

## 2006 Executive

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## Editor's Message

The last few months have been very busy for SABA BC. There have been a host of events for members, students and the community at large. Additionally, the executive and various members have been actively working on a variety of endeavours including the Annual Gala Dinner scheduled for Friday February 16, 2007, Indo-Canadian Gang Violence, a scholarship program for students attending Law School at the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria, Community Legal Assistance Clinics, a Golf Tournament and many more endeavours. SABA BC is always looking for volunteers to assist with the many ongoing projects. If you are interested in assisting, please feel free to contact the respective executive member in charge.

## Second Annual SABA BC Gala Dinner and Silent Auction

Mark your calendar! The Second Annual Gala Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Friday, February 16, 2007, 6:00 pm at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Details to come but the evening promises to be one of artistic expression, fine dining and celebration.

Please contact Jaia Rai @ [jrai@lsbc.org](mailto:jrai@lsbc.org) or (604) 605-5317.

## SABA BC Student Luncheon

### 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.

On October 14, 2006, SABA BC held its annual Student Mentorship Luncheon for UBC and UVIC Law students enrolled in the 2006-2007 school year. Most students are members of the South Asian Law Students' Associations at their respective universities. Once again the luncheon provided an excellent opportunity for lawyers and students to get together to address the students' questions and to discuss how SABA BC can assist the students during the school year. We look forward to assisting the students in organizing a lecture series in the new year. Thank you to the many students who attended for their first time, in particular the UVIC students that made the trip out to Vancouver for the luncheon.

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## First CLE – “Wills & Estates” A Resounding Success

On November 7, 2006, SABA BC members Anita Atwal and Satinder Sidhu, with the help of colleague Ingrid Kolodziej, presented a Wills and Estates seminar in coordination with the Surrey Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS). The seminar was presented to English as second language students in Punjabi. The students are enrolled in night school courses at PICS located at 109-12414 82nd Avenue in Surrey. SABA BC hopes to educate South Asian immigrants and their families on succession laws in Canada and the importance of planning for the future. This was the first of many seminars to come on this and other important topics. SABA BC encourages its members to get involved and any suggestions regarding possible seminar topics are welcome.

Please contact Satinder Sidhu @ [ssidhu@paine-edmonds.com](mailto:ssidhu@paine-edmonds.com) or (604) 683-1211.

## Summer Golf Tournament

Are you an avid golfer? SABA BC is in the midst of planning a summer golf tournament. If you are interested in participating or assisting with the organization of the tournament.

Please contact Jindy Bhalla @ [jbhalla@ekb.com](mailto:jbhalla@ekb.com) or (604) 661-1088.

## SABA BC Anti-Violence Committee

The SABA BC Anti-Violence Committee (the “Committee”) met with the Honourable Attorney General Wallace Oppal (the “AG”) on May 12, 2006 to address the challenge he issued to SABA BC at our Annual Gala Dinner to take a leading role in the effort to stem the violence and gang-related activities in the South Asian community.

The AG expressed his concern that there was a lack of coordination and accountability among the groups attempting to deal with this issue. He advised that until the various groups started to work together and establish concrete plans, the government would have difficulty assisting.

The Committee proposed to spearhead the effort to coordinate the groups by arranging for a roundtable meeting with all of the groups to provide a forum for interaction and discussion including an opportunity for each group to explain its goals to the other groups. The AG was in favour of such a meeting and suggested that the Committee meet with Sergeant Shinder Kirk of the BC Integrated Gang Task Force to discuss his attempts to bring the groups together.

The Committee also proposed to establish a media watchdog to help ensure that the portrayal of South Asians in the media was balanced and accurate. As well, the Committee proposed that SABA BC speak out in the media and assist with programs for

parents. The AG agreed that the media has a very important role to play and suggested that SABA BC actively participate with the media, especially the South Asian media.

In addition, the Committee proposed that SABA BC participate in mentoring programs in order to help provide positive role models for South Asian youth and their parents. The AG agreed to assist with such mentoring programs and suggested that SABA BC work with other South Asian professional associations in this endeavour.

