

OCKABA Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2008 ISSUE

Greetings!

Greetings OC KABA Members and Friends,

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I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and also enjoyed watching the Olympics. The opening ceremony was truly something! Korea was 7th place!

This past summer was also exciting for OCKABA, as we had some new members join our organization. We also had some fun social activities during the summer, including our first BBQ! and the summer mixer. We also had implemented our own CLE seminar!

I hope everyone can attend our monthly meetings and infuse more exciting ideas for us to implement to continue the growth of our organization. On that note, please join us this Thursday on September 4, 2008 at 6PM at Kring & Chung, LLP, 38 Corporate Park, Irvine, CA. There are many things to be discussed in this meeting so I encourage everyone to attend! (New members are welcome!)

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)

Enjoy the Labor Day Holidays!

Yours truly,
Ho-EI

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. UPCLOSE AND PERSONAL: Ryul Kim, Esq. (Our Founding Father):

Mr. Ryul Kim, is one of the founding members of OCKABA and his dedication, concern and service to our organization is often overlooked. For those who've just joined, here's some information about Mr. Kim.

Name: *"Ryul Kim" is literally translated to "the Golden Rule" as in Matthew 7:12. My parents neither knew of the biblical implication nor were Christians at that time.*

No. of Years of Legal Practice: *25 years (Since 1984). I enjoy my law practice tremendously even though I have experienced ups and downs. I plan to focus on "mediation" and "expert witness/consultancy" in the area of U.S.-Korea legal matters.*

Family: *Sandy, my wife of 21 years marriage; Justin, son, a sophomore in college; Deanna, a daughter, a freshman in high school, and Toffee, a Chihuahua. We have lived in Irvine since 1994. I also volunteer every Friday morning for my son Justin's class since K-6th grade. Luckily it takes less than 5 minutes driving from home to work. However, my car battery doesn't last very long because of a lack of recharge due to short driving.*

Hobbies/Interest: *In my spare time I like to work in my backyard, read, and go horseback riding.*

Something that is unique about me (or something that I did in the past/or doing now that would surprise some people): *I'm an Asian cowboy. I used to own a pony in Korea. I take horseback-riding lessons every week. (Which is unheard of for an Asian geezer such as I) I started horseback riding as a little boy and outgrew (or outweighed) my Mongolian pony in high school in Korea. I resumed riding recently after more than 30 years time gap. I always explore an excuse to ride even in Guatemala during my church mission.*

Things Rewarding about being a Lawyer: *Several years ago I took a contingency case, rejected by many other law firms. The case involves an adverse party, a Korean corporate giant, which has shamefully screwed up a helpless Korean-American boy with its power and money. After 3-4 years uphill battle, I got a just and substantial monetary compensation for my client. It was financially a rewarding experience for myself as well. Additionally, the case has resulted in a significant public policy change in Korea.*

Things I found difficult about being a Lawyer (with clients) in my experience: *Right after 1992 LA Riot, I was able to talk a major mass-tort law firm into agreeing to represent 1,000 Korean riot victims against LA city for discriminatory deployment of police force on a contingency base. Unfortunately, the association of the Korean victims hired another law firm. Then later on, they wanted to rehire our legal team as they realized their first choice was right. Sadly the first law firm declined to re-accept their cases because of the Korean clients' lack of loyalty and sophistication. The first law firm could have invested its enormous resource and won the vindication of the Koreans riot victims' right as this reputed law firm has won a historical victory against tobacco companies. It's still too difficult not to remember L.A. Riot on every April 29.*

Advice to Young Lawyers: *We lawyers have been conferred a certain degree of power which medical doctors are always envious of. Unfortunately, the power corrupted many lawyers including myself to a certain degree. If I had guarded the privileges more cautiously in dealing with family, friends, employees, co-workers, competitors, opponents, etc, I could have more fully and early enjoyed my law practice. Therefore, I advise all lawyers, young or old, that we should exercise such privileges more with integrity, humility and generosity. (My advice is not based on my success but failure and shortcomings.)*

