

**IABA NEWSLETTER- APRIL 2007**

Dear IABA Member:

Wishing each of you a very happy belated Norooz and sending you our warmest wishes for a joyous, prosperous and healthy new year!

On behalf of the Iranian-American Bar Association (“IABA”), please find enclosed a newsletter covering all of the latest information on the IABA from January 2007 to the present. Effective this month, the IABA plans to distribute a newsletter to update IABA members on:

- National IABA Happenings,
- Chapter Events, and
- Membership News.

As such, please feel free to contact the IABA [iaba@iaba.us](mailto:iaba@iaba.us) if you would like to share any noteworthy items with your fellow IABA members so we may include your update in an upcoming newsletter. We also welcome any ideas, thoughts or suggestions for future editions of this monthly newsletter.

Thank you in advance for reading our newsletter and for contributing to the success of the IABA!

Best regards,

**Amie Jasmine Ahanchian**  
Chair, Publications Committee  
IABA Board of Directors

-----

**NATIONAL IABA HAPPENINGS**

**IABA Fourth Annual Membership Meeting and Election- January 6, 2007**

On **January 6, 2007**, the IABA held its annual membership meeting, pursuant to IABA Bylaws. IABA members from the Los Angeles, New York City, Northern California, and Washington, D.C. chapters attended this meeting in person while IABA members in other locations participated via conference call.

At the annual membership meeting, the outgoing IABA President, **John Radsan**, and the Acting Executive Director, **Robert Babayi**, provided an overview of the IABA’s achievements during the past year. Several members of the outgoing Board of Directors also remarked about the IABA's accomplishments in the previous year, and shared their thoughts on the goals, aspirations and resources of the organization going forward. Many IABA members also raised general questions about the IABA and made recommendations for the upcoming year.

Importantly, elections for the Board of Directors were also held at the annual meeting. As previously decided on May 31, 2006 (by a unanimous vote of the 2006 Board of Directors to amend the IABA Bylaws), the number of individuals on the Board of Directors was modified to consist of seven attorney members and one student member. The purpose of amending the Bylaws as such was to provide a more streamlined organizational structure for conducting IABA business. As stated in the amended IABA Bylaws, this new organizational structure is comprised of three Board members (one representing each

IABA Chapter existing at the time of the 2006 vote- Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C.); four additional Board members who serve from the at-large membership; and one student Board member.

The IABA is pleased to announce the newly elected members of our 2007 Board of Directors. The eight members of the IABA Board of Directors are listed below with their respective Chapters.

- **Robert Babayi**, President-Washington, D.C.
- **Amie Ahanchian**- Washington, D.C.
- **Anahita Ferasat**- Los Angeles
- **Hessam Kalantar**- New York City
- **Nili Moghaddam**- New York City
- **Niki Moore**- Northern California
- **Mani Sheik**- Northern California
- **Shirin Zandpour**, Student Director-Los Angeles

Additionally, IABA member **Sheri Guerami**, a 1st year law student at Loyola University, is providing valuable assistance to IABA in her position as the Secretary to the Board. Sheri participates in all Board meetings and facilitates our execution of important action items. Thank you Sheri for your support!

The outgoing 2006 Board of Directors and the newly elected 2007 Board of Directors sincerely thank all IABA members for participating in the annual meeting. The newly elected Board of Directors noted the all suggestions made during the meeting and is committed to actively addressing these recommendations. In fact, the newly elected IABA Board's first course of action following the annual meeting was the decision to plan and participate in an IABA Board Summit during the spring of 2007.

### **IABA First Annual Student Conference and Board Summit- March 3 - 4, 2007**

On **March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007**, the IABA hosted its first annual Board and Student Conference, respectively, in Washington, D.C. at the Venable law firm.

Organized by IABA Student Director **Shirin Zandpour** and IABA Member **Mercedeh Salem**, the objective of the **IABA Student Conference** was to host a networking and mentoring event for IABA's law student members to meet and learn about the careers of IABA attorney members who are practitioners in diverse legal areas.

