

# SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO

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www.sabasandiego.org

## e-Announcement

October 2006

This is the official of the South Asian Bar Association of San Diego (SABA-SD)  
It includes a calendar of our upcoming events, as well as community announcements.

Please e-mail us at [sabсандiego@yahoo.com](mailto:sabasandiego@yahoo.com) with any questions or comments.

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#### **1. SABA -SD EVENTS**

- **SABA-SD ELECTION RESULTS AND WELCOME:** On October 15, 2006, prior to SABA-SD's South Asian Film Festival Event sponsored event, SABA-SD held a general election for the SABA-SD 2006-2008 Board of Directors. The SABA-SD Board is pleased to announce and welcome the following Board members to the SABA-SD Board of directors:

President & Board Member: **Nita Mehta**

President-Elect & Board Member: **Sanjay Bhandari**

Vice-President & Board Member: **Rama Padmanabhan**

Treasurer & Board Member: **Rekha Chiruvolu**  
Secretary & Board Member: **Omar Iqbal**  
NASABA Representative & Board Member: **Rupa Singh**

The new Board Members look forward to working with you to grow SABA-SD and to take the organization to the next level. Please try to meet your new Board members at upcoming SABA-SD events and/or our Annual Holiday Party and Scholarship Fundraiser set for December 2, 2006.

- **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**
  - *Save the Date* for SABA-SD's Third Annual Holiday Party and Scholarship Fundraiser on December 2, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. to be held at the historic Mills House located at 1640 Seventh Avenue. Please RSVP to [sabasandiego@yahoo.com](mailto:sabasandiego@yahoo.com).
  - Ticket prices are as follows:
    - \$60/person -- SABA-SD Non-Paying Member & Guest;
    - \$45/person -- SABA-SD Member & Guest;
    - \$35/person -- Public Attorney & Guest;
    - \$25/person -- Law Student.
  - To become an official member of SABA-SD, please see attached membership form.
  
- **SABA-SD DIRECTORY:**
  - As part of our continuing effort to expand the services we provide, SABA-San Diego is developing a directory of South Asian attorneys practicing in the San Diego area. The directory will be published on SABA-SD's website, which we are also in the process of revising and updating.
  - Please take a moment to fill out the attached form (Revised) and email it together with a digital photograph of yourself to SABA-SD at [sabasandiego@yahoo.com](mailto:sabasandiego@yahoo.com) by November 20, 2006. Note that inclusion in the directory is not based on payment of dues or membership in SABA, but that such information is being collected membership tracking and reporting purposes. Further, this information will be used for SABA and NASABA ([www.na-saba.org](http://www.na-saba.org)) related purposes only and will not be disseminated to the public for outside use.
  
- **SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL UPDATE:** SABA-SD's general membership and Board members participated in the South Asian Film Festival Event on October 15, 2006. Approximately 20 SABA-SD members and friends showed up for this feature presentation. The film which presented was *Waterborne*, directed by Indian-American director Benn Rekhi, and winner of the Audience Award at the 2006 South by Southwest Film Festival. The film was shown at the UltraStar Cinemas in the Mission Valley Hazard Center (as part of the 7th Annual San Diego Asian Film Festival), and followed by a question and answer session with the director. SABA-SD looks forward to sponsoring similar programs supporting the South Asian arts in the future.

- **MEMBERSHIP DUES:**
  - Become an official member of SABA-SD today and take advantage of discounted rates on all future events! The South Asian Bar Association of San Diego invites its law student and attorney constituents in the San Diego legal community to become full-fledged members of the organization. Your dues will help SABA-SD fund events, continue to develop its website, and explore ways to further represent the interests of the South Asian legal community (as well as the community at large) in San Diego.
  - Dues Schedule
    - \$45/year for attorneys in private practice,
    - \$35/year for public interest and government attorneys,
    - \$15/year for law students.
  - Please contact a SABA-SD Board member at [sabasandiego@yahoo.com](mailto:sabasandiego@yahoo.com) with any questions or send payment to: Rekha Chiruvolu, 3535 Lebon Drive, Apt. 5308, San Diego, CA 92122. Receipts are available on request.

