

Join IABA

IABA is one of the largest minority bar associations in the country. Help us by joining or renewing your membership.

Upcoming Chapter Events

1. May 1, 2010 (Los Angeles)
Food bank drive
2. April 24, 2010 (Northern California)
AILA-IABA Citizenship Workshop
3. April 22, 2010 (Washington, D.C.)
IABA DC and IMS of Greater Washington Spring Happy Hour
4. April 7, 2010 (Orange County)
Immigration Law and Crimes: Detention and Removal
5. April 1, 2010 (Washington, D.C.)
IABA DC's April Pro Bono Clinic

Board of Directors

Panteha Abdollahi
Farhad Alavi
Farisa Dastvar
Salman Elmi
Nahal Iravani-Sani
Ramin Hariri
Kafah Bachari Manna
Nema Milaninia

IABA ELECTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In April, IABA Members elected a new Board of Directors for the 2010-11 year. The new Board of Directors is composed of the following individuals:

Panteha Abdollahi, 2009-2011
Farhad Alavi, 2010-2011
Farisa Dastvar, 2010-2011
Salman Elmi, 2009-2011
Nahal Iravani-Sani, 2010-2012
Ramin Hariri, 2010-2012
Kafah Manna, 2009-2011
Nema Milaninia, 2010-2011
Karen Ostad, 2010-2011
Shahrooz Shahnava, 2009-2011
Rebekah Rashidfarokhi, 2010-2012
Anthony Ravani, 2009-2011

We have six outgoing board members: Farschad Farzan, Hani Ganji, Katayoun Goshtasbi, Niki Moore, Sam Toossi, and Hermine Valizadeh.

Each of IABA's outgoing board members has been an amazing asset to the organization. Niki and Farschad were the founding members of the IABA Northern California Chapter. They have helped the organization develop grassroots relationships all throughout the Bay Area and given a burgeoning organization credibility and professionalism. Hermine was the founding member of the IABA Chicago chapter. She helped the Chicago chapter develop in a city that is not known for having a large concentration of Iranians (let alone Iranian lawyers). The Chicago chapter hosted a one of a kind event on the Persepolis Antiquities Cases with notable scholars and lawyers. Sam was IABA's chapter representative in New York and helped host some of the most important IABA programs in the past two years, highlighted by a lecture from Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi. Katayoun was IABA's San Diego representative and provided amazing insight and leadership, representing one of our most active chapters in the country. She helped the chapter develop roots with judges in San Diego and develop a organizational reputation that transcends the Iranian-American community into the legal community at-large. Lastly, our student director, Hani Ganji, is a model for future law students. Active, intelligent, dedicated to his community, and has helped out on projects throughout the year.

Altogether, our six outgoing board members are an amazing group of lawyers and community leaders. We are proud of their association with IABA and thank them for their contributions.

IABA AWARDS 2009/10 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

IABA is proud to award its annual scholarship grants to two outstanding candidates: Pouneh Aravand and Mehrdad Bokhour. Each scholarship recipient will receive \$3,000 to help their legal education.

 **Advisory Board
of Directors**

Jamie Abadian
Nader Ahari
Michael Farhang
Babak Hoghooghi
Houri Khalilian
Ali M. M. Mojdehi
Nader Mousavi
Hamid Rafatjoo
Sima Sarrafan
Soroush R. Shehabi
Hon. Ashley Afsaneh
Tabaddor
Farzad Tabatabai
John Tehranian

IABA received numerous applications from candidates at law schools throughout the country. We are overwhelmed and tremendously proud of the achievements of each of our applicants, and commend them on their fine successes to-date. Unfortunately, however, the IABA was only able to award scholarship grants to two candidates.

Pouneh Aravand is a first year law student at Yale Law School. Prior to entering law school, Ms. Aravand was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, and in 2008 worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Resettlement and Education Units in Damascus, Syria, where she was a consultant/resettlement interviewer. She also was a recipient of the 2008 State Department Critical Language Enhancement Award. From 2006 to 2007, she was a fellow at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad at the American University in Cairo, and also worked as a consultant at the Ford Foundation-Governance and Civil Society Division, where she authored grant recommendations on research and development projects in the Middle East and North Africa. Ms. Aravand completed her undergraduate studies at New York University, where she concentrated on Middle Eastern Studies and Politics. She graduated summa cum laude in 2006. While a student at NYU, she served as a consultant/refugee interviewer at Human Rights Watch in New York, was president of the Persian Cultural Society at NYU, and served as co-chair of the Middle Eastern Cultural Celebration at NYU. Ms. Aravand also is classical/Persian violinist, and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and The Bowery Poetry Club.

Mehrdad Bokhour is a first year law student at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California, and a 2007 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. At UC Berkeley, he was awarded an academic scholarship and majored in political science. Following his graduation from UC Berkeley, Mr. Bokhour worked as a program assistant at Freedom House, where he planned and implemented various projects related to human rights and freedom expansion in the Middle East, and also drafted Freedom House's monthly journal on human rights and democracy. From 2007 to 2008, Mr. Bokhour served as a research analyst at the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA) in Washington, DC, where he was responsible for monitoring news and legislative developments of concern to PAAIA and the Iranian-American community. Since December 2008, Mr. Bokhour has served as the Director of Development for Iranian Alliances Across Borders (IAAB), where he oversees fundraising initiatives and assists with development of the organization's marketing and public relations strategies. During his tenure at IAAB, Mr. Bokhour also has organized the group's Fourth International Conference on the Iranian Diaspora, and the IAAB's student summit, where student organizations were brought together to increase dialogue and support for the Iranian-American community.

IABA is proud that there are so many accomplished and gifted Iranian-American law students. We hope that by awarding annual scholarships, we encourage more students to take active leadership roles in the Iranian-American and broader legal community. Congratulations to the recipients of the 2009/2010 IABA Scholarships, as well as all of our applicants on all of their achievements.

If you would like to donate to the 2010/2011 IABA Scholarship, please email us at scholarship@iaba.us.

**TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AGENCY REMOVES
SECURITY SCREENING FOR PASSENGERS COMING
FROM IRAN**

On April 2 of this year, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced new steps by the Transportation Security Agency (the "TSA") to improve inbound US aviation safety. The details of the policy, which include added security measures on all US-bound international flights, were not provided in entirety due to security concerns. However, TSA has stated that there will be various new tools to enhance flight security, ranging from more effective passenger screening in airport check-ins, to better imaging technologies.

Most notably, the new policy replaces the list of 14 countries of concern which TSA implemented in January 2010. That list was implemented on an emergency basis and placed stricter scrutiny on nationals of those 14 countries (which included Iran) flying into the United States.

Questions or Comments? We'd love to hear from you!

Visit the IABA at www.iaba.us