At the Student Conference, the following IABA attorney members led discussions for the students on their respective areas of practice: **Meenoo Chahbazi**, **Hessam Mirzaei**, **Shalizeh Nadjmi** and **Amir Rohani**. The Student Conference was well-attended by IABA Student Members from national law schools and universities including Sydney University, Rice University, American University, George Washington University, and University of California at Los Angeles. The IABA endeavors to hold similar events in the future to foster mentoring and professional development opportunities for the student members of our organization. Please contact us if you would like to plan or host a similar networking or mentoring event for the IABA student members of your Chapter.

On the evening of Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the IABA hosted a welcome party for participants in the IABA Student Conference, the IABA Board Summit, and all members of the IABA at the Washington, D.C. home of IABA President **Robert Babayi**.

Planned by **Anahita Ferasat**, the first annual **IABA Board Summit** was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> for current and previous members of the Board of Directors to meet and plan objectives for the upcoming year. The following photograph of the 2007 IABA Board of Directors was taken at our inaugural IABA Board Summit.



*From left to right: Robert Babayi (Washington, D.C.), Nikki Moore (Northern California), Amie Ahanchian (Washington, D.C.), Shirin Zandpour (Los Angeles), Anahita Ferasat (Los Angeles), Nili Moghadam (New York City), Mani Sheik (Northern California), and Hessam Kalantar (New York City).*

In addition to the newly elected Board of Directors, the following former Board members participated in the Board Summit: **Babak Hoghooghi, Cyrus Amir-Mokri, Ali Mojdehi** and **Michael Farhang**.

In the Board Summit, the IABA current and former Board members evaluated critical issues such as: fundraising, budgeting (on a national, chapter and committee level), membership, member services, public interest, scholarships, publications, and government outreach. Highlights from this meeting include the decision that the IABA will publish this monthly newsletter; the IABA initiative to upgrade and improve our IABA website ([www.iaba.us](http://www.iaba.us)); our organization's educational focus; and the plan to host our next annual meeting in conjunction with a fundraising gala.

The IABA Board members also elected new members to the serve on the Board of Advisors. As such, the IABA Advisory Board now includes the following former Board members: **Nader Salehi, Tamila Ghodsi, Babak Hoghooghi, Cyrus Amir-Mokri, Ali Mojdehi, Michael Farhang, Jamie Abadian, Nader Ahari, Ashley Tabaddor, Hamid Rafatjoo, Farzad Tabatabai, Soroush Richard Shehabi,** and **John Radsan**. The IABA sincerely thanks each of you for your previous and ongoing contributions, dedication and commitment to our organization and looks forward to working with you this year!

### **IABA Third Annual Student Scholarship- June 15, 2007 Application Deadline**

The IABA is proud to announce that we are accepting applications from law students for the third annual IABA scholarship. This year, we will award up to two scholarships to law students in an aggregate amount of approximately \$2,000. As in past years, these scholarships are intended to recognize the commitment of law students to the advancement of the Iranian-American community. The IABA will

recognize the winners of the IABA scholarship at an upcoming IABA event and will also publish the names of the scholarship recipients in The IABA Review.

The eligibility requirements for these awards are as follows. Students who are receiving full funding for education from another organization are not eligible. Applicants who qualify must be:

- of Iranian Heritage or committed to the advancement of the Iranian-American community and IABA's mission;
- enrolled in an accredited law school in the United States;
- in the position to accept the scholarship in the school year for which it is being awarded; and
- a full-time student.

The scholarship application must include:

- A duly completed National Scholarship Application Form (available at [www.iaba.us](http://www.iaba.us));
- A detailed Resume outlining the applicant's education, and work and community experience;
- Applicant Statement – A statement or essay written by the applicant (no more than one single-sided 1.5 spaced typewritten page) articulating:
  - how the applicant believes he/she will make a difference as an attorney on issues of concern and interest to the Iranian-American community and in advancing IABA's mission, and/or
  - what influenced the applicant to study law, and why the applicant would like to be an attorney; and
- Official Law School and College Transcripts.