## 2. **NASABA NEWS**

- **NASABA LEADERSHIP RETREAT UPDATE:**
  - The North American South Asian Bar Association's ("NASABA") Leadership Retreat was held from September 22-24, 2006 in New York to discuss the current activities and future plans of the NASABA organization. Some of the highlights from this Leadership Retreat included the following:
    - NASABA passed its annual budget, which includes funds for marketing, travel to local chapter events, annual Convention planning, funds for Committee work, a project with George Washington University on a Joint American-Indian IP Law Center, and various administrative projects (such as website maintenance). NASABA now hopes to retain an Executive Director, either on a part-time or full-time basis, but funds for such a position are not expected to be available until the June 2007-2008 fiscal year.
    - NASABA admitted its 24th Chapter — the Pakistani Bar Association of North America ("PABNA"), which is based in Chicago, where the "SABA" chapter is called IABA (the Indian Bar Association). NASABA will consider asking PABNA to not include "of North America" in its name since that makes it sound like a national organization, instead of a local chapter based in Chicago/Illinois.
    - NASABA approved procedures for its Amicus Committee (which will partner with other organizations to submit amicus briefs on important legal issues affecting NASABA's membership). If you are

interested in assisting this Committee, please contact Haimavathi Marlier at [hmarlier@goodwinprocter.com](mailto:hmarlier@goodwinprocter.com).

- The NASABA Foundation is officially set up as a separate entity. The Foundation's goals are to fund (1) South Asian educational grants at various levels to support the growth and development of South Asians in the legal profession and (2) South Asian public interest projects ranging from research for amicus briefs on significant cases involving public policy matters impacting South Asians to projects which seek to raise awareness of legal rights. If you are interested in helping with the Foundation's work, please contact Rupa Singh at [rsingh@mckennalong.com](mailto:rsingh@mckennalong.com).
- NASABA awarded, subject to the successful negotiation and execution of a Memorandum Of Understanding, its 2008 Annual Convention to IABA Chicago. The 2007 Convention will be held in San Francisco, from June 22-24, 2007. For additional information, please visit NASABA's website: [www.na-saba.org](http://www.na-saba.org).
- **NASABA'S JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:** The NASABA Judiciary Committee is looking for additional members. This is an important opportunity for SABA local chapter members to become involved not only with NASABA, but also one of its most important missions. The mission of the Judiciary Committee is to promote South Asians to the bench and provide comment on judicial candidates. This includes regulating the endorsement process for candidates seeking NASABA's endorsement in their respective campaigns as well as the process for commenting on judicial candidates for significant positions. In addition, it requires NASABA to look at the South Asian community of lawyers and judicial candidates to determine what impediments South Asian candidates are facing in seeking positions on the bench and determining what NASABA can do to assist in the process. Finally, it requires creativity in finding opportunities for South Asians to be involved in the judicial process and assisting South Asian candidates and potential candidates with their endeavors. Please have candidates interested in serving on this committee contact the Chair, Annapoorni Sankaran at [sankarana@gtlaw.com](mailto:sankarana@gtlaw.com) or at 617-310-6058.
- **NASABA FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** The NASABA Foundation is pleased to announce that it is now operational, having adopted its bylaws and being led by a provisional Board of Trustees. The Foundation seeks qualified and interested individuals to serve on the first Board of Trustees, as further discussed in the attached flier. The Foundation's goals are to fund (1) South Asian educational grants at various levels to support the growth and development of South Asians in the legal profession and (2) South Asian public interest projects ranging from research for amicus briefs on significant cases involving public policy matters impacting South Asians to projects which seek to raise awareness of legal rights. The above projects will be led by a 9 member Board of Trustees, elected by NASABA for

a 2 year term. Interested applicants should email the following materials to Rupa Singh at [rsingh@mckennalong.com](mailto:rsingh@mckennalong.com), no later than November 6, 2006; 1) a resume 2) a one page statement of interest that identifies the applicants i) prior nonprofit experience ii) availability/time commitment to the Foundation iii) ideas for fundraising iv) ability to commit to personally raising funds for the Foundation v) area of legal expertise and vi) current of past positions held on local SABA chapters or with NASABA. Please see attached flier for more details.