The meeting concluded with a discussion about how to raise the profile of the South Asian Bar, increase access for South Asians to senior legal positions, and the availability of articling positions for South Asian law students.

As a follow-up to the meeting with the AG, the Committee met with Shinder Kirk on June 21, 2006. Sergeant Kirk provided a very interesting and thought-provoking perspective on the history and reasons for the violence and gang activities in the South Asian community. He also discussed the past failed attempts to bring the various stakeholder groups together. He invited SABA BC to participate with the Consensus Building Committee being organized by the Sikh Societies of the Lower Mainland to provide a unified community approach in dealing with the issues of gangs and youth violence in the South Asian community.

Jindy Bhalla has attended two meetings of the Consensus Building Committee which were held in August and September. Representatives of the BC Integrated Gang Task Force, SABA BC, the Group of Ten, MLAs, VIRSA, Sikh Societies of the Lower Mainland, the India Cultural Centre, UNITED, CORSA, Langara College, SAFA, Kwantlen College, SEYVA, Pacific Community Resources, Canadian Ramgarhia Society, Dashmesh Darbar Gurdwara, Surrey Delta Immigration Services Society, MOSAIC, Khalsa Darbar Society, Khalsa Diwan Society, and the RCMP attended.

The main purpose of the meetings was to bring all of the stakeholders together in a unified manner as equal partners. The participants agreed that enough research and discussion had taken place in the past and that it was now time for action. The recommendations for consensus building included:

1. defining the stakeholders;
2. identifying the stakeholders;
3. defining a scope, purpose and outcome;
4. signing a memorandum of understanding;
5. developing a process: establish responsibility for each group, establish guidelines for review, establish timelines;
6. hire a trained facilitator to help select recommendations from the various reports; and
7. select a steering committee.

The participants committed to participate in the process and the effort to sign a memorandum of understanding. It was agreed that five sub-committees would be established to present recommendations for consideration by the Consensus Building

Committee and eventual presentation to the various levels of government. These sub-committees include Education; Counselling; Media Campaign and Media Watch Program; Research; and Cultural and Social Activities/Extra-Curricular Activities/After School Programs. SABA BC is a member of the Media Campaign and Media Watch Program.

The Consensus Building Committee is an important initiative by the stakeholders and represents the most promising community effort to date to deal in a unified way with the issues of violence and gang activities. Its success will be determined by the will of the participants to work together in a coordinated, professional and accountable manner. SABA BC can play an important role in this process and it is recommended that SABA BC continue to participate with the Consensus Building Committee.

## NASABA Litigation Section

With the intent of meeting members' professional needs, NASABA, the umbrella organization for all provincial and state associations, has formed a Litigation Section. The purpose of this section is to provide a forum for litigators to network, promote their skills and experience, and for continuing legal education. The section plans to create a national directory, search for opportunities to promote its members (for example, help them get on panels for national events and possibly nominate members for relevant awards), and organize CLEs that would be available nationally via teleconference and/or webcast. NASABA sees this as a unique and valuable opportunity to work as a cohesive group towards advancing all of our respective careers.

Please contact Rishi Agrawal @ [ragrawal@eimerstahl.com](mailto:ragrawal@eimerstahl.com) or (312) 660-7645.

### Litigation Section's Mission Statement

The NASABA Litigation Section ("Section") shall be comprised of attorneys, law students, and other professionals in the litigation arena. The Section's purposes are to (1) promote professional development for South Asian legal professionals in the litigation arena; (2) provide a networking forum for South Asian legal professionals in the litigation arena; and (3) conduct continuing legal education programming for South Asian legal professionals in the litigation arena.

### Policies and Procedures

1. The Section shall be directed by a Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair are responsible for the day to day matters of the Section. The Executive Committee shall appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Section shall make recommendations to the NASABA Executive Committee as to who should be appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair must be NASABA and/or local chapter members.
2. Any NASABA and or NASABA chapter members may serve as members of the Section.

