

## 2004 Executive

### PRESIDENT

Mandeep Dhaliwal  
(604) 631-6742  
mdhaliwal@lawsonlundell.com

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Valli Chettair  
(604) 661-1006  
vchettiar@ekb.com

### SECRETARY

Pinder Cheema  
(604) 818-7696  
pkcheema@shaw.ca

### TREASURER

Jindy Bhalla  
(604) 661-1088  
jbhalla@ekb.com

### VP MEMBERSHIP

Amandeep Singh  
(604) 543-3886  
singh@sajlawyers.com

### VP MEMBERSHIP

Usman Ghani  
(604) 697-8902  
ughani@hobbsleigh.bc.ca

### VP MONTHLY EVENTS

Jaia Rai  
(604) 689-3242  
jrai@crossin.com

### VP PUBLICITY

Jas Basra  
(604) 661-9258  
jbasra@rbs.com

### VP SPECIAL EVENTS

Mandy Cheema  
mandy\_cheema@yahoo.com

### NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Azool Jaffer-Jeraj  
(604) 871-3550  
azool@dohmjaffer.com

### WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Massood Joomratty  
(604) 543-3886  
joomratty@sajlawyers.com

### PRO BONO COORDINATOR

Anoop Desai  
(604) 643-3412  
adesai@ahbl.ca

### LIAISON CND. - U.S. LAWYERS

Massood Joomratty

### ARTICLING STUDENT COORDINATOR

Satinder Sidhu  
(604) 309-2370  
sat\_sidhu@hotmail.com

### LAW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jitesh Mistry  
(604) 299-2903  
jiteshmm@yahoo.ca

## Mission

- promote professional development for South Asian lawyers and law students;
- provide a referral network/service to members of the Society and the South Asian community in British Columbia;
- provide a forum for members of the Society and members of other chapters of the National South Asian Bar Association, Inc. (USA) to interact;
- educate and disseminate information to the South Asian community in British Columbia about law, legal access and relevant legal issues;
- coordinate activities with other bar associations; and
- represent the interests of South Asians at the local, provincial, national and international levels.

## SABA BC Launch

The long awaited South Asian Bar Association of British Columbia (SABA BC) was launched successfully on April 24, 2004, announced the Vice President of Publicity, Jas K. Basra.

“Congratulations to all of you for the launch of SABA BC, the first NASABA chapter in Canada,” said Navneet Chugh, the then president of NASABA while addressing the audience of 25 attorneys gathered at an elegant conference center in Surrey.

NASABA is the National South Asian Bar Association with 17 chapters in the United States. SABA BC is the first Canadian chapter of NASABA.

“NASABA represents the 5,000 plus South Asian attorneys in North America and provides a platform for the attorneys to exchange thoughts, ideas, and referrals, and also provides an umbrella to the various local South Asian Bar Associations,” said Chugh.

The group enjoyed a delicious South Asian lunch, and all the attorneys present shared their ideas, views and thoughts about the role of SABA BC. The item of most interest to all present was the desire to have more South Asians become judges in Canada. A joint meeting with SABA in Seattle, one monthly meeting in Surrey and one in Downtown was also discussed. Senator Mobina Jaffer was also in attendance and expressed her extreme happiness with the mission of SABA BC and NASABA and pledged her full support.

## President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

Although in relative infancy when compared to our counterparts in the United States, the South Asian Bar Association of British Columbia (SABA BC) has made significant progress in establishing a strong infrastructure (such as the constitution, website, this newsletter) in recent months thanks to the efforts of the executive committee members. With a number of goals set for the upcoming months, the outlook for SABA BC is definitely positive.

With SABA BC, we have an opportunity to create a very special organization. The benefits of the organization are many. Law students and junior lawyers will have the opportunity interact and be mentored by more experienced members of SABA BC. Members will be provided with a forum to interact with lawyers in SABA BC and the other SABA affiliates across the U.S. The organization will serve as a vehicle to educate and disseminate information to the South Asian community in British Columbia about law, legal access and current legal issues.

I encourage each of you to get involved.

Regards,

Mandeep Dhaliwal  
(604) 631-6742 or [mdhaliwal@lawsonlundell.com](mailto:mdhaliwal@lawsonlundell.com)

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## NASABA National Conference

*Oneness - Uniting Asian Lawyers Across America*

The inaugural National South Asian Bar Association (NASABA) Conference was held this past June in Santa Monica, California. In total 15 South Asian Bar Associations from across the United States and the South Asian Bar Association of British Columbia were represented by over 400 conference attendees.



The conference began with both Governor Michael Dukakis and U.S. Attorney for California Debra Yang delivering inspiring and well-crafted speeches.

The panel seminars were characterized by a diversity of topics covering current legal issues (outsourcing, the drug patent wars), legal access (discrimination and the legal practice) and the business side of the legal profession (rainmaking, networking).

The conference was capped off with a formal evening banquet held at the elegant Loews Hotel. The banquet included both entertainment and recognition of individuals for their volunteer community work.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to meet attorneys of South Asian descent from across North America with a range of practice areas.

The conference organizers are to be congratulated for arranging and hosting this unique event.

The 2005 conference, scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C. this upcoming June, will no doubt build on the success of the first one. Please check the [www.na-saba.org](http://www.na-saba.org) website and subsequent editions of this newsletter in the coming months for further details.

## SALNET

NASABA has launched the South Asian Legal Network (SALNET - [www.na-saba.org/selnet](http://www.na-saba.org/selnet)). This directory of South Asian lawyers across North America is up and running on our web site.

SALNET will serve as the largest and most comprehensive South Asian legal referral database. SALNET allows users to freely search for legal professionals by name, geographical area, practice area and more.

If you are a small firm or a solo practitioner trying to build a practice or a larger firm that recognizes the growing impact of the South Asian community, just click on the SALNET page to find out how you or your firm can advertise on what will soon become the most recognized legal resource for the South Asian community.

## Future Meetings

Saba BC meets the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm.

To learn about the location of an upcoming meeting contact our Secretary, Pinder Cheema at: (604) 660-0756 or [pinder.cheema@gems8.gov.bc.ca](mailto:pinder.cheema@gems8.gov.bc.ca)