



**IRANIAN AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION
NEW YORK CHAPTER**

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DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME!

2012 was a very busy year for IABA-NY!

We organized and hosted numerous events this year, including CLE sessions, networking events, and a *Nowruz* dinner. We also supported non-IABA events such as the Persian Parade and launched our new chapter website. In an effort to extend a hand to the community, we also created a Pro Bono Committee that is becoming increasingly active. Lastly, thanks to the ever-increasing depth of our network and resources, we are happy to announce that we have expanded our efforts to inform our members, both law students and experienced attorneys, about job opportunities available in the marketplace in order to aid them in their career development.

In sum, 2012 was a great year. As a result of the efforts of our leadership, as well as the participation of our dedicated members, we are very pleased to report that our membership has grown substantially. As we build on our past accomplishments, we hope that more of you will help us in making 2013 even better.

Please visit us at www.iaba-ny.org, as well as on our Facebook page, to find out more about our latest news and upcoming events. We hope you enjoy our bi-annual Newsletter. The Board of IABA-NY looks forward to receiving your feedback and even better, seeing you at our next event!

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Continuing Legal Education



Addressing Discrimination and Profiling: Know Your Rights (and Your Client's)

On November 15, 2012, IABA-NY hosted a free 2-hour CLE program at the law firm of BakerHostetler, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, on recent trends in discrimination, racial profiling and surveillance cases, as well as a look at discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities in the workplace. The speakers also discussed potential discrimination against Iranian-Americans based on a misapplication of U.S. law on sanctions against Iran. Panelists included Mitra Ebadolahi, Esq., of the ACLU's National Security Project; Jacqlyn Rovine, Esq., of BakerHostetler's employment group; and Erich Ferrari, Esq., of Ferrari & Associates, P.C. More than fifty individuals, both attorneys and non-attorneys, participated in the program. Attorneys who attended the event earned two free CLE credits. We thank the law firm of BakerHostetler for hosting the event and for the delicious refreshments and beautiful space they provided.

Be sure to look for information on our next CLE event. If you have suggestions for future CLE topics, please write to us at info@iaba-ny.org with the subject line "Suggested CLE".

NETWORKING EVENTS



Over the past year, IABA-NY has regularly brought attorneys and other professionals together to network in various informal settings. These events are great opportunities to socialize, make new connections, and ultimately, strengthen the relationships and ties within our community. Some of our more recent networking events included:

- A Night of Networking at The Hill on January 26, 2012
- Persian Game Night at Casa La Femme on June 20, 2012
- An End of Summer Evening with Open Bar at The Hill on September 12, 2012

IABA-NY networking events are a great way to build your professional network and help to strengthen our community. Look for the details of our next networking event on Facebook or visit our website at www.iaba-ny.org.

MEMBER NEWS

IABA-NY is pleased to announce some career advancement updates on our own board! Sammi Malek of BakerHostetler was recently elected as a partner in the firm's litigation group. And Ali Ayazi, formerly of Littler Mendelson, is a new Associate General Counsel at HBO.

Recent promotion, publication, speaking engagement or other newsworthy developments? Please share your news! Email IABA-NY at bod@iaba-ny.org with your career highlights and updates.

NOWRUZ DINNER



On Sunday, April 1, 2012, the New York Chapter of the IABA held its second annual *Nowruz* Dinner in the lovely grand ballroom of the New York County Lawyers' Association building. Some 125-- people including law professionals, law students and other members of the Iranian-American community—attended the event to celebrate the Persian New Year. The evening started with a cocktail hour accompanied by live Persian music performed by the Tomchess Trio, as many gathered and met friends and peers, old and new.



A hot buffet dinner was served with an array of Persian food including kebabs, stews, and various rice dishes from Shiraz Kosher Restaurant of Great Neck and Shiraz Restaurant of Westchester. Following the meal, after members of the IABA-NY board welcomed the attendees and updated them about the IABA, our esteemed keynote speaker, Cyrus Amir-Mokri, appointed by President Obama in November, 2011 to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions spoke to the audience. His speech was inspirational and very well received. He detailed the highlights of his legal career in private practice and shared his motivations for being involved with public service.

After Mr. Amir-Mokri's talk, many attendees of the event stayed for tea and delicious desserts, and still more socializing. The event was co-sponsored by the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA). All in all, it was a lovely evening. Thanks to everyone who participated. We are already looking forward to our *Nowruz* event next year!

Do you have ideas for an upcoming IABA-NY event? Know of anyone whom we can honor at our next Nowruz dinner? If so, please email us at bod@iaba-ny.org.

IABA-NY NETWORK

By sending referrals and inquiries to iabany@yahogroups.com, IABA-NY Network members can instantly reach all members of the network. Our ever-growing Chapter is a significant resource for potential new clients, forms, and answers to legal questions.

Please continue to keep the IABA-NY Network in mind in 2013. If you are a local attorney and are not already in the Network, you are missing out! Email us at bod@iaba-ny.org and we will gladly add you to our Network.

PERSIAN PARADE



On April 15, 2012, several members of IABA-NY marched down Madison Avenue for the 9th Annual New York Persian Parade. Sporting official IABA-NY t-shirts, big smiles, and carrying a large banner, they were greeted by large rounds of applause and cheers from onlookers. Many Iranians were pleasantly surprised to see a strong presence from *Vokalayeh Irani* at the Parade. IABA-NY was proud to be part of the Parade and to further establish our presence in the Persian community. We look forward to this great event next year and welcome additional members to join us on our walk in 2013.



MENTORING AND EMPLOYMENT

IABA-NY established a formal Mentoring Committee in 2012 with the goal of further assisting the members of the Iranian-American legal community with their career needs. The Committee had a busy and productive first year. A steady flow of mentoring requests from law students and young lawyers were received through the IABA-NY website and personal referrals. The Committee's objective is to provide guidance and insight to assist individuals in improving their short term or longer term career paths. Members of the Committee handled many of the requests directly, and they also paired prospective mentees with mentors practicing in their particular field of interest. The Committee also developed various program materials to further develop an operational platform for the program.

Please get in touch with us if you know of anyone who may be hiring or have any other information that may be helpful or relevant to our Mentoring Program. There are many law students and attorneys in practice who would appreciate interview tips, job postings and other such opportunities that you may know about.

Please share! Simply email us at bod@iaba-ny.org with "Job Opportunities" in the subject line.

PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Hurricane Sandy Free Legal Assistance

IABA-NY recognized that Hurricane Sandy presented new challenges, legal and otherwise, for many of the tri-state area's residents. It also created an opportunity for our lawyers to offer their services *pro bono*, receive disaster assistance training, and offer other types of counseling to those affected. As a service to our members and to the community at large, the IABA-NY website listed lots of resources and information for both members of the legal community and those seeking assistance.

Domestic Abuse

The IABA-NY Pro Bono Committee is organizing an effort to help those in the Iranian-American and related communities who are victims of domestic abuse.

Kindly email the board at bod@iaba-ny.org with “Pro-Bono” in the subject line, should you be interested in any of our pro bono efforts.

IABA-NY LEADERSHIP

The Board of Directors of the New York Chapter of the Iranian American Bar Association welcomes and values your participation in governing the affairs of our Chapter. Our Board is open to any member who is willing to devote the time and effort required for our Chapter to achieve its considerable goals.

Whether you wish to join our Board or simply help with any number of our events and programs, we would be happy to help you find your desired role.

For more information about any topic addressed in this Newsletter or answers to any general questions you may have, please email us at bod@iaba-ny.org. We look forward to hearing from you and to having another great year for IABA-NY!

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