

SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO

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MEMBER UPDATE— JUNE 2, 2009

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RECENT SABA INITIATIVES

LAW SOCIETY'S GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

On May 20, 2009, SABA participated, along with other leaders from various legal organizations, in the Law Society's Governance Task Force to consider improvements to the corporate governance of the Law Society by Convocation. Following two reports to Convocation on specific governance reforms, the Task Force sought the views of lawyers and paralegals on governance issues. The Task Force's review was considered necessary because lawyers, paralegals and the public can be expected to increasingly scrutinize the way in which Convocation governs the Law Society's affairs. As a result of recent attention to the way in which governments, corporations and regulatory bodies discharge their governance functions, the Task Force believes that there is a heightened expectation that persons occupying fiduciary and regulatory positions will effectively and diligently discharge their responsibilities. Participation at this meeting allowed SABA to share its views with the Task Force about the Law Society's governance structure.

SABA SUPPORTS A RACISM-FREE ENVIRONMENT

SABA proudly offered support to the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers (the "FACL") by participating as signatory to FACL's letter addressed to the Ontario Minister of Education, York Region District School Board, Ontario Human Rights Chief Commissioner and the Principal of a Keswick High School regarding an incident that occurred at this Keswick High School on April 21, 2009. A Korean student got into an altercation with another student following racist remarks aimed at the Korean student. The school suspended both students and threatened to expel the Korean student from the school and the York Region District School Board. Charges were also pressed against the Korean student by the York Region Police. Students of any race or ethnicity should be able to learn in a racism-free environment. Although SABA in no way condones violence, as signatory to the letter SABA expressed its concern about the way the school's administration initially addressed the issue.

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RECENT PAST EVENT

On May 5, 2009, SABA and LSUC co-presented a panel discussion titled "Immigration Issues and Trends for Diverse Communities". Topics included questions concerning spousal sponsorship, the genuineness of marriage and validity of foreign divorces and failing to declare family members.

RECENT UPCOMING EVENT

SABA WEST-END EVENT & GTA OUTREACH COMMITTEE

On June 17, 2009, SABA will be holding a GTA Meet and Greet event at the Brampton Golf Club, for more information and to RSVP, please contact Jim Sahdra at jsahdra@kmbllaw.com or 905.276.0423. In order to cater to the needs of South Asian lawyers outside of the Toronto area, SABA has initiated a Greater Toronto Area Outreach Committee. The committee members are Jim Sahdra, Sona Sood and Thomas Santram, with local representatives to be selected. Please contact Jim Sahdra if you wish to volunteer on this committee (you must be a SABA member in good standing to be considered).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at saba@sabatoronto.com or get involved with SABA by joining a [committee](#).