



OAPABA
OREGON ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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OAPABA Members Dao, Nashiwa, and Tran Graduate from Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute



OAPABA members graduate as Fellows of the inaugural Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute. From left to right, Julia Markley (API CLI Steering Committee member), Trinh Tran (Fellow), Karen Nashiwa (Fellow), and Hong Dao (Fellow).

Portland, OR. - OAPABA Members Hong Dao, Karen Nashiwa, and Trinh Tran were among the graduating class of the inaugural Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute. The graduation ceremony was held on January 12, 2013, at the Northwest Health Foundation in Portland. Dao and Nashiwa also serve as members of the OAPABA Board, with Nashiwa as Treasurer of the Board.

The Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute is an innovative, year-long program to develop the leadership skills of a cohort of API leaders in Oregon. The Institute is the result of a

partnership between the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) and the Asian Family Center at Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). Twenty-two individuals graduated from the program as Fellows and were selected in a state-wide competitive application process based on their demonstrated ability and potential in order to strengthen the individual and collective leadership capacity among API communities. The Fellows came from diverse API communities including the Cambodian, Filipino, Hmong, Japanese, Laotian, Tongan, Chinese, Kachin/Burmese, Chuukese/Chamorro, and Vietnamese communities. The group focused on community issues through the lens of equity, empowerment, and public advocacy.

As an action project of the API Community Leadership Institute, Dao founded a free monthly legal clinic for civil and consumer issues to be held at the Asian Family Center of IRCO as her Action Project. At the clinic, clients will be able to meet with Dao on their legal issues and receive appropriate assistance. "APICLI has taught me a lot about the needs of my own community," says Ms. Dao. "The clinic is a result of the connections I made at APICLI and the outreach to the API community I have been doing through my work."

Dao, Nashiwa, and Tran found the API Community Leadership Institute valuable. Ms. Nashiwa said, "The Institute was a unique opportunity to meet with other APA leaders and discuss how to advance our mission of inclusion and excellence." Mr. Tran said, "The experience opened my eyes to the diverse range of issues and challenges facing the API community. But even better, I can see that among ourselves we have the talent, the energy, and the leadership capacity to address them."

OAPABA member and founding President Julia Markley served on the Steering Committee for the API Community Leadership Institute.

This Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute is also one of six similar leadership efforts being implemented in the African, African American, Latino, Native American and Slavic communities. Each culturally specific community is working in coordination with the others through the Coalition of Communities of Color, which secured the support for this work through the Meyer Memorial Trust.

About OAPABA: OAPABA seeks to promote the professional development and advancement of APA attorneys through education, research and programs; to act as a vehicle and forum for expressing opinions on matters of concern to APA attorneys and our communities; and to encourage and foster communication among APA attorneys on issues affecting our work, communities and government.

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