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# SABA-DC Quarterly Newsletter

Information on happenings in the South Asian legal community of the DC Metro Area



## Good-bye Summer, hello Fall!

SABA-DC has had quite a packed schedule since the last newsletter! From a night out with the Nationals to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual NASABA Convention in San Francisco, we've tried to make the most of the summer. Continue reading below to catch-up with us or reminisce about good times!

### Upcoming Events

Annual Public Interest Fellowship Gala!

**Saturday, November 16**

This year's Gala will be held at the District Architecture Center, 421 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Please visit <http://sabadc.org/gala> for tickets!

Annual Civil & Human Rights Symposium

**Wednesday, November 20**

The 2013 SABA-DC Civil and Human Rights Symposium will be held at GW Law, and address continuing struggles with racial profiling, surveillance, and hate crimes.

### In this issue:

Reception for Mythili Raman

NASABA Convention in San Francisco

Afternoon at the Nationals Game

Conclusion of this year's SABA-DC Public Interest Fellowships

Information on this year's Annual Public Interest Fellowship Gala!

Women's Mentoring Circle Event with Sun Choi



## Summer Enrichment Events

### Reception for Mythili Raman



In late June, SABA-DC gathered to celebrate the selection of Mythili Raman as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, at a reception hosted by Kirkland & Ellis. As the head of the criminal division, Ms. Raman oversees the almost 600 federal prosecutors tasked with enforcing the nation's federal criminal laws and helps to develop the criminal law. Ms. Raman shared her path through the Department of Justice, answered questions about the Justice Department's current criminal focus, and offered advice about career paths. The reception was a great success and SABA-DC congratulates Ms. Raman on her appointment to the head of the criminal division.

### Law Students Know Thy Career Options

SABA-DC co-sponsored a 'Law Students Know Thy Career Options' panel and reception with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of DC and the Asian Pacific Bar Association Educational Fund, hosted this year by Arnold & Porter. The event featured an informative panel with attorneys practicing in a variety of areas. The panel was followed by breakout networking sessions, giving current law students the opportunity to meet practitioners of all experience levels.



### Women's Mentoring Circle with Sun Choi



SABA-DC's Women's Mentoring Circle held its third annual event in the series on July 17. The Networking Happy Hour was followed by a lively discussion with Sun Choi, a highly experienced trial attorney who has been practicing in the Washington, D.C. metro area for over 16 years. Sun shared her tips for success and pitfalls to avoid for women in the workplace. Sun also discussed her thoughts on the importance of networking effectively. The event was well attended by practitioners of all backgrounds and experience levels. The WMC looks forward to seeing members at future events.





## 2013 SABA-DC Fellowship Recipients



**Keerat Pannu**

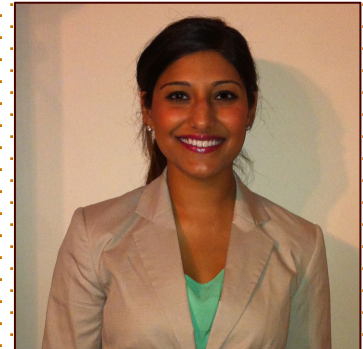
My internship at the Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has been great! I've had the opportunity to work on an incredibly diverse array of projects, including responding to discovery requests, drafting litigation documents, and working on attorney discipline projects. I've also had the opportunity to attend immigration hearings at the Arlington Immigration Court. I learned about the ways individuals may seek to cancel removal, the rights of legal permanent residents and aliens versus the rights of U.S. citizens, asylum applications, and the role EOIR plays in immigration legislation. I also learned daily from the attorneys I worked with and obtained a lot of career advice. I enjoyed the experience so much that I decided to continue my internship this fall. I would like to thank SABA-DC for allowing me to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, thank you!



**Sonia Desai**

I am happy to report that my summer internship at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) was a huge success! I was able to conduct legal research on a variety of issues relating to sensitive grantees in high-risk countries. I also spent a significant amount of time conducting research under the broad theme of transitional justice, including drafting a memo on the office's "access to justice" programming and broader considerations that should be noted to further access to justice. I also advanced my understanding of FOIA exemptions by working on a FOIA request and determining the legal basis for which specific redactions were warranted.

Looking back on this internship, I learned a lot about the practical implications on programming by the U.S. government. I also learned a great deal about how the Department of State Functions internally, and the various opportunities to find employment there.



**Navneet Jaswal**

The past ten weeks with the D.C. Rental Housing Commission proved to be both more challenging and rewarding than I could have imagined. On my first day, I was given the task of drafting a decision for a case that came before the Commission over five years ago, illustrating the incredible backlog that many such local administrative agencies have. In the process of writing and revising opinions and orders this summer, I learned a great deal about housing problems in the District as well as the intricacies of the D.C. Administrative Procedures Act. In addition to honing my writing skills, I was able to observe firsthand the difficulty that pro se litigants face in raising and defending claims against counsel before the Commission. My experience this summer has inspired me to continue to study the effect that being pro se has on the outcome of claims brought before adjudicative bodies, and I hope to ultimately find a means of helping pro se litigants draft and present their cases to courts. Without the support of SABA, I would have never been able to pursue such a path, and I cannot thank SABA's members for their generosity.

