



## SABA-DC Spring 2011 Newsletter

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

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## Message from the President

The SABA-DC Board of Directors and I hope that you are enjoying and benefitting from this year's programs so far. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the programs, mentoring, and public interest opportunities that we are providing to our membership this year.

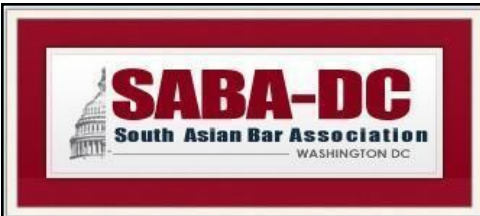
SABA-DC's newly created Mentorship Program, which is designed to help attorneys and law students become more aware of the legal, professional, and personal issues involved with the practice of law, is off to a great start. We have already paired mentors and mentees, but opportunities on both sides are still available. The Women's Networking Circle, a forum where South Asian women can discuss and address the issues in the day-to-day practice of law, will be holding its next event soon. For more information, please contact [secretary@sabadc.org](mailto:secretary@sabadc.org) or [sabastudents@gmail.com](mailto:sabastudents@gmail.com).

SABA-DC's other new initiative, increasing pro bono opportunities for our members, is also off to a great start. SABA-DC recently held its quarterly pro bono advice and referral clinic at Bread for the City and was able to staff it with volunteers from SABA-DC. SABA-DC is also proud to announce that we will be coordinating with ASHA for Women in an effort to provide ASHA's clients with pro bono or reduced fee legal assistance. Training for SABA-DC attorneys will be provided by ASHA. For more information, please contact [coordinator@ashaforwomen.org](mailto:coordinator@ashaforwomen.org). In addition to these opportunities, SABA-DC will be providing a variety of other pro bono opportunities, and I encourage all of you to get involved.

2011 has been an exciting year so far, and I know that it is only going to get better. The Board of Directors and I look forward to seeing you all at our next event, which will be the Alternative Legal Careers panel at the George Washington University Law School on March 29, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

Habib F. Ilahi  
President  
SABA-DC



### SABA-DC 2011 Executive Board



**Habib Ilahi**  
President

HABIB ILAHI 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 Executive Vice-President (2009) and Programming Chair (2008).



**AJ Dhaliwal**  
Executive Vice-President

A.J. DHALI WAL is an Attorney currently working on a due diligence matter for a major medical device manufacturer. A.J. specializes in due diligence compliance requirements under the FCPA and other foreign and domestic laws and regulations.

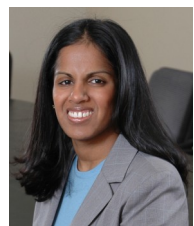
As part of his pro bono activities, A.J. is a member of Washington D.C.'s Chapter of the Sikh Coalition, where he has worked to advocate rules and laws that are respectful of human and civil rights and helped create an environment where Sikhs are respected and racial prejudice is eliminated.



**Ritu Kelotra**  
Vice-President of Programming

RITU KELOTRA 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.



**Kavitha Babu**  
Vice-President of Communications

KAVITHA BABU is a trial attorney with the Commercial Litigation Branch of the Department of Justice, Civil Division. She received her J.D. from the University of Michigan and her B.A. from the University of Illinois.



**Shuchi Batra**  
Vice-President of Finance

SHUCHI BATRA is Principal at the Law Office of Shuchi Batra where her practice focuses on business, customs and employment law. Ms. Batra's prior legal experience includes working in the litigation department of Saul Ewing LLP.

Ms. Batra is active with various professional and civic organizations. She is Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Maryland India Business Roundtable and is an active member of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. She is also an attorney volunteer for Women Empowered Against Violence.



**Jaya Saxena**  
Secretary

JAYA SAXENA is a Staff Attorney in the Public Benefits and Elder Law Unit at the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. in Maryland. Ms. Saxena's public benefits practice focuses heavily on representing disabled individuals in Medical Assistance appeals and in claims for Social Security benefits. In addition, she has an extensive elder law practice in which she handles a variety of legal matters for

clients over 60 including housing/landlord tenant, debt collection, unemployment benefits, guardianship, and nursing home issues.



