

SABA FLORIDA DIGEST

FEBRUARY 13, 2009

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**INTERESTED IN
NETWORKING WITH
OTHER SOUTH
ASIAN
ATTORNEYS? WANT
TO ENHANCE YOUR
LEGAL
SKILLS IN THIS
MARKET? EXCITED
ABOUT GIVING
BACK TO YOUR
COMMUNITY?
THEN, SABA
FLORIDA WANTS
YOU!**

ABOUT US

SABA Florida is a local chapter of the North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA), which is the umbrella organization for the local SABA groups throughout the United States and Canada. SABA Florida is organized as a Florida non-profit corporation and it is tax-exempt pursuant to Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

It is my great honor and pleasure to wish you all the very best in this New Year.

As we all respectively spend our precious time on pressing client matters and family matters, I want to take this brief opportunity to thank you for your membership in the South Asian Bar Association of Florida ("SABA Florida"), and encourage your active involvement in SABA Florida this year, and beyond. Even if you cannot commit to the time commitment that has been made by the members of SABA Florida's Directors, past and present, your participation in SABA Florida is still welcomed, encouraged, and highly valued.

The members of the Board held their first monthly meeting recently, and plans are underway to undertake a number of initiatives this year that will promote the interests of our members within the state of Florida, provide opportunities for our members to meaningfully "give back" to their respective communities, and to develop a stronger link with the North American South Asian Bar Association ("NASABA"), the umbrella organization of which SABA Florida is a member, so that the interests of SABA Florida are voiced at the national level and the members of SABA Florida are given every opportunity to directly participate in the workings of NASABA.

As we begin our new year, let me first thank our Immediate Past President, Kamlesh Oza, for his stewardship of the organization during this past year as well as the invaluable and ongoing advice provided by our original President, Rahul Ranadive, as well as the SABA Florida members who served on the Board last year, for their wonderful accomplishments and contribution to the growth of this organization. Much work remains to be done, but we are on the right track. *(continued on p.2)*

**SABA FL President,
Manjit Gill**



NASALSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year, the North American South Asian Law Student Association (NASALSA) presents its 11th Annual Conference, hosted by University of Miami School of Law. The conference will be held February 27th - March 1st, 2009.

Building on the success of the previous ten NASALSA confer-

ences, the 2009 conference is entitled The New Global Frontier: Finding Our Role in a Changing World. Eleven years ago a group of South Asian law students created an organization to support the experiences and growth of South Asian law students and legal professionals across North America. This year's conference seeks to reflect

on the shared successes and struggles that both NASALSA and our community at large has faced over these last ten years.

(continued on p.2)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

As I call upon the members to get more actively involved, I wanted to introduce you to the members of the Board of SABA Florida for 2009 who will be working with all of us to grow our organization this year:

President-Elect: Tara Rao

Secretary: Jenette Mathai

Treasurer: Nisha Waranch

Vice President, Tampa: Radha Bachman

Vice President, South Florida: Rishi Bagga

Vice President, Orlando: Meenakshi Hirani

Law School Liaison: Harsh Arora

CLE Coordinator: Nikhil Joshi

You will no doubt be hearing from one or more of these Board members during the coming year.

I will be in touch shortly again with additional information about specific activities that we will be undertaking, but in the interim, please review the various attachments being sent with this e-mail, as I wanted, on behalf of SABA Florida, to make sure you are aware of these various activities and goings-on that impact our lives and provide you with opportunities to get involved.

In particular, I draw your attention to the upcoming 2009 North American South Asian Law Students Association Convention being held in Miami from February 27-March 1, 2009. There are opportunities to get involved, and there is still a need for panelists on several panels that are being convened as part of the Convention, so please review the attached materials and directly contact the organizers of the convention to get involved.

In addition, through the ongoing efforts to get involved with other minority bar associations in the state of Florida, SABA Florida's members have the opportunity to get actively involved in a Florida Minority Community Economic Development Summit being held in Clearwater, Florida on May 26-27, 2009. On May 26th, there will be a Florida Legal Economic Opportunity Forum, the focus of which is to match financial institutions with Florida minority attorneys (including members of SABA Florida, of course!) so that a fairer share of the legal services that are outsourced by these banks are handled by minority attorneys.

Finally, there are ample opportunities for you all to get involved with the various committees and activities of NASABA. From personal experience, you can establish meaningful relationships with colleagues from around the United States and Canada that can prove beneficial to the growth and advancement of your respective practices.

I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Sincerely,

Manjit S. Gill

**GET INVOLVED...
EMAIL
INFO@SABAFL.ORG
OR VISIT
WWW.SABAFL.ORG**

**MISSION STATEMENT OF SABA
FLORIDA**

Professional

Promote professional growth as well as personal interaction of the South Asian attorneys;

Mentor the South Asian law students;

Highlight the accomplishments and issues affecting the South Asian Bar as well as the South Asian community in the legal and lay media, Bar Associations and other forums;

Represent the South Asian bar and community as well as nurture their participation in relevant local, regional and state events.

Community

Educate the South Asian community on law and the appropriate legal tools to further their individual and family goals;

Strive to advocate and protect the personal and professional interests of the South Asian community;

Promote resources/entities that provide legal and other professional support to protected classes of South Asian community including but not limited to children, women and the elderly.

**SABA FL
MEMBERS:
ARE YOU A
MEMBER OF
THE ABA? LET
US KNOW SO
THAT WE CAN
HELP
INCREASE
YOUR
BENEFITS...
EMAIL INFO@
SABAFL.ORG**

NASALSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE (CONTINUED)


In the past eleven years, South Asians in North America have experienced a growth in visibility including: global outsourcing, increased immigration, a larger North American-born South Asian community, and the effects of a post 9/11 world. All of these changes have been greatly influenced and have significantly impacted, the law. With this year's conference, NASALSA has created a variety of panels, networking opportunities, and social events that will allow current and prospective law students to find inspiration and mentorship from the growing number of South Asians that have contributed to, and deeply affected, the American legal profession.


