

# South Asian Bar Association Newsletter

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### NASABA Scholarship Opportunity

#### Apply for a NASABA Scholarship Today

The NASABA Conference is being held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada this year from June 26-28th! We are offering 2 scholarships to students and 2 scholarships to practitioners in the amount of \$750 to finance the trip. See details below and please apply by June 15th, 2009.

#### 2008 SABAW National Conference Scholarships - Attorneys

The South Asian Bar Association of Washington will grant two scholarships of \$750 each to attorneys who can best demonstrate a commitment to assist the South Asian community, locally or at large, to attend the 2009 NASABA National Conference in June 26-28, 2009, in Vancouver, British Columbia, and report back to the local SABAW membership.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must be attorneys residing in the State of Washington. Members of the Scholarship Committee are not qualified to participate.

#### 2009 SABAW National Conference Scholarships - Students

The South Asian Bar Association of Washington will grant one scholarship of \$750 to a law student who can best demonstrate a commitment to assist the South Asian community, locally or at large, to attend the 2009 NASABA National Conference in June 26-28, 2009, in Vancouver, British Columbia, and report back to the local SABAW membership.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must be current law students residing in the State of Washington. Members of the Scholarship Committee are not qualified to participate.

The Scholarship Committee comprises the following attorneys: Sandip Soli, Pallavi Mehta Wahi, and Sunil Abraham

To apply, please send an essay less than 200

words to Sunil Abraham at [sunilabraham206@gmail.com](mailto:sunilabraham206@gmail.com), expressing commitment to the South Asian community and intent to attend the 2009 NASABA National Conference.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS June 15, 2008.

The Scholarship Committee will announce awardees shortly thereafter. The awards will be disbursed upon a showing of proof by the awardees of registration for the 2009 NASABA National Conference, hotel reservations and travel reservations. For more information on the convention, visit our website, [www.sabaw.org](http://www.sabaw.org).

### Loan Repayment Scholarship Opportunity

#### FSABAW Announces a \$5,000 Attorney Loan Repayment Scholarship for Washington State Lawyers

The South Asian Bar Association of Washington ("SABAW") will award one \$5,000 loan repayment scholarship to a young lawyer who has demonstrated a commitment to issues of interest to the minority community of Washington. Preference will be given to applications showing commitment to issues of interest to the South Asian Community. Eligible candidates must have been admitted as members of the Washington bar after September 1, 2003 and be currently practicing in Washington. The award recipient must promise to repay outstanding law school student loans with the award.

#### Judging Criteria

Applicants will be judged on:

- a. Demonstrated commitment to issues of interest to the South Asian community;
- b. Financial need (including proof of current education loans); and
- c. An essay of 500 words or less setting forth the Applicant's financial needs.

#### Selection & Notification

The award recipient will be selected and notified by the SABAW Scholarship Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Interested applicants should contact Sunil Abraham ([sunilabraham206@gmail.com](mailto:sunilabraham206@gmail.com)) or

Pallavi Mehta Wahi([pallavi.wahi@klgates.com](mailto:pallavi.wahi@klgates.com)).

## NEWS: Arif Alikhan Appointed to US Dept. of Homeland Security

### SABA-SC in Applauds Appointment

The South Asian Bar Association of Southern California ("SABA-SC") applauds the appointment of City of Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Arif Alikhan as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy Development in the Obama Administration's Department of Homeland Security.

"Arif Alikhan has been instrumental in advancing my administration's central priorities of preparing Los Angeles to respond to natural disasters and against the threat of terrorism, increasing public safety, and putting 1,000 new LAPD officers on our streets," said City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "I wish him luck as he assumes this new role with the Obama Administration, and look forward to his continued efforts to help protect Los Angeles and our nation's cities."

Arif Alikhan was appointed as Deputy Mayor for Homeland Security and Public Safety in November 2006. He is a current SABA-SC member and the 2007 recipient of the SABA-SC Foundation Trailblazer Award for his contributions to the South Asian legal community.