All applications must be post marked by **June 15, 2007** and submitted to: The Iranian-American Bar Association, 1025 Connecticut Ave. N.W. Suite 1012, Washington, D.C. 20036. If you have you any questions, please feel free to email us at [iaba@iaba.us](mailto:iaba@iaba.us). Thank you for your time and attention. The IABA encourages its members to forward this scholarship information to any eligible law students.

## **IABA CHAPTER EVENTS**

The following IABA members were appointed to serve as Vice Presidents of the below IABA Chapters.

- **Amie Ahanchian**- Washington, D.C.
- **Elnaz Seyedian**- New York City
- **Nema Milaninia** - Northern California
- **Ashley Tabaddor**- Los Angeles

## **Los Angeles- Past Events**

On the evening of **March 15, 2007**, the IABA Los Angeles Chapter held a very successful first annual **Iranian New Year Celebration** atop the City Hall in downtown Los Angeles. The sold-out event was attended by 100 guests in The Tom Bradley Ballroom, which is a beautiful venue with a 360 degree view of the downtown skyline. The theme of the evening was a celebration of our cultural heritage and diversity while recognizing the privileges and responsibilities of being an American citizen. The New Year Celebration featured a cocktail hour followed by a speaker's program, a comedy performance, and music and dancing. The speakers included **Councilwoman Jan Perry**, a co-sponsor of the event; and **Judge Shahla Sabet**, a superior court judge from San Bernardino, who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The Keynote Speaker was **Judge William MacLaughlin**, a superior court judge from Los Angeles, who was a former presiding judge of the superior court and an early advocate for diversity on the bench. The comedy performance featured comedian "**Peter the Persian**", a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law who is well known for both his humor and

legal acumen. The IABA Los Angeles Chapter was honored to have such influential speakers and guests at our first annual Iranian New Year Celebration and thanks everyone personally for their participation!



*On behalf of IABA, Advisory Board member Michael Farhang accepted a certificate of commendation from Los Angeles City Councilwoman Honorable Jan Perry for the IABA's contribution to the community. The award was presented to IABA at the Iranian New Year Celebration held by the Los Angeles Chapter on March 15, 2007.*

On **April 5, 2007**, IABA hosted a **Los Angeles Chapter Happy Hour** at the J Lounge and Restaurant.

### Los Angeles- Announcements

The IABA Los Angeles Chapter is planning our next general meeting, which will include such items as selecting our next local chapter president, and coming up with an action plan for the current year. Everyone who is interested in getting involved as a leader in the organization should contact [ashleytabaddor@gmail.com](mailto:ashleytabaddor@gmail.com) immediately in order to be considered for a chapter officer position.

### New York City- Past Events

On **March 8, 2007**, the New York Chapter hosted a lecture entitled "**An Overview of the Legislative Process in Iran**" by **Navid Sato**. The talk discussed the developments and modification of the civil, legal and legislative systems in Iran since the Islamic revolution. Mr. Sato's talk also addressed the relationship of Sharia and secularly promulgated laws, the legislative and regulatory procedures by which laws in Iran are enacted, and outlined certain areas of Iranian legislation.

*Lecture on "An Overview of the Legislative Process in Iran" by Navid Sato on March 8, 2007, New York.*



Mr. Sato is currently an LL.M. candidate in Trade Regulation at New York University. Mr. Sato received an LL.M. in International Law from American University, Washington College of Law as well as an LL.B. and LL.M. in Private Law from Shahid Beheshti University (former National University) in Tehran, Iran. Mr. Sato's book, entitled *Concluding Electronic Contracts with National and International Perspectives*, was published in summer 2005 by the High Council of Informatics in Iran.

The IABA New York City Chapter was excited to draw on the expertise of Mr. Sato to acquaint its members with Iran's legal system which, too many attorneys and laypersons alike living or practicing in the United States, remains esoteric and often misunderstood. The IABA sincerely thanks Mr. Sato for his time and support of IABA's educational objectives.