**Hussain Karim**  
Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

HUSSAIN KARIM is currently employed as an Assistant Attorney General with the Office of Attorney General (OAG) for the District of Columbia. In this position, he works with the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) on the implementation of laws related to renewable energy and energy efficiency programs in the nation's capital.

His prior experience includes working for Pepco Holdings, Inc., a large utility company based in Washington, DC.



**Jerry K. Joseph**  
General Director

JERRY K. JOSEPH is the founder of the Law Office of Jerry Joseph where he specializes Intellectual Property law.

Mr. Jerry Joseph founded the Law Office of Jerry Joseph in 2010 to provide high-quality and affordable patent advice to independent inventors, small businesses, and large corporations.

Mr. Joseph received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, MA.



**SABA-DC 2011 Executive Board (Cont.)**



**Rashi Mittal**  
General Director

RASHI MITTAL is an Antitrust Litigation and Federal Regulation attorney, working in the Washington D.C. office of a national law firm, Mintz Levin. In 2004, she received her B.A. with Honors in Public Policy and Economics from Stanford University. In 2008, she received a J.D. from Boston University School of Law and served on the International Law Journal there.

She is the author of "The Importance of Early Considerations and Exit Strategies in Structuring an International Joint Venture in India."



**Tayan Patel**  
General Director

TAYAN PATEL is an associate with McKenna, Long & Aldridge, LLP. His practice spans all areas of Intellectual Property law with a particular emphasis on patent prosecution.



**Padma Shah**  
General Director

PADMA SHAH works with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Previously, Mr. Shah was an attorney at Arent Fox PLLC and two boutique firms, The H.T. Than Law Group and Keil & Weinkauff

Mr. Shah is active with different professional and civic organizations. Mr. Shah is an active volunteer with South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). Mr. Shah also serves on the Criminal Justice Committee and Public Interest Committee of the North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA) and has previously served on the SABA-DC Board as the Secretary (2006-2007).



**Rina Pal**  
General Director

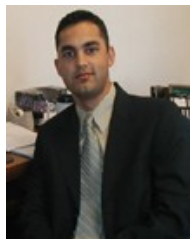
RINA PAL is the Director of the India Studies Center at the George Washington University Law School. In that role she deals with intellectual property law reform issues between India and the U.S., as patent issues are of critical importance as modern India moves away from its socialist roots to a capitalist economy.

Rina earned her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, M.Sc. from the University of Oxford, and J.D. from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.



**Aarti Shah**  
General Director

AARTI SHAH is currently employed at a leading biotechnology company. She focuses on health-care policy and regulatory issues facing the biotechnology industry.



**Dharmesh Vashee**  
Immediate Past-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.

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

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 Ritu Kelotra, 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.



## 2011 Public Interest Fellowship

*South Asian Bar Association*  
of  
*Washington, D.C.*

### 2011 Public Interest Fellowship Application

*The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. seeks to organize, support and promote public interest activities and projects for the benefit of the South Asian community and the metropolitan D.C. area.*

*The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. strives to promote the professional development of South Asian lawyers and law students, educate the South Asian community about relevant legal issues, expand and enhance business and professional opportunities for South Asians, increase the participation of South Asians in civic affairs and government, facilitate the exchange of ideas and information to South Asians, and foster goodwill, fellowship, and unity among the South Asian community.*

#### **About SABA-DC Public Interest Fellowships**

SABA-DC provides financial assistance in the form of summer fellowships 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 up to three fellowship grants this year.

#### **Fellowship Selection Criteria**

Each applicant must be a current law student in good standing, and must have received confirmation of employment or internship with a public interest organization during the summer of 2011. 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. In addition, SABA-DC will schedule interviews with applicants as part of the selection process.

Other factors that SABA-DC may consider include commitment to public service, financial need, academic achievement, and other criteria.

