



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 7 (San Diego): Reception for Judge Tamila Ipema
2. May 9 (Northern California): Annual Board of Directors Summit
3. May 14 (New York): Networking Reception
4. May 28 (Orange County): Wine-Tasting Networking Event
5. June 10 (Chicago): Conference on Persian Antiquities Litigation



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Persian Antiquities Panel in Chicago, IL

On June 10, 2009, the Chicago Chapter of the IABA will host a panel on the Persian Antiquities Litigation. The panel will be hosted in Chicago, IL from 5:45pm - 8:00pm CST at the University Center, 525 S. State Street, Chicago, IL 60605 and will discuss the legal and cultural issues related cases pending in Federal District Court in Chicago and Boston concerning disputes between plaintiff-victims and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Depending on the outcome of these cases, priceless ancient Persian artifacts in museums in Illinois and Massachusetts may be dismantled and sold at auction.

Presented by:

- **Dr. Matthew Wolfgang Stopler**, Professor of Assyriology in the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago

- **Dr. Patty Gerstenblith**, Director of the DePaul College of Law's Program in Cultural Heritage Law

- **Sue Benton, Esq.**, Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP and Lead Counsel for the Chicago Field Museum

- **Dr. Gil Stein**, Director of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago

Tickets are free for IABA Members, \$10 for non-Members, and \$5 for students. Please note seating is very limited. If there is availability on the day of the event, tickets will cost \$15 at the door for members and non-members and \$10 for students.

To RSVP, [please visit this link to purchase tickets.](#)

IABA Joins the U.S. Census Bureau National Partner

The United States census occurs every 10 years and is mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The Census is used by federal, state, and local officials to allocate Congressional seats and apportionment, electoral votes, and government funding programs. It is also used to determine what community services to provide. The census



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is scheduled to take place on April 1, 2010. In hopes of encouraging Iranian-Americans to take part in the census and educate them about the legal and political effects of having a large turnout, the IABA has agreed to partner as both a national and regional partner with the U.S. Census Bureau. IABA is also participating in the coalition of Iranian-American organizations currently being formed by the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian-Americans (PAAIA).

Throughout the next year, various IABA chapters will host important events and programs in order to reach out to the community on the issue and in encouraging people to participate in the census. More information will be provided in the near future on how you can get involved and assist.

IABA Member Profile: Leila Abdi (Atlanta, GA)

Leila Abdi was born in Tehran, Iran and immigrated to the United States at the age of seven. She graduated magna cum laude, in 2001, from Georgia Institute of Technology with a B.S. in computer science. In 2005, she graduated with her J.D. from the American University, Washington College of Law. Prior to going to law school, Ms. Abdi worked as a software developer for Accenture. She joined IABA because she believes it is important for the Iranian American community to be provided with information regarding various legal issues of interest. She also believes organizations like IABA give Iranian-American youth a forum to make contacts in pursuing a legal career.

Ms. Abdi is currently an associate in the Atlanta office of Fish & Richardson P.C. where she specializes in patent prosecution of computer software and hardware devices. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Abdi was an associate at a large IP boutique in Washington, D.C., where her practice focused on patent prosecution and client counseling in the fields of computer software and hardware technology, Internet technology and telecommunications. As part of her practice, Ms. Abdi prepares new patent applications and prosecutes both U.S. and foreign applications. Her counseling practice includes preparing patentability, infringement, and validity opinions.