If you are interested in helping with this year's conference or would like to participate as a speaker, please feel free to contact NASALSA's Co-President in charge of the conference, Sharif Hannan, at Sharif@nasalsa.org. Hope to see everyone in February!!!


NASABA UPDATE


SABA Florida's umbrella organization, the North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA), provides a vital link between South Asian lawyers and the South Asian community across North America. As a bar association, NASABA affords North American South Asian lawyers a recognized forum for professional growth and advancement. By promoting the South Asian bar and focusing on the legal needs of the South Asian community, NASABA is the fastest growing organization of South Asian lawyers in the world. We are convinced that a strong South Asian bar in North America is essential to protecting the rights and liberties of South Asians across this continent. As the South Asian business community in North America continues to prosper, NASABA provides them with a directory of qualified legal professionals that not only have the sophistication to provide creative business solutions, but also understand their motivations and goals.


Read more on how NASABA is making a difference:


 **Presidential Appointments.** NASABA is thrilled to announce that National Advisory Council members and long time NASABA supporters Neal Katyal and Preeta Bansal have been appointed to high-level positions (Principal Deputy Solicitor General and General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor at the Office of Management and Budget, respectively) in the Obama Administration. For more information on their appointments, please refer to the Press Release posted on the NASABA website under News and Events, www.nasaba.com.

 **Business Law Section.** Congratulations to the Business Law Section for issuing their latest edition of the BLS newsletter (a copy of which is attached). BLS would like to invite authors to submit articles on legal issues or other matters pertaining to business in South Asia. Proposals should be forwarded to editor in chief Poorvi Chottani: Poorvi@lawquestinternational.com

 **2009 NASABA Convention.** The 2009 NASABA Convention is scheduled for June 25-28, 2009 in Vancouver, British Columbia and we hope to see all of you there. Registration and other updates will be coming soon at www.nasabaconvention.org. The convention sponsorship package has already been circulated to the leadership and we will need help from each and everyone of you to help raise funds. For additional information please contact VP Convention Jindy Bhalla jbhalla@ekb.com or Sponsorship Chair Rajiv Sarathy RSarathy@perkinscoie.com.

 **NASABA Elections:** The NASABA Board will soon be appointing the NASABA Election Commissioner to conduct the elections for the NASABA Executive Committee 2009-10. The new EC will be led by our extremely competent President -Elect Sonjui Kumar. The open positions are President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, VP Membership, VP Affiliate Relations and the newly created position of VP Community Outreach. We encourage all of our eligible members to consider being part of the EC. Our young organization has seen tremendous growth in the last 6 years - we have come from a group of 8 founding chapters to 26 chapters today, our convention attendance has reached 700 plus, we are now publishing several regular newsletters and there are many long-term projects that NASABA has undertaken. Yet a lot more remains to be done and this is where you can make the difference. An Election notice will be circulated in March and nominations and elections will take place in April.

 **Update on Balanomics.** It is our pleasure to report that NASABA has become a founding partner of the Balanomics Initiative. The initiative makes the business case for addressing work/life balance conflict as part of the diversity discussion. Inspired by the Call to Action initiative (which sought GC signatories to call for improving diversity in the legal profession), Balanomics(tm) seeks three constituents (General Counsels, Law Firms, and Professional Associations) to become signatories and endorse the following mission: to improve work/life balance, profitability, and productivity in the profession by enhancing the retention, promotion, and professional satisfaction of talented attorneys. Former NASABA Board Member and former NASABA Foundation President, Rupa Singh will serve as the NASABA Liaison to this initiative. If you need additional information please contact Rupa Singh: rsingh@mckennalong.com.

 **AALDEF Exit Poll Data.** You may recall that NASABA co-sponsored an AALDEF initiative to monitor the elections and conduct a non-partisan voter surveys at polling sites in Asian American neighborhoods in at least various States. The results from the AALDEF Exit Poll are attached.

2009 SABA OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President; Director: Manjit Gill mgill@gunster.com

President-Elect; Director: Tara Rao traolaw@gmail.com

Secretary; Director: Jenette Mathai jmathai@solambittlaw.com

Treasurer: Nisha Waranch NWaranch@bankerlopez.com

Vice Pres. Tampa: Radha Bachman radha.bachman@bipc.com

Vice Pres. South Florida, Director: Rishi Bagga rishi.bagga@mac.com

Vice Pres. Orlando, Director: Meenakshi Hirani hiranimeena@yahoo.com


Law School Liaison; Director: Harsh Arora attorneyarora@amerilawyer.com

CLE Coordinator: Nikhil Joshi nick@laborattys.com

Director: Malathi Echambadi mechambadi@gmail.com

Director: Kamlesh Oza kamlesh.oza@csklegal.com

Director: Padma Hinrichs HinrichsP@gtlaw.com

 **PLI Co-sponsorship.** NASABA is a Co-Sponsor for PLI's "Doing Business in India 2009: Critical Legal Issues for U.S. Companies," scheduled on February 11, 2009 in New York City, at a Groupcast location in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and via Live Webcast, and on March 4, 2009 in San Francisco. To use NASABA's 20% discount please register on our website: www.nasaba.com.

To enjoy the marketing and professional development benefits afforded to you by NASABA as a SABA Florida member, please contact our President, Manjit Gill, at MGill@gunster.com, for more information.