3. The Section shall hold a minimum of 3 meetings a year (with one of these to be held at the annual NASABA convention).
4. The Section shall hold a minimum of 3 events a year (a meeting may also count as an event).
5. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and any member may suggest a topic for an event. Any and all events must be approved by the NASABA Executive Committee.
6. The Section shall take any and all appropriate steps for the promotion of and networking of its members. With that purpose, the Section shall create a directory of its members to be distributed to all NASABA and local chapter members.
7. Any additions and/or modifications to the Section Mission Statement and Policies and Procedures can only be made with the approval of both the Chair and Vice-Chair and the approval of the NASABA Executive Committee.

## NASABA Foundation Board

*Interested in becoming a Trustee on the NASABA Foundation Board?*

The NASABA Foundation ("Foundation") is pleased to announce that it is now operational, having adopted its bylaws and being led by a provisional Board of Trustees. While awaiting approval as a tax-exempt charitable organization under IRS Regulations 501(c)(3), the Foundation seeks qualified and interested individuals to serve on the first Board of Trustees.

### **Foundation's Mission and Function**

The purpose of the Foundation is to fund (1) educational grants at various levels to support the growth and development of South Asians in the legal profession and (2) public interest projects impacting South Asians rights. In its first year, the Foundation will not only have operational responsibilities – such as finalizing and submitting its 501(c)(3) application; opening and managing its bank account; launching its website – but will also need to establish the policies and procedures by which it will operate in the future. Such policies will relate to the evaluation and selection of qualified projects and individuals deserving of the Foundation's funding. In addition, the Foundation will need to generate fundraising events and ideas, including but not limited to establishing a Charter Member or Foundation Board of Trustee fund; identifying public grants or funding for the Foundation; and hosting one or more fundraising events at the annual NASABA Convention.

### **Board of Trustees Term & Application**

The above projects will be led by a nine-member Board of Trustees, each of whom will be expected to devote a significant time commitment to the Foundation. Each

Trustee shall be nominated and elected by NASABA for a two-year term (January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008), except that at least four Trustees on the initial Board will serve for only one year (December 31, 2007).

Interested applicants should e-mail the following materials as soon as possible to Rupa Singh @ ([rsingh@mckennalong.com](mailto:rsingh@mckennalong.com)):

1. a Resume;
2. a one-page Statement of Interest that identifies the applicant's:
  - 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 or past positions held on a local SABA Chapter (in any capacity, including on a Committee or the SABA Chapter's Foundation) or with NASABA (including on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Advisory Council, or another Committee).

Applicants should also identify any preference for a one-year or a two-year term on the initial Board (with the understanding that it might not be possible to accommodate this preference).

Submission of a photograph with the application is optional.

No original materials should be submitted as they will not be returned. Rather, all application materials will be destroyed after NASABA elects the Board of Trustees. All questions about this announcement (including information on where to mail or fax it) should be directed to Ms. Singh at the above e-mail, or by calling 619-595-5400.

## SABA BC Mentorship Program

SABA BC has launched a Mentorship Program for law students. The Program will pair students with lawyers of similar areas of interest.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or having a mentor please contact Satinder K. Sidhu @ [ssidhu@paine-edmonds.com](mailto:ssidhu@paine-edmonds.com) or (604) 683-1211.

## Future Meetings

SABA BC meets the second Wednesday of every month at 5:45 pm.

To learn about the location of an upcoming meeting please contact our Secretary Mandeep Gill @ [mgill@harpergrey.com](mailto:mgill@harpergrey.com) or (604)895-2810.

## Not a member yet? Join SABA BC today!!!

SABA BC currently enjoys a membership of nearly 50 members. This makes SABA BC one of the North American South Asian Bar Association's (NASABA) largest and most significant chapters; a considerable accomplishment considering SABA BC was only launched in April 2004. SABA BC's diverse membership includes law students, junior and senior lawyers, distinguished Queen's Counsel and Judges. Importantly, not all SABA BC members are of South Asian descent. We encourage all past, present and future British Columbia lawyers with an interest in South Asian issues and the South Asian community to join our organization.