On **March 22, 2007**, the New York Chapter held a **Norooz celebration dinner** at the Pars Restaurant.

On **April 11, 2007**, the IABA held a New York **Chapter Happy Hour** at the Hudson Hotel Library Bar.

### New York City- Announcements

The IABA invites its members and friends to attend the **Iranian Alliances Across Borders' ("IAAB") Third International Conference on the Iranian Diaspora**, which will be held on **April 28 - 29, 2007** at New York University in New York City. For further information, please visit <http://www.iranianalliances.org/conf07/index.htm>.

**Help Wanted!** We are also seeking individuals to be involved with the following Committee Positions for the IABA New York Chapter:

(1) Law Review team: The New York Chapter calls for volunteers to join the IABA law review team. A working session will be scheduled to draft legal articles of interest to our community, to be published in the IABA Law Journal, upon Board approval. If you're interested in finding out more, please email [elnaz\\_seyedian@yahoo.com](mailto:elnaz_seyedian@yahoo.com).

(2) Marketing team: The New York Chapter calls for volunteers to assist with issuing brochures, business cards, posters, etc to advertise for the IABA. We're looking for people who could contribute to our team with their marketing, advertising, publishing, printing or design skills. If you're interested in finding out more, please email [elnaz\\_seyedian@yahoo.com](mailto:elnaz_seyedian@yahoo.com).

### Northern California- Past Events

We are excited to announce the establishment of an IABA Chapter in Northern California! The IABA especially thanks **Niki Moore, Mani Sheik** and **Nema Milaninia** for leading the initiative to organize and launch the Northern California chapter and keep the momentum going. The IABA has held three **Northern California Chapter Happy Hours** to date: one on **January 26 at the Bubble Lounge**; one on **March 9, 2007 at the Blue Chalk Café**; and one on **March 29, 2007 at Jupiter Berkeley**.

### Northern California- Announcements

On **Saturday May 26, 2007**, the IABA Northern California Chapter will be hosting a talk on the **legal ramifications of medical risk management** during the **Iranian-American Medical Association's annual meeting** in San Francisco, CA.

The IABA Northern California Chapter is also currently planning two other events: a **Panel on Iranian-American Discrimination** and an **IABA Northern California Picnic**. More information, including the time and location of both events, will be announced in the upcoming weeks- stay tuned!

### Washington, D.C.- Past Events

On **February 1, 2007**, **Farhad Alavi**, an associate at **Holland & Knight LLP** led a discussion entitled **"The OFAC Embargo: How to Avoid Common Pitfalls"** at the Washington, D.C. office of Holland & Knight LLP. The IABA Washington, D.C. Chapter received very positive feedback on the applicability and usefulness of the presentation, which was attended by over 30 members of the Washington, D.C. legal community. Mr. Alavi plans to present this discussion again in the upcoming months in order to provide this important information on the OFAC embargo to the greater Washington, D.C. Iranian-American community. We will announce specific times and locations for these discussions.



*From left to right: Ana Loloie (IABA Guest), Amie Ahanchian (IABA Board member and Vice President, Washington, D.C. Chapter) and Farhad Alavi (IABA Member and Speaker) at the OFAC discussion held at Holland & Knight LLP's Washington, D.C. Office on February, 1, 2007.*

On **March 14, 2007**, the IABA held a **Washington, D.C. Chapter Happy Hour** at Palette in the Madison Hotel in honor of the Norooz holiday.

### Washington, D.C.- Announcements

On **Thursday May 3, 2007**, IABA is hosting a **Washington D.C. Chapter Happy Hour** at Panache Restaurant, located at 1725 DeSales St., NW,. We welcome IABA members and friends to attend!

