



*The Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego is committed to ensuring that attorneys of color, particularly Filipino American attorneys, have access to equal opportunities in the legal profession. It aims to develop multicultural solutions, to foster diversification and to sustain multicultural coalitions in all channels of the legal system.*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2010

# President's Message

*Valerie Garcia Hong is the 2010 President for FALSD. She is an associate with the law firm Pettit Kohn Ingrassia & Lutz PC in Carmel Valley.*

Welcome to FALSD. This year, FALSD will continue its mission to promoting opportunities for attorneys of color, advancing diversity within our legal community, and partnering with other community organizations.

**Why You Should Join:** FALSD is a great opportunity to meet and network with other Filipino American lawyers in the community. We expect to host a happy hour mixer or social event each quarter of the year for us to get together, learn about each other and our practices. FALSD is also planning several workshops and panels for law students to prepare them as they enter the legal community.



**FALSD will be in and around San Diego county in 2010. Please join us for many of the exciting events we have planned in our beautiful city.**

FALSD is also planning at least 2 MCLE events this year. FALSD is also planning a community service project each quarter of the year so we can give back. Paid members may attend any of these events for free. I invite you to go to our new website at [www.falsdonline.org](http://www.falsdonline.org) to see the events we have planned for 2010.

### Membership

Of course all this goes without saying that your input and presence at these events will be key to making 2010 another exciting year for FALSD. Payment of your

membership dues for 2010 is an important aspect of making the activities we're planning a reality. For those of you who have already paid your 2010 dues, we thank you for your continued support of FALSD. If you have yet to pay your dues or are considering joining FALSD please contact one of our officers or board members. Membership applications are also available to be downloaded online on our website. Membership dues for 2010 are \$50.00 for Lawyer/Judge/Legal Professional members; \$25.00 for Lawyer members with less than 3 years of practice; and \$15.00 for Law Students.

I welcome any input that you may have. If you have any thoughts or suggestions please feel free to contact me at [falsd1@gmail.com](mailto:falsd1@gmail.com). Hope to see you around!



### Calendar of Events

**Mock Interview Workshop - Feb. 18, 2010**

FALSD/TJSL's APALSA are co-sponsoring Mock Interviews on Feb. 18 at 5:30-7:00 p.m. at TJSL Courtyard building. Please email Natalie Garcia, Daphne Zubieta Skogen, and Audie de Castro at [falsd1@gmail.com](mailto:falsd1@gmail.com) if you are interested in interviewing or volunteering to interview and/or review resumes.

**SELF (the Remix) - March 6, 2010**

FALSD and the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring tickets for SELF (The Remix), a spoken-word, hip-hop play. Grab a slice of pizza and a drink with us before the play at Basic, 410 10th Ave, at 5:00 p.m. We'll head over to the theater by 6:45 p.m. Visit our website for more information.

**Beach Clean-Up - March 27, 2010**

FALSD's 2nd Annual Beach Clean Up, joining San Diego Coastkeeper, on March 27 (Saturday) at Coronado City Beach, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Email [falsd1@gmail.com](mailto:falsd1@gmail.com) for more information.

**Servapalooza - April 26, 2010**

FALSD is happy to partner with Excel Youth Zone ("XYZ") in this fun event at Balboa Park. XYZ is looking for people to help man the event booths and other areas that need assistance. FALSD members who participate will be given a day pass to Disneyland as a part of Disney's "Give a Day, Get a Day" program.

## Q&amp;A

Meet FALSD members  
Christian Ham and  
Crystel Galin



Christian Ham, Esq.  
Criminal Defense Trial Attorney  
Cal Western School of Law '02  
[www.christianham.com](http://www.christianham.com)

### Christian Ham

#### What's your cultural heritage?

My mom is Mexican and my dad is Chinese-Korean born in Mexico and raised in Hong Kong.

#### When did you know you wanted to be a lawyer?

I was in college when I decided I wanted to pursue a law degree. My uncle was accused of serious crimes and my family rallied to find him a lawyer. The lawyer ended up taking advantage of my family. That's when I decided that if I could stop this from happening to my family in the future, and maybe to other families along the way, then I would be doing good work.

#### Have you always been a solo practitioner?

No. After law school I worked for the San Diego Public Defender's

Office and then worked for a large law firm for about 2 years. Then I decided to go on my own.

#### What's the biggest challenge about running an office on your own?

I think it's trying to get a handle on the issues that come along with being a business owner.

#### What types of clients do you represent?

I defend criminal clients in cases ranging from violent felony strikes to misdemeanor crimes like driving while under the influence

#### What's something you think someone might find interesting about yourself?

When I was 12 years old I lived in Tijuana with my family for about a year. So everyday, I would wake up really early, cross the border into the United States and attend

Mar Vista Middle School in Imperial Beach.

#### What kind of things do you like to do in your spare time?

I play flag football and softball with the San Diego County Bar. By the way, my team La Defensa won the championship last year. I also enjoy hanging out with my nephews playing *Madden '10* on the X-Box.

#### How do you like being a member of FALSD?

I've enjoyed being a member ever since my friend Chris Macaraeg introduced me to it last year. I liked meeting people during the mixers and this year I hope to get more involved in the community -- and hopefully help some people along the way.

### Crystel Galin

#### What's your cultural heritage?

My mom is Filipino and my dad is French and Russian.

#### Where's your hometown?

I'm from San Pablo, California (Bay Area).

#### Do you get home sick?

Yes. I call my mom and dad every chance I get.

#### What do you miss about home the most?

I have to say that I miss my mom's home cooking. I especially miss her pinakbet [Filipino vegetable dish]. Sometimes I go to Goldilocks in National City, but it's not the same.

#### When did you decide to go to law school?

I decided to go to law school when I was in undergrad at UC Santa Cruz -- I was planning on being a computer engineer but then I took a legal studies class and really liked it.

#### What do you like the most about going to Thomas Jefferson?

I like it here. I have to say that it got better after my first year. My 1L year was all about school. It wasn't until my friend Natalie Garcia introduced me to APALSA. I started meeting more people and got to join groups like FALSD. I soon realized there was a lot more to law school than just hitting the books 24/7. I have to say that I have enjoyed the people that I have met the most.

#### Have you noticed anything change in yourself since going to law school?

Most of my friends were surprised to learn that I joined Moot Court.

I'm usually the quiet type. But being involved in Moot Court has allowed me to be more confident, especially speaking in public.

#### What kind of things do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy reading for fun in my spare time. I miss having time to do that though; I'm just too busy with school. The last book I read was "The Other Boleyn Girl" by Philippa Gregory.

#### How has being a member of FALSD helped you?

As a law student, FALSD has helped me with my networking skills. Everyone is really easy to talk to. They are really helpful and this has made it easier for me to socialize with them. I'm really looking forward to attending the first mixer this year to see what types of activities I can get involved in.

#### What is your role as an officer for APALSA?

I'm APALSA's Treasurer this year. I'm in charge of collecting membership dues and maintaining the roster. APALSA will be involved in some great things this year. I invite anyone interested to come out to one of our events starting with the interview workshop coming up this month.



Crystel Galin (3L)  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
Treasurer - APALSA  
Graduating December 2010

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