- **NASABA'S 4TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN CALIFORNIA:** NASABA's Fourth Annual Convention will be held next year in San Francisco, California from June 22-24 2007, hosted by SABA-Northern California. SABA-SD hopes that a large group of our membership will be able to participate in next year's conference, and will continue to send more information about the convention as it is finalized. Please feel free to contact your SABA-SD representatives to NASABA for additional information about the 2007 Convention or how to become more involved in one of the NASABA Committees — Nita Mehta ([nita.mehta@jud.ca.gov](mailto:nita.mehta@jud.ca.gov)) and Rupa Singh ([rsingh@mckennalong.com](mailto:rsingh@mckennalong.com)).

### 3. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **SOUTH ASIAN ART:** The San Diego Museum of Art will put on its Second Annual Distinguished Lecture in Indian Art. The lecture, titled *Discovery, Continuity and Innovation in the History of Indian Painting* will be presented by Pramod Chandra, Ph.D. Mr. Chandra is the George P. Bickford Research Professor of Indian and South Asian Art at Harvard University. The lecture will be held on October 29, 2006 at 3:30 p.m., in the James S. Copley Auditorium and is free to the public. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres for lecture attendees will follow the lecture in the sculpture garden. RSVP Paige Satter (619) 696-1969 or [psatter@sdmart.org](mailto:psatter@sdmart.org) as soon as possible.
- **SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION:** The South Asian Bar Association of San Diego has endorsed member Gita Varughese in her bid for Chair-Elect on the Board of the Young and New Lawyer's Division of the San Diego County Bar. Ms. Varughese is a graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law and is a litigation associate at Wilson, Petty, Kosmo & Turner. She also served as a law clerk to the Hon. William McCurine, United States District Court for the Southern District of California. For more information, see Ms. Varughese's attached statement and [www.wpkt.com/attorneys/gitavarughese/](http://www.wpkt.com/attorneys/gitavarughese/)

▪ **“MEET YOUR CANDIDATE” COMMUNITY BREAKFAST:**

**When:** Sunday, Oct 29, 10am-12 noon

**Where:** 5857 Mission Gorge Rd #B, San Diego , CA 92120

**Sponsored by:**

- SD Alliance for Asian Pacific Islander Americans
- National Federation of Filipino Americans, SD Chapter
- Vietnamese American Youth Alliance
- Vietnamese Community of SD, an organization
- Vietnamese Federation of SD

**Moderators:**

- Len Novarro , SD Alliance board member & co-publisher of ASIA
- JoAnn Fields, NaFFAA (National Federation of Filipino American Associations)

**Host:** ASIA , The Journal of Culture & Commerce

**Candidates Thus Far:**

- Alejandra Sotelo-Solis - Candidate for Mayor of National City
- Cheryl Cox - Candidate for Mayor of Chula Vista
- Steve Padilla – Mayor of Chula Vista
- David K.Walden - Candidate For State Senate 40th District
- Ernie Lippe - Candidate for 53rd Congressional District
- Kim Tran - Candidate for State Assembly 76th District
- Lori Saldaña - Assembly Member 76th District
- Ralph Denney- Candidate for State 76th Assembly District

- NOTE: SABA-SD provides community event announcements as a courtesy to its members and without intending to endorse any particular organization or event.

SABA-SD would like to thank the outgoing Board for their time and service to SABA-SD for the last two years. We wish our departing Board members success and look forward to their continued involvement in SABA-SD’s growth.

Best regards,

**2004-2006 Board & Executive Committee**

Nita Mehta, Board Member & President  
Vino Pajanor, Board Member & Vice-President  
Vishnu Subramaniam, Board Member & Secretary  
Rekha Chiruvolu, Board Member & Treasurer  
Rupa G. Singh, Board Chair

**2006-2008 Board & Executive Committee**

Nita Mehta, Board Member & President  
Sanjay Bhandari, Board Member & President-Elect  
Rama Padmanabhan, Board Member & Vice-President  
Omar Iqbal, Board Member & Secretary  
Rekha Chiruvolu, Board Member & Treasurer  
Rupa G. Singh, Board Member