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The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. Quarterly Newsletter



SABA-DC has had an exciting last couple of months! Our members learned about in-house careers at an in-house counsel panel event, enjoyed a summer picnic to celebrate the good weather and catch up with friends, helped members of the community by volunteering at an immigration pro bono clinic, learned about careers in government relations and international law at dinner series, and much more. We look forward to seeing you at our Public Interest Fellowship Benefit Gala on December 6, 2014 and at our other upcoming events!

Upcoming Events

Save the Date

Saturday, December 6, 2014

Public Interest Fellowship Benefit Gala

8:00 p.m. — 12:00 a.m.

In-House Counsel Reception

7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

District Architecture Center | 421 7th Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20004

Open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres

Attire: Semi-formal or Ethnic

Save the Date

Saturday, December 6, 2014

9:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

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

Chinatown Community Cultural Center
616 H. Street, NW, Suite 201
Washington, D.C. 20004

In-house Counsel Panel Event

On July 23rd, SABA-DC held an In-House Counsel Panel and reception at the offices of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, and Jacobson LLP. The panelists discussed securing an in-house position, the major challenges faced by in-house counsel and what in-house counsel look for when hiring their attorneys. The following experienced in-house counsel were part of the panel:

Sheena Gill, General Counsel of C2 Technologies Inc. which provides training, strategic human capital, mission-critical support services, and information technology solutions to civilian, defense, and private industry clients;

Tina Rao, the Chief Counsel of Healthcare at Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc., a nationwide home health, staffing, and wellness company operating in 40 states;

Mona Thakkar, Assistant General Counsel of Sales and Marketing for Volkswagen Group of America which is a wholly

owned subsidiary of Volkswagen AG, one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest carmaker in Europe;

Prerna Tomar, Policy Counsel in the DC-based Government Relations Office of Samsung Electronics America, Inc. which is a wholly owned subsidiary of an established leader in the global electronics market;

Vaishali Udupa, an IP Litigation Manager in Hewlett-Packard's Litigation Group;

Sujata Jhaveri, a fifth year litigation associate at Fried Frank, served as the moderator.

Attendees, which included a diverse group of in-house attorneys, law firm associates, and government attorneys were greatly rewarded by the vast experience and insight offered by the panelists.



July Dinner Series—Pathways to Careers in Government Relations

On July 30th, SABA-DC hosted its monthly Dinner Series with the topic being Pathways to Careers in Government Relations. There were over 30 people in attendance to hear about the career paths of **Vinoda Basnayake**, Of Counsel at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP; **Priya Dayanada**, Director of Government Affairs at KPMG LLP, and **Naveen Parmar**, Director of Government Relations at Nationwide Financial. Attendees were then able to ask questions and advice of the panelists and were able to network with them after the dinner series

September Dinner Series—Career Paths & Hot Topics in International Law

On September 17, SABA-DC held its monthly Dinner Series event at Heritage India on Pennsylvania Avenue. The topic was "Career Paths & Hot Topics in International Law," and it featured a panel of experienced attorneys from organizations that are shaping the legal and policy landscape for America's role in international military affairs.

Rupa Bhattacharyya, Director of the Office of Constitutional and Specialized Torts Litigation in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Division, explained her office's role in defending the United States against allegations of torts resulting from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. **Ashika Singh**, Attorney-Adviser in the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Legal Adviser/Political-Military Affairs, recounted long hours analyzing legal and political risks involved in the State Department's strategic response to hot-button issues like Benghazi and Guantanamo Bay. And **Naureen Shah**, Legislative Counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union, discussed the ACLU's important work in advocating the federal government on issues related to domestic spying, the use of military drones, and global surveillance. She added the perspective of how a prominent non-governmental agency can influence policymakers through well-researched reports and stakeholder meetings.

Attendees, which included many law students and young attorneys interested in international legal careers, enjoyed hearing the panelists' practical advice on career strategies and working in the federal government.



Summer Picnic

On Saturday, August 16, more than 40 SABA-DC and KhushDC members, family, and friends celebrated 67 years of Indian & Pakistani independence at SABA-DC's annual summer picnic at Quincy Park in Arlington, Virginia. The weather was beautiful, and the guests enjoyed an eclectic mix of grilled turkey and veggie burgers, chicken hot dogs, biryani, assorted salads, and even some homemade kheer. SABA-DC's annual event was co-sponsored by KhushDC, a social support group that promotes awareness and acceptance for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) South Asians in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.



Pro Bono Clinic—Immigration Legal Advice & Referral Clinic

On October 6, SABA-DC partnered with the D.C. Bar to provide pro bono immigration advice to members of the community at the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program Immigration Legal Advice & Referral Clinic. A total of 14 volunteer attorneys helped 39 clients at the clinic. Join us at the next pro bono clinic on December 6. Prior immigration experience is not required in order to volunteer at this clinic.



Fall Networking Mixer—Sponsored by the Mentorship Committee

On September 25, SABA-DC hosted a networking mixer at Oya to bring together law students, junior attorneys and senior attorneys for the expanded mentorship program. Over 50 people registered to join the mentorship program facilitated by SABA-DC. The Mentorship Committee will pair mentors and mentees and will continue to support fostering these important relationships.

This year, SABA-DC expanded its Mentorship Program so that law students and attorneys of all levels of experience, practice areas and sectors can receive the mentorship they need. We expanded the scope of the mentoring program in recognition of the fact that mentoring is a continuing need as attorneys approach partnership, develop clients, and consider career changes. Consequently, we opened up the program to accept junior and senior attorneys to participate as mentees and pair them up with mentors that can address their specific questions and interests.

SABA-DC's Mentoring Program addresses the need for mentoring both new lawyers entering the profession and more seasoned lawyers to ensure their development and success. The large number of lawyers entering practice every year, the rapid pace of change, clients' understandable demand for knowledgeable counsel even at the most junior level, and the growing diversity of the profession make mentoring more important than it has ever been to the development and success of new lawyers.

IP Law Section Event—The Supreme Court Patent Year in Review

The SABA-DC IP Law Section held its fall event, The Supreme Court Patent Year in Review, on September 24 at the law offices of Troutman Sanders. The panel of experts, **Charan Brahma**, partner at Troutman Sanders, **Kakoli Caprihan**, Of Counsel at Greenberg Traurig, and **Glenn Manishin**, partner at Troutman Sanders, led an insightful discussion on the activist role that the Supreme Court has taken on intellectual property cases this past term. The Court's decisions this past term have had far-reaching effects on patent, copyright, and antitrust cases. The panel evaluated these landmark cases. They discussed the possible reasons for the Supreme Court's growing interest in intellectual property, the impact of these recent decisions on the case law and the effect on the value of intellectual property as a whole.

The SABA-DC IP Law Section, comprised of Wash-

ington, D.C. area attorneys practicing in all areas of IP law:

- provides a professional networking forum for IP law attorneys;
- assists, guides, and mentors South Asian IP law attorneys; and
- conducts continuing legal education programming for IP law attorneys.

To learn more about the SABA-DC IP Section, please contact Rahul Das at drahuldas@hotmail.com



Save the Date



**2014 SABA-DC
PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP
BENEFIT GALA**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014
8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
District Architecture Center
Washington, DC**