



# OCKABA Newsletter

OCTOBER 2008 ISSUE

## Greetings!

Greetings OC KABA Members and Friends,

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In the past few weeks, we've seen some major crisis in this nation, including the devastations from hurricane Ike, the fall of Wall Street, and the economic turmoil involving a \$700 billion bailout. We now face an election which can turn this nation around for the worse or for the better.

I hope all of us are doing well in these tough times. We as attorneys must focus and strive to make some positive changes in our community, especially in these grave times when the public needs affordable legal assistance than ever before.

Please join us in our next general meeting which is scheduled for **October 2, 2008, Thursday at 6:00 PM** at the "Johnny's New York" Italian Restaurant in Irvine (See the "Upcoming Events" section below for address). Let's all participate and become involved!

As always, if any members know of any attorneys who are interested in joining our organization please spread the word and circulate this newsletter.

If you have any ideas to put in this newsletter, please feel free to contact me ([hoelpark@gmail.com](mailto:hoelpark@gmail.com))

Yours truly,

Ho-El

### ABOUT US: Orange County Korean American Bar Association

*OC KABA was established in November 2005 to promote networking among minority attorneys, to provide effective legal counsel to the local Orange County community, to serve the Korean American community's legal needs with pro bono services, to promote the appointment of Korean American judges, and to assist law students in making the transition into full-time law practice.*

*There are currently 20 attorneys on the OC KABA Board of Directors and there are about 200-250 Korean American attorneys registered in Orange County.*

## 1. ELECTION SURVEY



VS.



As you all know, the election for the U.S. Presidency is only a month away and many say this is one of the most significant elections we'll face in our life time. The next leader of this nation has a lot at stake and must be able to overcome the issues we face today, including the pending wars, energy and financial crisis, and the preparation and handling of natural disasters. It's certainly an election that the public is very passionate about as our choice will have a major impact on our lives ahead. With that in mind, I have sent out surveys early in September to see what people thought about the upcoming election and who they will choose and why. Unfortunately, we did not receive as many responses as we have hoped (even though their responses were promised to be remained confidential). In fact, only five people have responded among which were 2 democrats, 2 republicans and one independent. Interestingly, two democrats were females and the other two republicans were males. Out of the five people, 3 of them have decided to vote for Obama. Here are some of their responses to the survey, categorized by party affiliation.

### Responses by our Democratic Member#1

- Your practice area? (real estate, immigration, family, etc.) Real Estate
- Gender? Age? Female, 31
- Who would you vote for in the Nov. election? and why? Obama (would have preferred Hillary Clinton). For me it is important that a president grows up as part of the working class and has to overcome obstacles (whether it be poverty, discrimination, etc.) to better understand what social services are needed, are working/not working and rise to the occasion to become well educated and intelligent (e.g. being the 1st African American Harvard Law Review editor in chief vs. going to Yale because your daddy is rich) so the individual can understand complex economic and foreign policy issues. Without having been part of both the working and upper class, I don't think a president is prepared to understand the needs of the people. This is why I thought that Bill Clinton was an excellent president and George Bush an awful one. Plus, I can't stand stupid presidents.
- What issues concern you the most in the next 4 years to come? the war, economy, healthcare, poverty, alternative energy
- What other presidential elections were memorable to you and why? Gore/Bush. One won the popular vote but didn't win the election.
- For lawyers, which candidate would be best and why? For lawyers who care about how much money they make, a Republican. For lawyers who want to serve the better good of the entire community and country, a Democrat.

### Responses by our Republican Member#1

- Your practice area? (real estate, immigration, family, etc.) Corporate Transactions
- Gender? Age? Male. 39.
- Who would you vote for in the Nov. election? and why?: Undecided. Earlier, I was leaning toward McCain, but I have been impressed by Obama's ability to stir hope into the public. Many of the goals that Obama have expressed in his campaign are in line with what I want for myself and my family and the society in general. However, I have serious doubts about Obama's ability to fulfill them. He has failed miserably to provide any details about how they would be accomplished. My fear is that he may seriously hurt the US economy while trying to accomplish his goals without a sound plan and process. Also, the US public will have to be patient with him and continue to be supportive of him for the next 5 to 7 years for his goals to be achieved. The way that the public is currently enamored with him just might buy him enough time to achieve some positive results. I agree with the public sentiment that status quo is unacceptable. However,

I will wait to hear what specific plans and processes Obama desires to implement before going over to his side.