#### **SABA-DC Non-Discrimination Policy**

It is the policy of SABA-DC not to discriminate on the basis of age, gender, disability, race, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

#### **Fellowship Application Instructions**

Applicants must submit the following materials: (1) completed application form, (2) essay responses, (3) resume with references, and (4) completed Employer form. Applicants may also submit the following optional materials: letters of recommendation, or evidence of financial need. Completed application materials must be postmarked or e-mailed **no later than May 1, 2011**, and sent to either secretary@sabadc.org or the following address:

**Attn: South Asian Bar Association Fellowship Application**

**South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C.**

**P.O. Box 65349**

**Washington, DC 20035**



*Public Interest*  
Spring 2011

**Pro Bono Opportunity**



**ASHA for Women Clients Need  
Your Help**

ASHA for Women is actively inviting pro-bono or reduced fees legal help for our clients, in the area of family law and immigration law. Help our clients and give back to the community.

Free cultural sensitivity training will be provided.

Interested persons please contact:  
[coordinator@ashaforwomen.org](mailto:coordinator@ashaforwomen.org)

Please reference SABA-DC when you send an email inquiry.

## **NASABA Annual Convention**



Prior Convention host cities include Boston, Massachusetts; Vancouver, British Columbia; Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, D.C. NASABA's 2012 Convention will be in Philadelphia and 2013 Convention is planned for San Francisco.

**About NASABA:** The North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA) is the principal voice for legal issues in the South Asian community and a diverse voice for the community at large. NASABA chapters serve local communities in the United States and Canada, and their members are leaders practicing in large and small law firms, government agencies, academia, and public interest groups. With over 6,000 members in 27 chapters NASABA provides a powerful support network for South Asians in the legal community as well as a deep expert pool for the media and events. Contact: NASABA Vice President of Public Relations, Chintan K. Amin at [PublicRelations@nasaba.com](mailto:PublicRelations@nasaba.com) or at (412) 777-2715 or visit <http://www.nasaba.com>.



# Upcoming Events Spring 2011

## ABA Community Outreach Program

**Successful Lawyers Share Marketing Tips on Building the Bottom Line**  
 Building a Law Practice in Real Estate or Trust & Estates Law

*Sponsored by...*

- ABA Section of Real Property, Trust & Estate Law-Community Outreach Committee
- Holland & Knight LLP Diversity Council
- Hispanic Bar Association of DC
- South Asian Bar Association
- GAYLAW
- Alliance of Black Women Attorneys of Maryland, Inc.
- Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association
- J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association
- Greater Washington Area Chapter Women Lawyers Division National Bar Association (GWAC)
- Washington Bar Association

**Holland & Knight**

WHERE	TIME	DATES	COST
Holland & Knight LLP 2099 Pennsylvania Ave,NW Washington, DC 20006	6:30 – 8:30 pm	April 12, 2011	No charge to Members of the ABA or of Minority Bar Sponsors; \$50 for others

WRITTEN COURSE MATERIAL WILL BE PROVIDED | THIS COURSE IS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
<p>The program is designed to assist minority lawyers in building a successful practice in Trust and Estates and Real Estate by asking successful lawyers in those disciplines to talk about how they built their practice. They will discuss the opportunities and challenges in building a practice and provide a marketing tool kit that they have used in implementing their marketing strategies.</p> <p>Each of the speakers is a highly successful practitioner who has built his or her practice from a different base. For example, El Chino Martin spent many years in government service before he launched his real estate practice at Arent Fox. Leigh Basha specializes in international taxation, estate planning and business law and chairs Holland &amp; Knight's International Private Client Practice. Patricia Rosier worked for large corporations before she left to become Managing Partner of Rosier and Associates. Amettia Wright who founded her own firm, primarily practices in the areas of small business advising, elder law, trust and estates, real estate and child abuse and neglect.</p>	<p>Dennis M. Horn, Moderator Holland &amp; Knight LLP</p> <p>Amettia S. Wright Wright Law Group, P.C. (T&amp;E)</p> <p>Leigh-Alexandra Basha Holland &amp; Knight LLP (International Tax/Private Wealth)</p> <p>Patricia M. Rosier Rosier &amp; Associates (Real Estate)</p>

