

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. June 24, 2010 (Los Angeles)
Wine Tasting in Beverly Hills
2. May 27, 2010 (Northern California)
Social Networking and Happy Hour
3. May 13, 2010 (Northern California)
Brownbag Lunch with Paul Igasaki

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IABA MEMBER PROFILES

Every month, IABA profiles various members to highlight their accomplishment in appreciation of our members and their commitment to IABA. If you would like your profile to appear in IABA's monthly newsletter, please email contact@iaba.us.

NINA KANI, KANI LAW GROUP

Nina Kani is the founder and principal of the Kani Law Group, a boutique practice specializing in labor and employment law. Nina's practice focuses on advice and counseling on labor and employment law, including counseling companies on employment law compliance (such as sexual harassment, wage and hour law and policy manuals) and handling employment litigation. Nina also serves as a neutral investigator in all Equal Employment Opportunity Commission matters, and provides training to employers on federal and California employment laws.

Nina began her career at O'Melveny & Myers LLP in San Francisco, where she worked for several years and later joined Foley & Lardner LLP, where she continued to practice labor and employment law. Nina graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, cum laude in 2002 and received her undergraduate degrees from the University of California, Irvine, summa cum laude in 1999. A native of Southern California, Nina has recently expanded her practice to Orange County, after spending over a decade in San Francisco.

Throughout her career, Nina has been committed to pro bono service. She has successfully obtained asylum for political refugees escaping persecution. In addition, she routinely provides free legal advice to non-profit organizations in various industries, including in women's health care, low-income food cooperatives, and struggling schools. As an officer of the court, Nina believes that she has a duty to serve the community based on her own expertise and affiliation. Nina brings her commitment to the Iranian-American community, which she believes needs more committed advisors in civil rights and governmental affairs. Nina also wants to help her fellow Iranian-Americans succeed in their businesses by helping them avoid common employment law mistakes. Nina is also a member of the PARSA Community Foundation and the National Iranian American Council.

AMIR AZARAN, NEAL, GERBER & EISENBERG LLP

Amir Azaran is an attorney at Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP in Chicago, IL where he focuses on structuring, drafting and negotiating information technology and outsourcing related contracts. After getting an undergraduate degree in engineering from the University of Illinois, Amir received his M.S. from the University of Colorado, Boulder and then worked for several years as an engineer in the aerospace and IT industries. After engineering, he chose to obtain his J.D. degree and graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 2006. While in law school, he served as executive editor of the *Chicago Journal of International Law*.

Outside of his normal practice, Amir serves on the Board of Trustees for the Chicago Persian School, where his daughter is currently learning Persian. He also teaches junior high kids in a lower-income neighborhood about legal topics as part of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago's "Lawyers in the Classroom" program. Amir also undertakes important pro bono matters, including an asylum case for an Afghan man who the Taliban pursued due to his affiliation with the US military. His client five months in jail while the U.S. Department of Homeland Security contested his asylum application. Amir believes that the day of his client's hearing and the judge's granting of asylum will "probably remain as the most memorable day of my legal career."

In his own words, Amir believes, "we should remember that our strength as a community is amplified when we trust each other, organize, and get involved with issues that are important to us. It doesn't have to be grandiose... It can be as simple as sending a letter to your congressperson regarding an issue, or conducting a workshop to teach the elders of our community about legal issues. In short: organize, work together, and get involved!"

CALL FOR AUTHORS

Every year IABA publishes a number of Working Group documents that are intended to educate and inform the Iranian-American community about legal issues of interest. The documents are authored by IABA members and are translated by IABA into Persian/Farsi to ensure greater access to information. IABA is looking for authors to publish a 3-4 page document on important legal issues in family law, immigration law, export law, intellectual property, and in criminal law. Your article will be edited by our Publication Committee, sent to you for final review, and then published in IABA's next newsletter. Your article will also be translated in Farsi.

IABA publications provide a great platform for young attorneys or legal experts to develop a reputation for themselves in areas of their expertise and to identify themselves as experts in the legal industry. If you are interested in drafting a Working Group document, please contact IABA at contact@iaba.us. To see past Working Group documents, please visit IABA's website at http://www.iaba.us/contents_workinggroup.aspx.