## Monthly Dinner Series

### May Dinner

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> SABA-DC welcomed Raj Dave and William Simmons to speak about the landmark Supreme Court case—*Association of Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics*. This dinner series event took place prior to the Supreme Court's ruling and the two speakers discussed the patenting of two human genes linked to breast and ovarian cancer as well as the implications for science and research. The event was a great primer for the issues in front of the Supreme Court, which eventually ruled that simply isolating genes is not eligible for patent protections.



### June Dinner

On June 18, SABA-DC welcomed Sandhya Bathija, Campaign Manager for Legal Progress, to speak about the role South Asian attorneys can play in shaping the federal judiciary. We had a full house for this event and were able to have an extensive discussion on the issues impacting South Asians before the federal courts and how we, as South Asian Attorneys, have the opportunity to ensure our judiciary is fair, functioning, and diverse.

### July Dinner

On July 9, SABA-DC hosted a dinner featuring Tejinder Singh, a SCOTUSblog contributor and counsel at Goldstein & Russell, P.C., a boutique law firm focusing on Supreme Court cases. The discussion focused on the landmark Supreme Court decisions on issue of same sex marriage, affirmative action, and more. Tejinder offered unique insight into the Court's decision-making process as well as about the work of his firm. He also fielded numerous questions from the attendees on a broad range of Supreme Court issues and rulings.

### August Dinner

On August 28, SABA-DC welcomed Erin Oshiro from Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) to speak about S. 744, the Senate Immigration Bill and the status of comprehensive immigration reform. Erin explained all of the critical aspects of the Senate Bill and what the status of reform is in the House. She also spoke about the implications of the Senate immigration bill for the South Asian community. SABA-DC thanks Erin for her participation in the event.





## May Happy Hour to Benefit Bangladesh

On April 24, 2013, an eight story building collapsed in the commercial district of Savar Upazila in Bangladesh. Over one thousand people were killed with another 2,500 injured after being trapped under the rubble.

The South Asian Bar Association hosted a fundraiser in May to

benefit those injured in the Bangladesh building collapse. The event was a huge success, bringing over 100 people to enjoy the start of summer on the rooftop at Marvin's while also raising funds for those affected by one of the largest structural failures in modern day history.

## June Happy Hour with HBA

On June 20, 2013, SABA-DC held a networking happy hour with the Hispanic Bar Association of DC benefitting New Futures. New Futures provides financial and mentoring support to at-risk DC Metro area youth seeking economic self-sufficiency through post-secondary education. SABA-DC thanks those who were able to attend the event.



## Night with the Nationals

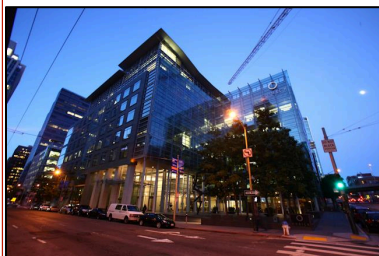
While the Washington Nationals season was not what many of its fans were hoping for, SABA-DC still had an amazing time at the park watching the Nats take on the Dodgers. The game was the epitome of a pitcher's battle as both teams were tied up at a single run before the game entered extra innings. While the Dodgers may have won the game, all 28 SABA members were fortunate enough to see Teddy Roosevelt win the Presidents' Race for his second victory ever. Look for information on a future outing to a Washington Wizards game this season.

## Happy Hour for Beyond Bollywood

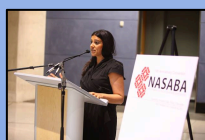
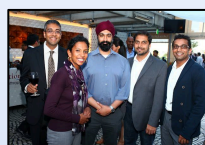
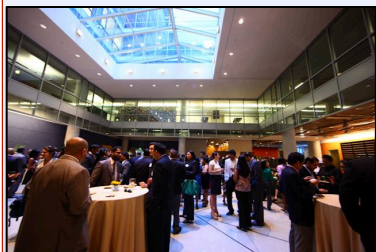
On August 15, SABA-DC, along with the Network of South Asian Professionals of D.C. (NetSAP-DC) and the American India Foundation Young Professionals Chapter (AIF YP DC), held a networking happy hour at the Beacon Hotel to support Beyond Bollywood. Beyond Bollywood is a groundbreaking exhibition which will explore the heritage, daily experience and numerous, diverse contributions that Indian immigrants and Indian Americans have made to shaping the United States. It opens in December 2013 at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. SABA-DC thanks all those who attended this event.



## 2013 Annual NASABA Convention



The North American South Asian Bar Association held its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in San Francisco, CA this past June. The convention brought together attorneys, practitioners, and students from all over the country. California Attorney General Kamala Harris opened the plenary lunch on cyber security, moderated by Judge Paul Grewal. The two days of panelists addressed a variety of topics, including hate crimes, health care reform, LGBT equality in the South Asian community, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The Saturday gala honored ten years of NASABA presidents, celebrated newly confirmed U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Judge Sri Srinivasan with the NASABA 2013 Pioneer Award, and featured the keynote address by Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.





# 2013 SABA-DC PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP BENEFIT GALA



Saturday, November 16, 2013 | 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

District Architecture Center  
421 7th Street NW, Washington, DC

For more information, visit [www.sabadc.org](http://www.sabadc.org)