

MINUTES
of the
ASIAN-AMERICAN LAW LIBRARIANS CAUCUS MEETING

Boston, Massachusetts
Sunday, July 11, 1993

The business meeting was called to order by AALLC Caucus President Heija Ryoo at 5:12 p.m.

Attendees: 25; attendance sheet circulated.

1. Minutes of 1992 Meeting

Motion was made by Paul Fu and seconded by Dorothy Li to adopt, as submitted, the minutes of the last meeting. Motion was unanimously approved without any discussion.

2. Announcements

a. Heija Ryoo reminded members of a forthcoming program, The Legal System and Trade Laws of Thailand and Vietnam, which the Caucus was co-sponsoring with the Foreign, Comparative and International Law SIS (FCIL-SIS). This informative program would be held on Tuesday, July 13 at 1:15 p.m. in Room 306. Heija needed two people to help deliver the handouts to the program site; Wei Luo and Haibin Hu graciously volunteered.

b. Heija extended the Caucus' appreciation to Dan Wade who had worked hard in coordinating this program and to Mon Yin Lung and Bill McCloy who suggested the program topic and who were all instrumental in getting speakers for the program. Dan was able to find Tai Van Ta, Research Associate at Harvard, as a replacement for Mark Snyder to speak on Vietnamese law.

c. AALLC members who would like to leave together by subway for the Harvard Law Library tour were instructed to meet Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. by the Registration area Information Desk. Eddie Harrison, curator of the East Asian Collection at the Harvard Law School Library would serve as our tour guide. The group would then attend the joint Academic SIS and Legal History and Rare Books SIS reception at Harvard. Following this reception, members attending the AALLC dinner would walk over together to the Siam Garden restaurant.

d. Special thanks were also extended to Bridget Reischer of Harvard Law School Library for her selection of the restaurant and the menu for our annual AALLC dinner.

e. The AALLC 1993 Directory, prepared by Mon Yin Lung with the assistance of Vianne Sha, was distributed to meeting attendees.

3. President's Report and New Business

a. Funding for Caucus Activities: Because the Caucus does not collect any membership dues, Heija raised the issue of the increasing difficulty of the Caucus to cover expenses related to the Caucus' more active involvement in programs and projects. To show appreciation to program speakers, the Caucus has invited them to join us as guests at our annual dinner. Heija estimated this year's expenses to be over \$300 for mailing, photocopying and guest dinners. While some AALLC members' institutions have absorbed some costs and some individual

AALLC officers have personally covered some expenses, this method of direct and indirect funding may prove to be problematic in the future. Heija, making clear that she was not proposing formal dues for the AALLC membership, asked members for any suggestions to this funding problem. Dan Wade had thought about tacking on a dinner surcharge to those members making reservations in order to cover guest speaker dinner costs. Helena Lai suggested that the Caucus might aggressively pursue publisher donations in advance to avoid any last-minute funding crisis; such a funding method has been employed by the Committee on Minorities which has its annual reception subsidized by various publishers.

b. SIS vs. Caucus Status: In the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out that because we are a "caucus" and not a "special interest section," AALL Headquarters will not contribute any funding to the Caucus from AALL dues. We are, however, subsidized indirectly when we co-sponsor a program with an SIS since we don't have to pay for the use of the room or for program photocopy expenses if we meet the AALL deadline for submission of materials. Dan Wade pointed out that an SIS charges dues and gets a portion of those dues back to cover its expenses; Mon Yin Lung reminded the group that an SIS gets only \$5 of the \$12 dues it charges. Cossette Sun, who had just come from a Committee on Minorities meeting, pointed to what appeared to be adequate funding for that group which is neither an SIS nor a caucus; she suggested that AALL should recognize our group's existence by extending better funding assistance and that perhaps AALL's perception of our group as merely a "culture" group—emphasizing the law of Asian countries—may be affecting AALL's funding priorities.

Paul Fu, lending a perspective as an AALL Executive Board member, emphasized that AALLC is an informally organized group, and, according to AALL bylaws, any group wishing to become a special interest section (SIS) must be in continuous existence for three years as a caucus. Once we have established ourselves for the requisite period, then by resolution of the entire group, we may apply for formal status as a special interest section. Mon Yin Lung clarified that while our group had been formed in 1987, we have existed as a "caucus" for only the last two years. Paul also pointed out that as to the funding of group activities, AALL operates like any other business, i.e., having to consider cost factors. Therefore, AALL has an established policy of funding only recognized groups such as SISs or committees. He stated that it would be in our best interest after three years to apply for SIS status, if we so desire; with SIS status, we would then be eligible for AALL funding.

c. Racial vs. Specialized Law Group: Cossette Sun's point about how our group might be perceived by AALL triggered a lively discussion about what kind of group we think we are. Both Cossette Sun and Paul Fu expressed the thought that we are not a racial group. Paul further pointed out that we should perceive ourselves to be a specialized group with Asian law and scholarly research as our goal, i.e., to encourage the study of this special area of the law. Paul felt that the fact that our goal—which is not related to racial background—should help our group in the long run. He stressed that we must be clear on this and explain to others that AALLC is not a group organized on the basis of race because such a focus would neither help us nor the larger organization.