"We are very proud of Arif Alikhan for his appointment," said SABA-SC Co-President Pankit Doshi. "His uncompromising dedication to the Los Angeles community is second to none. This honor is a testament to his abilities and dedication." "Arif has been a very good friend to SABA-SC and a role model to South Asian American lawyers throughout the country," echoed SABA-SC Co-President Paul Saghera.

Prior to joining the Mayor's office, Mr. Alikhan served as a senior official at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. where he was responsible for overseeing the national Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (CHIP) Program, as well as key advisor to the Attorney General on intellectual property and cyber crime issues. Previously he served as the first Section Chief of a new Cyber and Intellectual Property Crimes Section for the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, the largest judicial district in the nation.

Mr. Alikhan began his legal career as a Judicial Law Clerk to U.S. District Judge Ronald S.W. Lew in Los Angeles and then joined the Los Angeles law firm of Irell and Manella where he handled civil and white-collar criminal defense matters. In 1997, Mr. Alikhan joined the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles where he handled a wide variety of criminal matters as a federal prosecutor for over eight years. He received several awards from law enforcement agencies for his work and was recognized by the Department of Justice for his superior management and supervisory performance.

Mr. Alikhan was instrumental in Mayor Villaraigosa's initiative to put 1,000 new officers on the streets, and now the LAPD has expanded to its highest level in history. Additionally, Mr. Alikhan oversaw and advanced the Mayor's emergency preparedness and counter-terrorism initiatives, increased cooperation with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, worked to create the Fire Department's Professional Standards Division and helped secure and manage over \$400 million in homeland security and public safety grants for the Los Angeles region. He was also a key aid to the Mayor at major emergencies including numerous brush and wild fires and the tragic Metrolink crash last year.

Mr. Alikhan graduated with honors from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in 1993. He graduated cum laude from the University of California, Irvine in 1990 where he earned a degree in Social Ecology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice, Criminology and Legal Studies.

**CONFERENCE: Annual NASABA Convention:  
Pathways to Achievement**

**Hosted by NASABA and the South Asian Bar  
Association of British Columbia**

The Sixth Annual North American South Asian Bar Association convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from June 25 to 28, 2009.

Shashi Tharoor will be the keynote for the Saturday banquet and there will be a wonderful opening reception hosted by Alexander Holburn

Beaudin & Lang LLP. The panels and speakers are lined up. Details [www.nasabaconvention.org](http://www.nasabaconvention.org).

The theme for the NASABA 2009 Convention is "Pathways to Achievement." Join us and hear first hand how prominent attorneys on both sides of the border have achieved great success in law, the judiciary, politics and business and learn how you can apply those experiences and lessons to your own career.

Attendees will be provided with a unique opportunity to explore the similarities and differences facing attorneys from different jurisdictions and to build strong relations with their colleagues from through-out North America and beyond.

When: June 25 - 28, 2009

Where: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver, Canada

Register: Early Bird Registration ends March 13, 2009

To register or for more information, click [here](#) or contact Jindy Bhalla at [jbhalla@ekb.com](mailto:jbhalla@ekb.com) (National Convention VP) or Rajiv Sarathy at [rsarathy@perkinscoie.com](mailto:rsarathy@perkinscoie.com) (Convention Co-Chair) or Jaia Rai at [jrai@lsbc.org](mailto:jrai@lsbc.org) (Convention Co-Chair).

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Please contact Convention Sponsorship Chair Rajiv Sarathy at [rsarathy@perkinscoie.com](mailto:rsarathy@perkinscoie.com) or (206) 359-6478.

**EMPLOYMENT: Litigation Associate with Labor & Employment Background**

### **Ford & Harrison, LLP**

Ford & Harrison is a national labor and employment firm with close to 200 lawyers in offices throughout the country. The firm is actively seeking to increase its overall diversity by adding top quality lateral candidates in all offices.

Candidates should be seasoned litigators, labor

and employment preferred, with a solid book of business and the potential for growth and expansion. Strong writing skills, community involvement, good academics, and a proven record in leadership roles will be considered a plus. For consideration, please submit a cover letter, resume and copy of your law school transcript to Alice Trahant, Director of Recruiting, at [atrahant@fordharrison.com](mailto:atrahant@fordharrison.com).

