superior Court and is proud to support her candidacy for this position.

SABA-DC Wants You!

SABA-DC Annual Membership Drive – January 19 through February 20, 2009

For a limited time only, join SABA-DC and get a discount on a one-year or two-year membership:

One-year memberships (regularly \$40) are currently \$30.

Two-year memberships (regularly \$70) are now only \$55.

Join today! Membership rates will increase effective February 20, 2009.

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

The discounted membership rates are applicable to membership renewals as well! If you are unsure about whether your membership has expired or is about to expire, please contact **Anita Khushalani at sabadcvp@gmail.com**. For more information or to join go to **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

SABA-DC/APABA-DC Networking Mixer

**Thursday, February 19, 2009,
6:30pm at PS7's**

Please join the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of DC and the South Asian Bar Association of DC for a networking mixer at PS7's Restaurant. Stop by and meet your fellow South Asian and Asian Pacific American attorneys practicing in the DC area. Extended happy hour prices and signature drinks specials provided.

When: Thursday, February 19, 2009

Time: 6:30pm - 9pm

**Where: PS7's Restaurant
777 I "Eye" Street, NW, # F
Washington, DC 20001**

Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown
(Red, Green, and Yellow lines)
Phone: (202) 742-8550

Cost: Free

For more information about SABA-DC or the event, please contact Habib Ilahi at programming@sabadc.org or at (202) 628-0469.

SABA-DC Mentorship Program

Mentorship Event for Law Students

In early spring, SABA-DC will be hosting a mentoring event for students of DC-area law schools to meet and network with SABA-DC attorneys. Stay tuned for details. If you have questions about SABA-DC's Mentorship Program, please send an email to students@sabadc.org.

D.C. Bar Pro Bono Advice and Referral Clinic

Saturday, March 14, 2009, 9:30am - 1:00pm

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, March 14 clinic. Subsequently, we will need volunteers on June 13, 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, March 14 from 9:30am - 1:00pm

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

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.

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.

SABA-DC & AAPI-DC Happy Hour Fundraiser

SABA-DC kicked off its year with fundraiser held jointly with the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI-DC). The event was held on January 22, 2009 and supported the efforts of Child Rights and You (CRY) America and the cause of underprivileged children. The event raised over \$1,000 towards the CRY DC Chapter and marked the chapter's first fundraiser.



CRY Recognizes Contributions of SABA-DC & AAPI-DC



CHILD RIGHTS AND YOU
www.america.cry.org
Stand up for child rights

CRY America Inc
PO Box 850948,
Braintree, MA 02185
<http://www.america.cry.org>

January 29, 2009

South Asian Bar Association of DC (SABA DC) and
American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI DC)

Dear Presidents of SABA DC and AAPI DC,

Thank you so much for supporting CRY America and the cause of underprivileged children. We truly value your generous donation of \$1000 towards our DC Chapters first fund raiser and look forward to a long term partnership between our organizations.

CRY America is primarily built on two things: the belief that individuals have in us and in the work that we do; and the never fading hope that collectively we can make a difference to the lives of underprivileged children.

It is truly motivating to know that there are passionate and committed associations like SABA and AAPI with your supporters, who have joined hands with CRY America in our journey to restore to underprivileged children - their basic rights and childhood.

Do check out our website <http://www.america.cry.org> - it is a great resource to learn more about CRY America's activities and supported projects.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of the CRY America family and for sharing our belief that every child deserves a better future.

With faith and goodwill,



Shefalli Sunderlal Chandel
President
CRY America Inc.



CRY America Inc. is a 501(c)3 exempt non-profit organization.