Kai-Yun Chiu pointed out that there appears to be some philosophical question involved here or maybe that our group has an identity crisis because we are talking about a racial group versus a special subject area group. Heija pointed out that as to subject matter focus, there is an Asian Law Working Group, a separate group. Bill McCloy clarified that AALLC is a co-sponsor with the FCIL-SIS of the Asian Law Working Group. Paul Fu said that if we clearly wanted to identify with either category, racial or subject matter, we risk being absorbed by either larger group. He felt that we can still maintain our name, still do what we do, without falling into a racial group category which is currently causing problems for the minority librarians' group.

Another point raised was whether AALL would merely consider us as a sub-group of the Committee on Minorities if we are perceived as a racial group. Addressing this, Mon Yin Lung related discussions she had had several years ago, before the actual formation of our group, with two AALL leaders, Laura Gasaway and Penny Hazelton. From these conversations, Mon Yin's distinct impression was that AALL was not receptive to, and discouraged, the formation of groups falling outside the auspices of AALL, i.e., groups that are neither a committee nor a special interest section. To these AALL leaders, our group was considered to be an unnecessary duplication of existing groups: as an Asian law group, our focus would already be covered by the FCIL-SIS and as a racial group, our concerns would already be addressed by the Committee on Minorities. Mon Yin pointed out to them that members of the Committee on Minorities were appointed, not elected as our group's officers, and therefore, this committee cannot be considered to represent our group's interests. Mon Yin reminded us that the two stated purposes of our group, as included in our bylaws, were to serve as a social and networking group and as a group focusing on Asian legal materials. She said that we are perhaps the most "inclusive" group (particularly in the light of our election of two Presidents who are of non-Asian descent) in AALL, which is made up of mostly single-focus specialized groups. Mon Yin noted that while we should not emphasize the racial factor in our make up, we should, nevertheless, recognize its existence.

d. Membership Dues: The discussion was steered back to the issue of whether a caucus can impose dues upon its membership. Paul Fu said that there should be no problem; he pointed out that AALL does not necessarily say that you must change your status or must apply for SIS status. If we do apply, however, the benefit is that the group would be eligible for funding. Heija pointed out that our bylaws allow for the Caucus Executive Committee to set membership dues. However, Bill McCloy clarified that the reason we had voted for no formal dues in the past was because we have no "formal" membership. Mon Yin said that in compiling the AALLC Directory, she was careful in not referring to it as a "membership" directory since some information had been gathered from other sources or persons and had been included without explicit permission of those so listed. Heija suggested that we defer this issue of membership dues to the agenda of the incoming caucus President.

e. Resolution to Cover Speaker Dinner Expenses: Dan proposed a resolution that the AALLC Executive Committee be allowed to charge what it needs to cover the dinner cost for program speakers, such amount not to exceed \$5 per member. Cossette Sun seconded the motion. However, before a vote could be taken, Mon Yin countered with a suggestion that because the imposition of such charges would be unfair to those not attending the dinner, we should set up a donation fund instead. Because of the voluntary nature of Mon Yin's suggested alternative, no resolution was required by the membership.

f. Survey by AALLC President: Heija reported that she had received 47 responses to her survey requesting AALLC Directory update information; these responses had been forwarded to Mon Yin Lung for inclusion in the 1993 AALLC Directory.

g. Report by Directory Committee: Mon Yin, Directory Committee Chair, reported that she and Vianne Sha had compiled an AALLC Directory containing 130 names. The names came from several sources: Heija had checked the AALL directory to verify names; some members suggested names of others for inclusion; the rest expressed a desire for inclusion. Mon Yin asked that we advise her of persons who are no longer members or of directory omissions.

h. Appointment of a New Secretary: Heija announced that Helena Lai would be unable to serve the rest of her term as Secretary and had submitted her resignation; Kai-Yun Chiu was appointed by the Caucus President to serve the balance of Helena's term for the 1993-94 year.

i. Report by Nominations Committee: In March 1993, Heija had asked Cossette Sun to chair the Nominations Committee. Cossette's committee, comprising of Lorna Tang and Le-Chi Callagher, suggested Paul Fu for the position of President of AALLC. Mon Yin moved to nominate Paul Fu and Haibin Hu seconded this nomination; Paul Fu was unanimously elected by the group.

j. Other Business: Bill McCloy invited all to participate in the Asian Law Working Group which would be meeting at 6 p.m. in room 102 immediately following our meeting.