Membership in SABA BC provides you with free or preferred access to all SABA BC events, both substantive and social. Law students and junior lawyers are provided with the opportunity to interact and be mentored by more experienced members of SABA BC. Members are provided with a forum to interact with lawyers belonging to SABA BC and other SABA affiliates across Canada and the United States.

With your involvement, the Organization will be better able to 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.

**South Asian Bar Association of B.C. – Membership Form**

**Membership (1 Calendar Year)**



Regular Members

- Practising Lawyer, Legal Academic C\$50.00
- Law Student, Articled Student C\$20.00

Special Members

- Member of the Judiciary, Non-practising Lawyer C\$50.00
- Organization Membership C\$100.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Area(s) of Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Setting: Which setting best describes your work environment?

- Private Practice
- Government
- Military
- In-House Counsel/Corporate Counsel
- Non-Law-Related
- Other (please specify)
- Judiciary
- Legal Service

How many lawyers in your office? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Make Your Payment Out To:**  
**South Asian Bar Association of B.C.**

**Please return this form and your payment to our Treasurer:**

Jindy Bhalla c/o Edwards, Kenny & Bray LLP  
 1900-1040 West Georgia Street  
 Vancouver, BC V6E 4H3 Canada  
 Fax: 604-689-5177 Tel: 604-661-1088  
 Email: jbhalla@ekb.com

**Collection, Use and Disclosure of Information**

I understand and acknowledge that the collection, use and limited disclosure of personal information about me by SABA BC is for the purpose of fulfilling SABA BC's mandate of promoting the advancement of the South Asian legal profession and the provision of legal services, products and information to me and the South Asian community by SABA BC or any other organization authorized to do so by SABA BC. I further understand that this will be done in a manner consistent with SABA BC's Privacy Policy and that the submission of this form constitutes my consent to such collection, use and limited disclosure. I understand that I may withdraw my consent to the disclosure of my personal information by SABA BC to any other organization at any time.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Forum

**Forum** on the current issue of  
**Domestic violence** within the  
 Indo Canadian Community.

Sharing perspectives and  
 clarifying the myths and truths  
 of **media** coverage.



LANGARA  
 COLLEGE

Department of  
 Sociology and Anthropology

Knowledge is freedom. Learn more.

Come participate in the dialogue and hear the  
 voices of youth, community and senior news  
 media representatives.

**INVITED GUESTS INCLUDE:**

- Dr. Sunera Thobani  
 Professor, Centre for  
 Research Studies and Gender  
 Relations, UBC
- Suki Grewal  
 President, South Asian Family  
 Association (SAFA) &  
 Instructor, Nursing Dept,  
 Langara College
- Salim Jiwa  
 Award winning journalist,  
 The Province newspaper
- Shashi Assanand  
 Executive Director, Vancouver &  
 Lower Mainland Multiculturalism  
 Support Services (VLMFSS)
- Barbara Binns  
 Instructor, Women's Studies  
 (Retired), Langara College
- Ian Hanomansing  
 CBC News
- Kamilla Singh  
 Counsellor, Women Against  
 Violence Against Women (WAVA)  
 & Director/Host of Asian Pulse TV
- Senior Mainstream Media  
 Representatives  
 The Vancouver Sun &  
 The Province newspapers
- R. Paul Dhillon  
 Editor, The Link Newspaper
- Kulwinder Sanghera  
 President & CEO, South Asian  
 Broadcasting Corporation (Red FM)
- Lorinder Birak  
 Host, Reality Check (Red FM)

Fostering greater understanding and empowering youth.

**Thursday, Nov 30 • 6:00 to 8:00 pm, 2006**

**Langara College**  
**100 West 49th Avenue**  
**Vancouver, BC**

For information contact: Indira Prahst,  
 Organizer/Instructor Department of Sociology  
 604-323-5717 \* [iprahst@langara.bc.ca](mailto:iprahst@langara.bc.ca)



South Asian Family Association