- What issues concern you the most in the next 4 years to come? Taxes, US economy, education, US security (including war in Iraq). What can I say? I'm selfish.
- What do you find fascinating about this election? (if any). Whether too much change is better than no change. The public certainly wants change, but change is not always good. Is the public so desirous of change that it is willing to risk some adverse changes? I think so. The more interesting question may be how patient will the public be when changes do not come quickly enough or when some of the changes are not what they expected. If the public loses patience with Obama, his presidency could be devastating. Obviously, as a minority, I am also intrigued by the fact that Obama is an African-American and Palin is a woman.
- From 1-10, how would you rate your interest level to the current election compared to previous presidential elections? If 5 is average, then I would say 8. Definitely interesting.
- What other presidential elections were memorable to you and why? Bush v. Gore. The campaigns were not all that interesting (how can it be with Gore involved), but the Florida election results were extremely interesting. It did go to the US Supreme Court, right?
- For lawyers, which candidate would be best and why? It really depends on what type of lawyer you are. Generally, in my opinion, Republican nominees are better for businesses and Democratic nominees are better for individuals. The unintended consequences of pro-business or pro-individual can sometimes be quite difficult to swallow—on the one hand, we can end up with big corporations depriving individuals of their rights; on the other hand, we can end up with mass-tort plaintiff lawyers running rampant and suing every corporation under the sun, with the result being they make millions while their client only gets a fraction of what they really deserve. From a more high-level perspective, if the next president is Republican, the US Supreme Court will certainly become even more conservative (with most of the older Justices being liberal). That would have two major benefits – one, there will be consistency in Supreme Court decisions over the next decade or so (although you may disagree with the substance of the decisions, there is likely to be more procedural and conceptual consistency); two, there will be balance between the liberal Congress and the conservative Judiciary. The downside would be that the US Supreme Court has already been relatively conservative over the past decade or so—is it good for that trend to continue from a substantive point of view?

#### Responses by our Democratic Member#2

- Your practice area? (real estate, immigration, family, etc.). CORPORATE
- Gender? Age? FEMALE/ 32
- Who would you vote for in the Nov. election? and why? OBAMA- BECAUSE HE IS NOT MCCAIN
- What issues concern you the most in the next 4 years to come? FISCAL BUDGET/ FINANCIAL ECONOMY/ FOREIGN AFFAIRS/ ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
- What do you find fascinating about this election? (if any) CHOICE OF VP
- From 1-10, how would you rate your interest level to the current election compared to previous presidential elections? 8
- For lawyers, which candidate would be best and why? HAVE NO IDEA

#### Responses by our Republican Member#2

- Your practice area? (real estate, immigration, family, etc.) Civil Litigation
- Gender? Age? Male, 36
- Who would you vote for in the Nov. election? and why? I will vote for McCain/Palin; however, not too excited about our options.
- What issues concern you the most in the next 4 years to come? The economy. Compromise of moral values if democratic president elected.
- What do you find fascinating about this election? (if any) Geriatric vs. Black president. Female vs. Catholic vice-president.
- From 1-10, how would you rate your interest level to the current election compared to previous presidential elections? 10
- What other presidential elections were memorable to you and why? Bush v. Gore. Because it was so close.
- For lawyers, which candidate would be best and why? Democratic Party favorable to plaintiff's attorney and Republican Party favorable to defense attorney due to tort reform.

- If none of the candidates satisfy you, who would you have nominated? and why? I would have nominated Mike Huckabee because he would have sought the God's guidance in running the country.

### Responses by our Independent Member.

- Your practice area? (real estate, immigration, family, etc.) real estate, business, and insurance litigation
- Gender? Age? Male. 37
- Who would you vote for in the Nov. election? and why? Obama, because his policies toward war & peace (ending the war in Iraq, building consensus with the rest of the world, using diplomatic means to address trouble spots), the environment (reducing dependence on petroleum oil and promoting green energy), and the economy (tax breaks for low to middle class, and reversing Bush's tax cuts for large corporations and the super rich) fit my vision of this country better than McCain's.
- What issues concern you the most in the next 4 years to come? Ending the war and investing in domestic economic growth.
- What do you find fascinating about this election? (if any) That neither candidate represents the tried and true partisan politics.
- From 1-10, how would you rate your interest level to the current election compared to previous presidential elections? 8
- What other presidential elections were memorable to you and why? 1988's Bush I vs. Dukakis, because that was the first presidential election that I took any interest in.
- For lawyers, which candidate would be best and why? Don't know.

## 2. PAST EVENTS

### A. BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE

On Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 8:00 AM, some of our early-risers came together for our first outdoor breakfast to discuss some of the legal issues that we face in our legal practice and shared other matters of concern, such as politics and current social issues. The following people have attended: Jenny Park, Mincheol Kim and Kiwon Kim (wife), Stephanie Lee and son, Justin Lee, Sonny Koo, Star Lopez, Min Chai. Due to the success of this event, we plan to hold one again sometime in the near future.



(From Left: Mincheol, Kiwon, Justin, Jenny, Stephanie, Min, Sonny, Star)

## B. KCLA INSTALLATION DINNER

On Thursday, September 25, 2008, two of our OCKABA members have attended the Korean Community Lawyer's Association's ("KCLA") Installation Dinner in Korea-town, Los Angeles. There were well over 150 people at this event with the high profile Korean Americans in the audience, including Michelle Steel, Kim Jae Soo, Korean Consul General, Judy Chiu (Board of Equalization), city elected officials, judges, doctors, and CPAs. KCLA deeply appreciates OCKABA's support. We hope our upcoming installation dinner will be as exciting as the KCLAs. We'll begin preparing for our own installation dinner which we expect to hold in November of 2008!