Please contact the Section at (312) 988-5260 for registration forms and additional information



# Upcoming Events Spring 2011

## March & April Events

### SABA-DC Panel Series - Alternate Legal Careers, March 29, 2011

Are you thinking about what you can do with your law degree other than practice law? Are you a practicing attorney considering a career change? Come to SABA-DC's Alternative Legal Careers Panel to listen to professionals who are currently using their legal knowledge and experience in non-legal positions. Our accomplished panelists will discuss where they began their career path, what led them in the direction they have currently taken with their career, and their responsibilities in their current positions. Come learn about non-legal career options that are available to you.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011  
**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
**Where:** George Washington University Law School  
2000 H Street, NW (20th & H St., NW)  
Washington, DC 20052  
**Metro:** Blue or Orange line to Foggy Bottom/GW University  
**Cost:** Free  
**Please RSVP to** [shuchi.batra@gmail.com](mailto:shuchi.batra@gmail.com).

Following are our esteemed speakers:

Seema Gajwani directs the Criminal Justice Program at the Public Welfare Foundation (PWF) where she administers approximately \$6 million annually to reform criminal and juvenile justice systems throughout the country. Prior to joining PWF, she was a public defender at The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia where she represented defendants in misdemeanor and felony cases. She also convened President Obama's criminal justice policy advisory group and has worked with the NAACP-Legal Defense Fund, the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, and the Defender Association of Seattle. Ms. Gajwani received her J.D. from New York University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University.

Sunil Ohri is a Partner and General Counsel at HLP Integration. Mr. Ohri counsels law firms and corporate clients on how to apply best practice methodologies to their Information Management requirements. Before

joining HLP Integration, Mr. Ohri spent 20 years operating in virtually every facet of the legal and litigation support industry. He started his foray into the legal industry (as a legal assistant) by managing intellectual property litigations for companies such as Stouffers, Toys R Us and Nokia. Mr. Ohri practiced law for nearly a decade, working on a variety of cases involving such companies as Ford Motor Company, Northwest Airlines, First Union National Bank, and Glendale Federal Bank. Mr. Ohri also spent several years with an internationally recognized litigation support service provider, Ipro Corporation, and a nationally recognized Washington D.C. based law firm, Wiley Rein, where he was the Senior Manager of Litigation Support.

Kapil Sharma is the General Manager-North America for Tata Sons, Ltd. Mr. Sharma recently returned to the Tata Sons office from India where he served as the General Manager for Tata Services, a subsidiary of Tata Sons. Prior to joining Tata Sons, Mr. Sharma was the Vice President for Madison Government Affairs, a boutique government relations firm. He has also served as senior counsel and legislative director to U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli (NJ), as legislative consultant to the law firm of Verner Lipfert Bernhard McPherson and Hand, and as a legislative assistant to Congressman Frank Pallone (NJ). Mr. Sharma received his J.D. from the Rutgers School of Law and his B.A. from Rutgers College, Rutgers University.

Ravin Yadav currently works in the global trade services division of J.P. Morgan where he focuses on strategic consulting, product management, business development, and client program management. Mr. Yadav studied on international and customs law in law school which led him to work at technology start-ups such as Open Harbor and NextLinx Corporation, which focused on developing solutions to automate the customs and regulatory compliance requirements. Initially, Mr. Yadav focused on building the regulatory content required to power supply chain systems on a global basis and subsequently, he moved into a client oriented business solutions role.

### Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless New Volunteer Training

**WHAT:**

Attorneys and attorney-paralegal teams are invited to participate in our New Volunteer Training. Legal Clinic volunteers provide civil legal assistance and representation to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Washington, DC. Volunteers assist at our Intake sites located at meal programs, shelters and day program centers throughout the city. The training will focus on homelessness and poverty in the District of Columbia, Legal Clinic policies and procedures for handling cases, common legal issues encountered at intake, and interviewing techniques. The Legal Clinic assists over 1,000 clients each year with the help of attorneys & paralegals like you!