When do I want to retire and if so, what do I want to do for the rest of your life: *One time I thought I would like to retire when my children have graduated college. Occasionally, I dreamed of living on a ranch or in the open country. (Of course, the condition is always "money & time". When you have time, you have no money, when you have money, you have no time.) I love my law practice too much to entertain an idea of retirement at this time. I have no intent to retire unless I'm forced to quit by my wife or State Bar. Furthermore, my senior partner Ju Myung Hwang only recently started thinking of semi-retirement at his age of 68 years. My father, Howard Bonggil Kim, has never retired from his law practice but worked a week before his death at the age of 82. He was the youngest member of the oldest law firm in Korea. My old man said "No rush! The real money and fame, you earned prior to 50 years old is not really yours but after 50 years old."*

Favorite movie: *"Mongolia," a documentary film where Julia Robert living with Mongolian nomads. (I plan to visit Mongolia next July and to gallop in the Gobi desert on a Mongolian pony.)*

Favorite book: *"The Case for Christ" is the book which reopened my spiritual eye.*

Favorite food: *A beef steak, medium-well. (I'm not much appreciative of sushi because everything tastes the same with soy sauce dipping.)*

2. PAST EVENT - BROWN BAG LUNCH

On Friday, August 8, 2008, OCKABA held its very first Brown Bag Lunch at the Law Firm of Krings and Chung, on a topic entitled "Working with Korean Clients from Korean American attorneys' perspective: the nuances to watch out for". Ho El Park spoke about the practical issues in facing Korean clients while Ryul Kim discussed more substantive ethical and law issues that frequently arise in dealing with Korean clients. About 10 people have attended this event and have earned 1 MCLE credit. Thanks to Gahram Kang, our VP of Mentoring and Professional Development, this event was a success! We will hold another MCLE brown bag lunch soon. Please look out for the announcement.

3. UPCOMING EVENTS

Next General Membership Meeting - September 4, 2008 at 6:00 PM

Save the date! Please join for our General Membership Meeting to discuss various issues and to plan for our upcoming events. Every member is encouraged to attend! We will be meeting at: Krings & Chung, LLP, 38 Corporate Park, CA.

Breakfast Roundtable- Sept. 6, 2008 @ 8-10:00. At Pacific Whew/ Crystal Cove Promenade

Please join us for breakfast to discuss some of the legal issues we face in our practice and other matters which concern us. Please RSVP with Min Chai (min.chai@oswald-yap.com) by August 31st! The cost is just \$10.

Crowell & Moring's "Celebrating Diversity" Speaker Series: Thursday, September 11, 2008 @5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Holly Fujie New President of The State Bar of California will be the speaker for this event. Anyone interested in attending, please RSVP with Kevin O'Leary (koleary@crowell.com). It will be held at Crowell & Moring Offices, 3 Park Plaza, 20th Floor, Irvine, CA 92614

IAKL Conference- Sept. 11-14, 2008 in Philadelphia

International Association of Korean Lawyers (IAKL) will hold its 16th Annual Conference on Thursday, September 11 through Sunday, September 14, 2008 at Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania U.S.A. (<http://www.radisson.com/iakl>). If interested, please register by August 11, 2008 directly with IAKL by filling out the registration form. To obtain a registration form, please email Ho El Park (hoelpark@gmail.com) or for more information contact Jennifer Kim (jkim@rutan.com).

SD KABA Annual Installation Dinner- Sept. 19, 2008 @ 5:30 in San Diego

The Korean American Bar Association of San Diego (KABA-SD) and the Korean American Coalition of San Diego (KAC-SD) will hold its inaugural Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers which will be held on Friday, September 19, 2008 at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park (2215 Pan American Road, San Diego, CA 92101). Cocktail reception and registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner program begins at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Jennifer Yoo (Jenny.Yoo@pillsburylaw.com) or Carol M. Lee (Carol.Lee@usdoj.gov) of KABA-SD for more information. You may also contact Min Chai (min.chai@oswald-yap.com) for more information.

Senator Lou Correa, Citizenship Drive (Volunteers)- September 20, 2008 (Santa Ana College)

For more information, email Min Chai min.chai@oswald-yap.com. RSVP to Shawn Kim at Shawn.Kim@sen.ca.gov

KCLA Installation Dinner - September 25, 2008 at Wilshire Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, CA

The Korean Community Lawyers Association will hold its second annual installation dinner in Los Angeles. Cocktail reception will start at 6:30 PM and Dinner will follow. The keynote speaker will be Jae Soo Kim, the Korean consulate general. For those who are interested in attending, please RSVP with hoelpark@gmail.com.

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

RSVP to Toni Jaramilla at toni@tjjlaw.com

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. 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 or 949-788-8900 for more information.

5. 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.

6. 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