The Washington, D.C. Chapter is planning a discussion in **mid-May 2007** by **Houman Shadab**, a Senior Research Fellow in the Regulatory Studies Program at the George Mason University Mercatus Center, entitled **"The Consequences of Finance for Peace and Freedom: Implications of the Growth of Islamic Hedge Funds"**. Please stay tuned for the exact date and location of this event.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**The IABA congratulates its current members on the following remarkable achievements.** We are honored to have such esteemed attorneys and students as part of our organization and we commend you for your accomplishments!

- In January, 2007, IABA member, the **Honorable Susan Irene Etezadi** began her tenure as **San Mateo County Superior Court Judge**. Judge Etezadi received her bachelor's degree from University of California, Davis and graduated from University of San Diego Law School in 1983. For

the past 21 years, she has been a prosecutor for San Mateo County. Judge Etezadi has spent her entire professional career in the courtroom. **Best wishes in your new position!**

- IABA Member **Nema Milaninia** as part of the University of California at Hasting's Law School moot court team recently placed number 6 of 530 teams participating in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition. **They were the top U.S. Moot Court Team out of 140 teams- way to go Nema!**
- In March of 2007, IABA Advisory Board Member **Farzad Tabatabai** concluded a federal case in San Juan, Puerto Rico, permitting a championship boxing match to take place between WBO Welterweight World Champion Antonio Margarito and the Mandatory Challenger Paul Williams.



*From left to right: Welterweight World Champion Antonio Margarito and IABA Advisory Board Member Farzad Tabatabai on March 29, 2007. **Congratulations Farzad on your knock-out case!***

**Finally, the IABA extends a warm welcome to the following new members, who recently joined our organization and thanks you for your involvement in the IABA!** Please reach out to anyone on the Board of Directors if there is ever anything that we can do to support you as an IABA member.

- **Reza Akef**, Los Angeles, CA
- **Azadeh Allayee**, Los Angeles, CA
- **Aref Amanat**, New York, NY
- **Linda Ardehali**, Montgomery, IL
- **Reza Bagherian**, Chicago, IL
- **Roya Behnia**, Chicago, IL
- **Poulad Berenjforoush**, Concord Australia
- **Honorable Susan Etezadi**, Redwood City, CA
- **Shadi Halavi**, Canoga Park, CA
- **Ali Hosseini**, New York, NY
- **Taher Kameli**, Chicago, IL
- **Shadi Karimi**, Washington, D.C.
- **Elizabeth Mirza**, Chicago, IL
- **Bahram Niknia**, Los Angeles, CA
- **Sarah Khorasane**, Boston, MA
- **Lila Razmara**, Newport Beach, CA
- **Robert Riffner**, Schaumburg, IL
- **Azadeh Vahidi**, Pleasanton, CA
- **Hermine Valizadeh**, Chicago, IL
- **Rana Ziaee**, Irvine, CA

**INTERESTED IN JOINING IABA?**

The IABA is a non-religious, independent organization and is organized, for charitable and educational purposes, including the social, economic, professional and educational advancement of the Iranian-American community. If you would like to join, please complete the following section and send it with a check (for the cost of membership- see below) to:

***The Iranian-American Bar Association, 1025 Connecticut Ave. N.W. Suite 1012, Washington, D.C. 20036.*** If you have you any questions, please feel free to email us at [iaba@iaba.us](mailto:iaba@iaba.us).

Thank you for your time and attention. The IABA appreciates the support of all its members!

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Name and Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Law School Attending / Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Law School Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bar Admissions and Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

IABA Membership Type (see below): \_\_\_\_\_

*You may join IABA as one of the below types of members- please visit [www.iaba.us](http://www.iaba.us) for more info.*

***Please send a check in the appropriate membership amount when joining IABA.***

Membership Type	Yearly Cost	Renewal Cost
Attorney Private Sector - 2 yrs. + Experience	\$125	\$125
Attorney Private Sector - less then 2 yrs. Experience	\$60	\$60
Attorney Public Sector - 2 yrs. + Experience	\$60	\$60
Attorney Public Sector - less then 2 yrs. Experience	\$30	\$30
Law Student Membership	\$20	\$20