

# NAPABA

## LAWYER

Volume XVII No. 1 Winter 2007

NATIONAL  
ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN BAR  
ASSOCIATION

## The Art of Joan Mei Haratani: Samurai Warrior from Playground to Courtroom

by Esther H. Lim

### Journey of a California Girl

The penetrating focus and unwavering certainty of a samurai warrior pierce through as we speak on the phone. What was envisioned as a brief interview about Joan Mei Haratani's work on retention of women in the profession and her recent accomplishments—first female minority President of the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) and NAPABA Trailblazer Awardee—quickly became a vivid tale of a little



girl's journey growing up in California fighting racial stigmatism on the playground. Forged to the core with inner strength born in those early years, Joan the Samurai Warrior continued to fight the fight for decades inside and outside the courtroom as a highly respected and successful lawyer.

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## NAPABA Welcomes Mazie Hirono to the U.S. Congress and John Chiang as California State Controller

By Christine N. Epres

Asian Pacific American (APA) attorneys are continuing to make great strides in American government by representing the APA community in elected positions at the federal, state and local levels. Most recently, former NAPABA Northwest Regional Governor, Mazie Hirono, won a seat in the U.S. Congress, representing the Second Congressional District of Hawaii. The November 2006 election also brought in John Chiang to serve as California State Controller. Other prominent APA attorneys who have

been elected into public office include NAPABA Member and 2006 Trailblazer Honoree Gary Locke, who was a deputy prosecutor before he served as Governor of Washington State, and Congressman David Wu, representing the First Congressional District of Oregon, who had previously co-founded the law firm of Cohen and Wu, serving the high tech industry.

An immigrant from Fukushima, Japan, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono says it was her mother



who encouraged her to make a difference in her community. With this inspiration, Congresswoman Hirono had no problems expressing her disappointment with our government during the Vietnam War. She

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and fun evening to bond and get familiar with each other. Also, in November, PABA held a very successful PIZZA night. This is an event again with undergraduate and law students. PABA invited panelists from varied and distinguished legal backgrounds. This year, Judge Tomson Ong, along with other noteworthy PABA members provided advice, wisdom and mentorship to law students and undergraduates regarding the practice of law.

In December, the PABA Board held a Holiday Party. The event was well attended and extremely fun.

PABA has been accepting applications for its 2007 Attorney Bar Scholarship - \$1,000 towards the cost of bar dues or a bar review course.

PABA co-sponsored a reception in honor of its president, Eduardo Angeles, who was recently appointed the first Special Counsel to the Los Angeles City Council. The reception took place on February 8, 2007, at the City Club at Bunker Hill in Los Angeles, CA.

PABA's Installation Dinner was March 8, 2007 at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

## **CALIFORNIA - SAN DIEGO & ORANGE COUNTY REGION**

The NAPABA California Regional Convention will be held in San Diego on June 8-9, 2007. The Convention will kick-off with a golf tournament at Salt Creek Golf Club at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 8th. Salt Creek (formerly The Auld Course) is one of San Diego County's most distinctive courses and proceeds of the tournament will benefit the **Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law (SCAPAL)**.

The Southern California region is currently working on revising its policy of electing its NAPABA Regional Governor to ensure that all affiliates in the region participate in the process. The region is also in the process of establishing policies and

procedures to determine its Alternate Regional Governor.

**Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALSD)** and Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego (FALSFD) hosted their Annual Joint Installation and Awards Dinner on February 23, 2007 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. The guest speaker for the dinner was the Hon. Norman Y. Mineta, former Secretary of Commerce and former Secretary of Transportation. The dinner also featured a silent auction to raise funds for SCAPAL. In January, PALSD and FALSFD members attended a Diverse Law Students Mixer at the University of San Diego School of Law and met future diverse attorneys – and future NAPABA members.

Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA) co-sponsored a pro bono clinic with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, on Saturday, March 31, 2007. Also, OCAABA held its Annual Installation Dinner on May 3, 2007, at the Furiwa Restaurant in Garden Grove.

In December, 2006, **Orange County Korean American Bar Association (OC KABA)** held its first "Career in Law Seminar." This presentation was geared towards students and parents interested in careers in the legal profession. Special guests included Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carlos Chung and representatives from private practice, the Legal Aid Society, the Office of the Orange County Public Defender, and the Chapman University School of Law. In January, OC KABA provided pro bono consultations on various legal topics including business, real estate, contract, immigration and family law. This program was sponsored by the Korean Chamber of Commerce. OC KABA is planning its 2nd Annual Community Law School event, which will be held this Spring. Last year, over 150 people attended this event,

which was established to educate the local Korean American community about legal issues that affect their daily lives.

## **CENTRAL REGION**

**Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Central Ohio (APABA-CO)** held its first organizational meeting and opening reception in the fall of 2006.

On March 8, APABA-CO sponsored a career development panel discussion, moderated by Anazeel Mohamed, Treasurer. The event was well attended by both practicing attorneys and law students. The discussion group had a lively discussion between the panelists and attendees, and was followed by a networking reception sponsored by Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn.

APABA-CO's Inaugural Gala was held on April 18th. Speakers included Ohio Treasurer Richard Cordray and former NAPABA President Michael Chu.

**Missouri Asian Bar Association (MABA)** elected new officials in the fall of 2006. They are: Angela Yee, President; Daniel Sakaguchi, Vice President; Ignatius Yuan, Treasurer; and Julie Madsen, Secretary. The 6th Annual MABA Unity Dinner was held on April 19, 2007 at Ryce Restaurant in St. Louis. The Mentoring Committee hosted its first Happy Hour event with mentees on February 22, 2007. Mentors shared their thoughts and experiences about work/ life balance, interviewing tips, and ways to improve job opportunities. MABA is conducting the Community Service Project to partner with St. Louis University law students to raise awareness, through volunteer projects, fundraising and community outreach about the homebound elderly and assist local agency, Mid East Agency on Aging in St. Louis.

**Asian American Bar Association of Kansas City (AABAKC)** elected