



South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston

October 21, 2008

SABA GB AND SAALT CELEBRATE NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

On October 4, 2008, over 130 volunteers in Boston spent the day giving back to the community as part of a national day of service known as “Be the Change.” The day of service was co-sponsored by South Asian Americans Leading Together (“SAALT”) and the South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston (“SABA GB”).

“Be the Change,” a concept originated at the University of Michigan campus in 1997 to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi’s message of community action, has since become a national event spearheaded by SAALT. SAALT is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering full and equal participation by South Asians in American civic and political life. The event, occurring each year around Gandhi’s birthday, offers an opportunity for community members to take actions that reflect Gandhi’s widely recognized message to “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”

The day began with a kick-off event featuring keynote speaker, Navjeet K. Bal, Commissioner of the Department of Revenue in Massachusetts. Volunteers then participated in service activities around Boston, such as leading patient activities at The Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, volunteering at the Rose Kennedy Greenway Inaugural celebration, and helping The Massachusetts Audubon Society and The Emerald Necklace Conservancy with their conservation efforts of the Charles River and local parks.

This was the first year that SABA GB joined SAALT in hosting “Be the Change” in Boston. “SABA GB is proud to collaborate with SAALT in organizing and hosting Be the Change,” commented Dhara Sharma, a SABA GB Board Member and co-coordinator of “Be the Change” on behalf of SABA GB. “The event offers our members the opportunity to join other South Asians in serving the local community and raising awareness of issues that directly impact our area.” Boston’s “Be the Change” event was also coordinated by Punam Singh Rogers of SABA GB and Vinod Nambudiri of the Boston chapter of SAALT.

Nationally, over 2000 volunteers participated in “Be the Change” events in Atlanta, Boston, the Bay Area, New York City, and Washington D.C., as well in over 40 other cities and campuses.

SABA GB is a national, non-profit organization and a chapter of the North American South Asian Bar Association. As part of its mission, SABA GB continues to support and encourage the advancement of South Asians to leadership positions within the legal community and the community at large. For additional information please visit www.sabagb.org or contact Samia Kirmani, President, South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston, at kirmanis@jacksonlewis.com