



South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston

July 31, 2008

SABA GB Honors Attorney Finalists for 2008 Woman of the Year Award

The South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston (“SABA GB”) congratulates four New England attorneys for being named finalists for *India New England’s* 2008 Woman of the Year Award. Krishna Patel, Navjeet K. Bal, Sunila Thomas-George and Manisha Bhatt were among the 20 finalists for the award. Ultimately, Ms. Patel was selected as the 2008 Woman of the Year for her exemplary work prosecuting sex crimes against children.

Ms. Patel is an Assistant United States Attorney in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and is coordinator of Federal Project Safe Neighborhood. As part of that program, Ms. Patel has prosecuted sexual predators for crimes involving pornography, sex with minors and sex trafficking. In addition, as co-chair of the Smuggling and Trafficking of Persons Investigative Task Force (“STOP IT”), Ms. Patel’s work extends to fighting human trafficking.

Ms. Bal is the newly minted Commissioner of Revenue for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She was appointed to that position by Governor Deval Patrick in February, 2008, and her position is among the highest held by a South Asian in Massachusetts state government. Ms. Bal previously worked at the Boston law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris & Popeo for seventeen years.

Ms. Thomas-George was recently appointed a Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (“MCAD”) and is the first South Asian to hold that position. Ms. Thomas-George has worked with the MCAD for over a decade and, prior to being appointed Commissioner, she served as the Acting Director of Enforcement at the agency. Her position is among the highest held by a South Asian in Massachusetts state government.

Ms. Bhatt is a Senior Attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services (“GBLS”), an organization that provides free legal services to low-income individuals in and around Boston and throughout Massachusetts. At GBLS, Ms. Bhatt is a member of the Family Law Unit, which primarily represents victims of domestic violence and their families. Ms. Bhatt was recently promoted to the position of Senior Attorney.

SABA GB is proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of these four exceptionally talented South Asian attorneys. The four finalists, including the award recipient, Ms. Patel, represent the tremendous strength and diversity of the South Asian legal community in the Boston area and in New England.

SABA GB is a chapter of the North American South Asian Bar Association and is an organization dedicated to serving as the regional voice of the South Asian legal community. SABA GB supports and promotes the advancement of attorneys and law students of South Asian heritage and looks to serve the legal needs of the South Asian community at large. For additional information, please visit sabagb.org or contact Samia Kirmani, President, South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston, at kirmanis@jacksonlewis.com.