**WHEN:**

Wednesday, April 6, 2011  
Noon - 3:30pm  
Lunch Provided

**\*\* Attendance is required for all new volunteers \*\***

**WHERE:**

DLA Piper  
500 8<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**HOW:**

For registration and materials, contact Nick Casalbore ([nick@legalclinic.org](mailto:nick@legalclinic.org) or 202.328.1263) no later than Friday, April 1.

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. All volunteers must complete, sign and return the Volunteer Application Packet to Nick Casalbore, Volunteer Coordinator ([nick@legalclinic.org](mailto:nick@legalclinic.org)).
2. Attorneys must be authorized to practice law in the District of Columbia: attorneys must be a current member of the District of Columbia Bar or have begun the process for waiving in admission; attorneys employed by the Federal government must be a member in good standing of the highest court of any state.
3. Non-attorneys may volunteer only in partnership with and under the direct supervision of an attorney authorized to practice in the District of Columbia (2 above). *The Legal Clinic lacks the capacity to arrange partnering relationships.*

### SABA-DC April 2011 Networking Happy Hour

Looking forward to springtime? So are we!

Check [www.sabadc.org](http://www.sabadc.org) in the coming weeks for details of a Networking Happy Hour to welcome warmer weather.



## Recent Events Spring 2011

### Networking Mixer & Mentoring Circle Dinner Series

#### SABA-DC & APABA Networking Mixer, January 13, 2011

SABA-DC and APABA-DC kicked off the new year on January 13 for their annual networking mixer at Tattoo Bar on K Street in downtown Washington, DC. The event was very well attended, with about 100 attorneys from both groups mingling over "Sapabatinis". SABA-DC and APABA-DC were also happy to welcome new attorneys to the DC area.



#### SABA-DC Women's Mentoring Circle Dinner Series: South Asian Women & the Law- An Open Conversation

On January 25, 2011, SABA-DC held its second women's mentoring circle dinner series at Tandoori Nights in Arlington, VA. About ten women gathered for an informal conversation that began with introductions and attendees sharing what brought them to the dinner that evening. It was a diverse group of attendees - several newcomers to the DC area, women with varied levels of professional experience in different areas of the law including policy, government, nonprofit, in-house, and law firms. The initial question presented to the group was what keeps each person in the law, and this prompted significant discussion. Answers varied from wanting a stable source of income to support a family, social change and making a difference in people's lives, loving the firm and substantive practice area, and not really being sure. At the conclusion of the dinner, we agreed to create an email group for the circle so that those interested can remain engaged between organized events. If you are interested in joining this email group and/or have ideas for future mentoring circle events, please feel free to contact Jaya Saxena at [sabadcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sabadcsecretary@gmail.com).





## Recent Events Spring 2011

### 2nd Annual Kick-off Reception & Feb. Dinner Series

#### SABA-DC Second Annual Kick-off Reception, February 10, 2011

SABA-DC kicked off its year of programming with its annual Reception at Kellari Taverna. This year's Reception included a great cross-section of people from the DC Metro area in private practice, government, in-house counsel, several law students and academics. Approximately 60 people attended and several people noted the impressive turn-out and said that they're looking forward to this year's programming. It was a great start to the new year for SABA-DC.



#### SABA-DC February Dinner Series: Financial Management for Legal Professionals, February 16, 2011

On February 16, 2011, SABA held a dinner series on the topic of financial management. A popular NY Times article recently highlighted the case of a law school graduate who is unemployed with thousands of dollars of law school loan debt. Roshan Loungani, Vice President at Arete Wealth Management spoke to attendees about managing debt while thinking about growing wealth for the long term. He discussed various topics such as re-paying student loan debt, questions to ask a financial advisor, how to understand the stock market, and the need for long term investments. Attendees left the dinner with a great understanding of the importance of financial management and debt repayment.