4. Remarks from New President

Dan Wade remarked about what he hoped to bring to the Caucus as its new President and he discussed several program ideas with the group.

a. Program Suggestion: For next year's conference in Seattle, Dan proposed a program on Japanese Legal History, drawing upon the strength of the faculty at the University of Washington to support such a program. He said that Bill McCloy and the Legal History and Rare Books SIS would be willing to serve as coordinator and as co-sponsor, respectively.

b. Workshop Proposal: Dan suggested that Seattle, with its strong Asian American community, would be an ideal forum for a program which might be entitled "A Day in the Life of an Asian American Learning to Live With Prejudice." He had been impressed by a book about Asian Americans in the Supreme Court which focused on the discrimination Asian Americans have had to deal with for generations and by an article, "Home is Where the Heart Is," which dealt with the Korean American perspective on the recent upheavals in Los Angeles.

The proposed structure of the workshop might be three hours of substantive discussion of discrimination to include perhaps those experienced in sensitivity training to lead a discussion about how Asian Americans feel about how Caucasians treat them on an everyday basis and to raise awareness of Caucasians to Asian American concerns. This session could be followed by a "Dutch treat" lunch at a restaurant and an afternoon exploration of the International Center in Seattle.

Dan, drawing upon his experience as a cleric and his strong ethical concerns, expressed the hope that such a workshop environment would enable us to "speak our minds freely" in discussing these critical issues. Such a workshop would not only focus on legal aspects such as on this group's standing in the American court system, but should also deal more with a general awareness by AALL of everyday Asian American culture and history.

Members contributed suggestions about contacting potential speakers. Cossette Sun mentioned that the Asian Law Caucus in the San Francisco Bay area had had a number of good speakers at their annual conference, among them, Dr. Ko from Yale Law School. Le-Chi Callagher suggested that AALLC send out a letter to its members for speaker suggestions. Julie Lim suggested a focus on Asian Americans and not on Caucasians and that the workshop should deal with Asian American relationships with other minorities as well.

Logistical and budgetary concerns were also addressed. Paul Fu mentioned that recent numbers of workshop cancellations pointed to the need to consider minimum enrollment and program costs. Dan suggested an ideal enrollment size of 50; he thought that we could contain costs by appealing to the Seattle community as well as to our membership to donate their services or facilities, perhaps finding an Asian American community center, a church or a University of Washington facility to hold this workshop and to minimize our costs. Kai-Yun said that if the workshop were to be under the auspices of AALL, then a budgetary analysis must be submitted. Mon Yin, from her recent experience as a member of the AALL Education

Committee, said that workshops should be self-supporting and that the committee considers factors such as cost and diversity in approving workshop proposals. It was pointed out that some workshops were canceled because their budget requests were high and lodging for outside speakers was costly. Heija said that if a workshop is not possible, then a two-part program might be an alternative.

c. AALLC Brochure: A brochure describing our organization and our activities was another suggested project; many AALL committees have produced such brochures describing their purpose and work and these brochures have been distributed at CONNELL to acquaint newer AALL members with the work of the committees. Mon Yin suggested distribution of such a brochure at the FCIL-SIS table as well. Dan asked for any volunteers to work on this public relations venture.

d. Proposed Newsletter: Dan invited us to submit half-page "greetings" to describe our personal life and work; he hopes to receive enough of these to include in a mailing--quasi-newsletter--which might be distributed to the membership hopefully in December, along with the minutes of this meeting. Dan also suggested that Yukino Nakashima of Columbia be asked to contribute a bibliography not exceeding two pages of the "most fun-to-read" Japanese history titles so that we can prepare for next summer's program.

e. Volunteer to Attend AALL Town Meeting: Because of a conflict with a Program Planning meeting, Dan asked for a volunteer to attend the AALL Town Meeting on the 1993-94 Operating Plan; Paul Fu volunteered to be our representative at that meeting.

5. Other Business

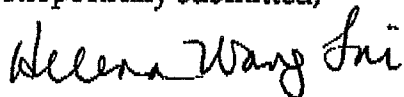
a. Recognition of Paul Fu's AALL Executive Board Work: Mon Yin commended Paul Fu on holding the longest tenure of four years as Secretary of AALL.

b. Closing Banquet Tables: Mon Yin had reserved tables 39 and 44 at the Closing Banquet and had a limited number of tickets for AALLC members who would like to sit together at these tables.

c. Membership Donations: At the conclusion of the meeting Dan collected \$81 in donations from members to cover the dinner costs for program speakers.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Helena Wang Lai, Secretary