## 3. UPCOMING EVENTS

A. **GENERAL MEETING!** Our monthly general meeting will be held on **October 2, 2008 at 6:00 PM** at the following location. **Johnny's New York, 3939 Portola Pkwy., Irvine, CA 92602 (tel: 714-505-3355).** Please attend this event as we have many topics to discuss and agendas to set. Bring your colleagues and friends as well. *The food is on us!*

B. **Human Trafficking Awareness Night- October 2, 2008 (6:00 PM to 7:30 PM)**

If you cannot make it to the OCKABA meeting for any reason, join Senator Lou Correa, Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC) & Vietnamese Alliance to Combat Human Trafficking (VietACCT) to learn more about modern-day slavery and how you can join your legislators, law enforcement officers, community, friends, and neighbors to combat human trafficking.

Meeting Place: Rose Center Theater, All American Way, Westminster, CA 92683. For more info or to RSVP, please call Senator's District Office at (714)558-4400.

C. **California Employment Law Association Conference- October 2-4, 2008, Pasadena**

RSVP to Toni Jaramilla at [toni@tjjlaw.com](mailto:toni@tjjlaw.com)

D. **NAPABA Conference- November 19-23, 2008 in Seattle**

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("NAPABA") will hold its national convention starting November 19, 2008 through November 23, 2008 with a theme entitled: "Building on Our Legacy: 20 Years of NAPABA". It will be held at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel, 1400 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Early Bird Registration is NOW OPEN. Please click (or copy paste) the following link for more information: <http://www.napaba.org/napaba/showpage.asp?code=convention>

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. OCKABA has a new mailing address! Here it is:

**Orange County Korean American Bar Association**  
**PO Box 16691**  
**Irvine, CA 92623-6691**

B. Looking for Website Administrator!

OCKABA is looking for someone to volunteer a small portion of his/her time to keep our website maintained and updated. If interested, please email [Star.Lopez@Star.Lopez@gmail.com](mailto:Star.Lopez@Star.Lopez@gmail.com).

C. Need volunteers for newsletter!

We are looking for few volunteers who are willing to contribute their time for our monthly newsletters. Please contact Ho-El if interested at [hoelpark@gmail.com](mailto:hoelpark@gmail.com) or 213-249-9080.

#### D. Membership Application and Dues

If you have not yet already done so, please pay your membership dues for the year 2008. For all those who became attorneys within the past 0-5 years (regardless of which state), the fee is \$40. For everyone else, the fee is \$80. If you are a law student, there is no fee; however, you must fill out an application. Also, whether or not you are a new member, all OCKABA members must fill out a membership application each year. All checks should be made payable to "OC KABA"

Please mail your completed application and membership fees to:

HCC Surety Group, 9841 Airport Blvd., Ninth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(Attention "John C. Yi"; RE: 2008 OC KABA Membership Application)

For a copy of the *membership application*, please email Jennifer Kim at [jkim@rutan.com](mailto:jkim@rutan.com)

#### E. Do you want to be published?

The California Lawyer Magazine has asked us to submit an article in their In Pro Per section. Please contact Min Chai @ [mkc@oswald-yap.com](mailto:mkc@oswald-yap.com) or 949-788-8900 for more information.

#### F. Get Published Here!

If you can't get published in the California Lawyer magazine, you still have an opportunity to get published in our very own newsletter. Please share your success/horror stories with your fellow members. We want to know more about each of our members and their experiences as an attorney. Advice and tips are greatly appreciated to help our members become better attorneys. Let us know and we'll add your stories and thoughts in our next newsletter. Contact: Ho-El Park [hoelpark@gmail.com](mailto:hoelpark@gmail.com).

#### G. Questions and Comments

We're here for you! Any and all ideas/comments/ criticisms are all appreciated. Please email/call any of our board members and officers for any questions/comments. Thank you. If you find any errors in this newsletter, please email me at [hoelpark@gmail.com](mailto:hoelpark@gmail.com)

## 5. CLASSIFIEDS

#### A. In House Counsel Position

A company is looking to hire an in-house counsel with experience in franchise law, in particular. Company's HQ is in Orange county and its franchisees are all over California. Please contact Judy J. Chang for more information about the company. Korean speaking preferred but not required. Contact: [jchang@jgloballaw.com](mailto:jchang@jgloballaw.com). Direct: 650.204.9841

#### B. Legal Assistant Needed!

Our OCKABA Member, Ho El Park, is looking for a Korean and English speaking legal assistant (part-time/full-time) to work at his firm. If you know of anyone who is looking for/interested in such position, please email Ho-El at [hoelpark@gmail.com](mailto:hoelpark@gmail.com) or call (213) 249-9080.