

October 3, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information: Edwin Prather
Minority Bar Coalition
415.956.2828

**THE MINORITY BAR COALITION SELECTS JOAN HARATANI AS ITS 2006
CHAMPION OF UNITY AND HONORS ELEVEN OTHERS AT THE OCTOBER 19,
2006 UNITY RECEPTION**

SAN FRANCISCO - On October 19, 2006, the Minority Bar Coalition (MBC), along with the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, will host its annual Unity Reception, a celebration of outstanding lawyers from local minority bar associations who have made substantial contributions to advance the causes of diversity and service to community.

Each year, the MBC honors a Bay Area lawyer who truly embodies a dedication to community that transcends racial boundaries and who has made contributions across all ethnic and minority legal communities. Only the Honorable Ken Kawaichi and Berkeley City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque have received this prestigious honor from the MBC. This year, the MBC has selected **Joan Haratani** as its Champion of Unity honoree.

As the President of the Asian American Bar Association, Joan fought for the improved quality of life and equal treatment for Asian American attorneys in San Francisco. As she gained prominence, joined the leadership of the Bar Association of San Francisco, and served as its first Asian American woman President, her mission became the organization's mission. She vigorously advocated that the doors of the profession be thrown open to attorneys of color, women, the LGBT community and lawyers with disabilities. Joan has shown an undying commitment to increasing diversity in the profession by building stronger, wider, and deeper pipelines to bring lawyers of color into the profession. She leads by example and the legal community follows. She is a true champion of unity.

Additionally, the MBC salutes the significant contributions made by the following individuals to their respective minority bar associations on behalf of community and in the name of unity. This year's award winners and their bar associations are:

Kathy Asada from the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

The Honorable Suzanne Bolanos from the La Raza Lawyers Association

Billy Chan from the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California

Eugene Clark Herrera from the Charles Houston Bar Association

Jinny Kim from the Korean American Bar Association of Northern California

Shannon Minter from Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom

Lise Pearlman from Women Lawyers of Alameda County

Shirin Sinnar from the Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers

Inderpreet Sawhney from the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California

L. Julius M. Turman from the Bar Association of San Francisco and

The 2006 National Convention Committee of the National Hispanic Bar Association

All awards will be presented at the 2006 Unity Reception, at the law firm of Hanson Bridgett Marcus Vlahos & Rudy, 425 Market Street, 26th Floor in San Francisco. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with a short program at 6:30 p.m. Thanks to the generosity of Hanson Bridgett, there is no cost for the event.

The Minority Bar Coalition of the Greater Bay Area is a coalition of more than twenty Bay Area mainstream, specialty, ethnic, and minority bar associations working together on issues of law and social justice. The MBC also deals with issues specifically impacting the minority lawyer. The MBC has coordinated a unified voice on issues impacting minority communities such as diversity, the death penalty, and the right to marry. The organization has also hosted sessions on applying for State Bar Committees and judicial positions. The MBC meets quarterly and hosts an annual reception to recognize those who have done the most to advance the causes of diversity and service to the community. For more information about the MBC, please contact co-chairs Dan Dean (danield@taylor-gutierrez.com) and Jennifer Shoda (jenshoda@gmail.com)