Dawn Siler-Nixon, Equity Partner,  
Diversity Partner  
Ford & Harrison, LLP  
101 E. Kennedy Blvd. Suite 900

## Film Festival & Speaking Event

### Commemorating 25 Years After the Bhopal Tragedy

#### Meet activists from the Longest Standing Campaign Against

Corporate Crime And Environmental Injustice  
The International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal, in collaboration with numerous Seattle-based organisations, is organising a double-event with the 1984 Union Carbide gas leak tragedy in Bhopal, India, as the backdrop to discuss corporate crime, environmental racism and toxic trespass. One youngster -- Safreen Rafat Khan, a second-generation victim of Union Carbide's poisons -- will be visiting Seattle with Satinath Sarangi, a long-time activist associated the Bhopal struggle, on 29-30 May, 2009. We look forward to your participation in the events. Kindly attend, and circulate this message to your friends and family.

**Event 1:** Film and Q/A Program  
(\*Suggested contribution \$5 to \$10)

**When:** Friday, May 29, 2009. 7 pm to 9 pm

**Where:** 911 Seattle Media Arts Center,  
402 9th Ave. North (South Lake Union -  
9th & Harrison)

**What:** Film screening and Q&A. Details of films and speakers below

**Local Sponsors:** Tasveer, Association for India's

## Development (Seattle)

\* Contributions will go towards organising event. Any amount in excess of costs will be donated to the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal.

**Event 2:** Panel Discussion on "Corporate Crime, Environmental Injustice and Toxic Trespass: Lessons from the 1984 Union Carbide Gas disaster in Bhopal, India."  
**When:** Saturday, May 30, 2009. 4:30 - 6:30 pm  
**Where:** Communications 120, Stevens Way E, University District, University of Washington

### Who:

**Safreen "Rafat" Khan:** A 16-year old second-generation victim of Union Carbide's poisons, Safreen is co-founder of Children Against Dow Carbide, a children's group that has committed itself to keeping the fight for justice in Bhopal alive for as long as it takes.

**Satinath Sarangi:** A long-time Bhopal activist, and founder-trustee of Sambhavna Trust clinic, an award winning free holistic clinic for survivors of the Bhopal disaster.

**Dr. Sheela Satyanarayana:** Asst Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Univ. of Washington. An accomplished physician with expertise in pediatric environmental health, Dr. Satyanarayana has been a forceful voice of science in advocating for more stringent regulations on toxic chemicals, including Bisphenol A and phthalates.

Local Sponsors: South Asia Center of University of Washington, Association for India's Development, Washington Toxics Coalition, Tasveer, WashPIRG (Students - UW), WashPIRG, SEED (UW), South Asia Students Association (UW), Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Amnesty International, Collaborative on Health and Environment - Washington, Commonweal-Northwest

### FILM DETAILS

Hush, Baby (Himali Kapil and Umang Bhattacharyya, India, 2007, 3.5 minutes, English & Hindi with English subtitles)

A powerfully evocative short film on the continuing damage caused to Bhopal's Generation Next as a result of the hand-me-down effects of the toxic gases released on December 3, 1984, and the ongoing contamination caused by groundwater contaminated by Union Carbide's toxic wastes.

Secrets and Lies (Stavros Stagos, Greece, 2007, 79 minutes, English, Hindi, & Urdu with English subtitles)

This historical documentary examines the 1984 chemical disaster of Bhopal, which killed up to 20,000 people, and how it continues to affect people today. It is by far the most up-to-date film on the world's worst industrial disaster. Using U.S. multinationals Union Carbide and Dow Chemical as cases, the documentary profiles how transnational corporations hold themselves beyond the reach of law, even as generation after generation continue to be poisoned by their neglect.

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Please look for more events sponsored by SABAW in the future.

**Sincerely,**

Aravind Swaminathan  
South Asian Bar Association of Washington