

RECAP: OCTOBER MONTHLY BUSINESS & NETWORKING EVENT

"The future of Health Care Reform is still unknown, but regardless of the ongoing political debates, the law is in place and employers and individuals need to comply." This was Hill Ward Henderson Shareholder Kristen L. Vignec's advice at last month's business and networking meeting held on October 17th at Homeowners Choice Insurance Corporate Ballroom and sponsored by Hill Ward Henderson.

Ms. Vignec earned her law degree from George Mason University and her practice primarily involves employee benefit matters, including legal matters associated with the design and administration of welfare benefit plans, profit sharing plans, and pension plans.

Ms. Vignec began her discussion about what the recently enacted legislation was designed to provide and helped attendees of the meeting better understand that the driving forces behind the Health Care Reform are:

- Growing uninsured population
- Exponential growth in expenditures
- Potential Medicare insolvency
- Cost to quality comparisons

Ms. Vignec also provided a detailed analysis of the 2012 provisions as they relate to both employers and employees, including a summary of benefits and coverage, and an extensive discussion on W-2 reporting, potential penalties, comparative effective research fees, medical loss ratio rebates, and compliance with non-discrimination policies. Additionally, Ms. Vignec stated that the implementation of the Health Care Reform takes place over nine years beginning in 2010 and ending in 2018, and provided some useful insight into what the upcoming provisions will entail.

At the end of Ms. Vignec's presentation, an informal discussion was held to help our Chamber members further explore what these provisions mean and how they relate to small business owners.

For more information, Kristen L. Vignec can be reached at kvignec@hwlaw.com



INDO-US CHAMBER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: J.S. NAGAMIA, P.E. & A.B. NAWAB, P.E.

Each month, the Indo-Chamber of Commerce holds a raffle at our business networking event for the opportunity to be highlighted in this spot. This month's winners are business partners Jamal Nagamia and Abe Nawab.

1) Tell us about your consulting firm...

"The business is a joint collaboration of J.S. Nagamia, P.E. & A.B. Nawab, P.E. We offer civil, environmental and structural engineering services including construction management, permitting, drafting and other miscellaneous services such as appearances in zoning matters and as expert witness."

2) What are some of the current trends in your industry?

"The consulting field has been in the doldrums for the past couple of years. However, we see movement in new residential and commercial projects with the resultant need for engineering services."

3) How are you looking to grow your business?

"We do not advertise per se about our business. Having operated the business for over thirty years, we get repeat calls from past customers and referrals. This together with networking within the Indo-US Chamber allows us to serve more customers and provide them with needed engineering services."

4) What do you hope to gain from the Indo-US Chamber?

"Utilize the monthly meetings and social events organized by Indo-US Chamber for networking and meet new members and guests which would result in more exposure of our services. Lastly, we hope to earn their confidence and business."

For more information, contact:

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INDO-US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDER SPOTLIGHT



Prativ Patel

As part of an ongoing monthly series, the Executive Committee of the Indo-US Chamber seeks to highlight integral members that have helped the organization grow and thrive since its inception. This month we highlight Mr. Prativ Patel, one of the Chamber's original founders.

1) What drove you to help found the Chamber?

"We definitely had a need for such an organization in our community and it was the strength of the team Dr. Pawan Rattan was putting together: Mr. Taneja, Mr. Chapnerkar, and Mr. Kanji that really attracted me to join. I knew that with like-minded people focused on the same goal, we would be able to achieve our vision."

2) What differentiates the Chamber from other organizations that you are involved with?

"Firstly it's a business organization and it's a very different one in that all of the positions in this chamber are by appointment only and with term limits, thus there is no election process. Also, membership is free and open to everyone. But the biggest and most visible difference is that we wanted to get young men and women involved in the Chamber to create a strong foundation that they may build upon.

As you can see we have achieved this; the Chamber has expanded and has more influence in the community even after all the founding members are no longer active. This Chamber has helped unite people from all the different Indian organizations under the single goal of achieving business growth and personal development."

3) How has the Chamber helped to build your network?

"I never knew that such an exceptional group of talented people existed in our community. The Chamber provided me the opportunity to meet people from all different walks of life and backgrounds. I have made lifelong friendships and have met hundreds of people who have enriched my life by them sharing their knowledge and wisdom, freely but unknowingly."

4) Where would you like to see the Chamber go in the future?

"The young generation has taken this organization to the next level, beyond my expectations. I would like to see our internship, mentoring, and shadowing programs develop to their fullest, so we can help our young people to achieve their highest potential. Also I would like the Chamber to help encourage international students from USF become part of the Chamber to share their visions with the local youth and vice versa."



11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY RECAP

The Chamber successfully hosted its 11th Annual Golf Tournament on October 5th at Cheval Country Club in Tampa. The tournament serves as our sole fundraising event each year and featured a field of 120 golfers, on-course contests, and raffle prize giveaways during dinner valued at over \$17,000. The Chamber would like to thank all of our sponsors, participants, and volunteers that contributed to an enjoyable event and we look forward to your continued support in the year ahead!

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Upcoming Indo-US Chamber Events:

Quarterly Mixer and Networking Event

Date: Wednesday November 28, 2012

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Taverna Opa • Channelside Bay Plaza (615 Channelside Drive, Tampa, FL 33602)

This is a FREE event. No RSVP required.

Interested in Joining the Indo-US Chamber Executive Committee?

We will soon be accepting applications to become a part of the Indo-US Chamber's Executive Committee. This is a volunteer position. Visit www.indo-us.org for more information.

INDO-US CHAMBER VISITS THE TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Last month, Indo-US Chamber representatives were graciously hosted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for a visit to their immaculate facility, better known as "One Buccaneer Place." The Chamber and members of the organization's front office discussed the notion of building relationships within the community by leveraging existing strengths and creating synergies. Stay tuned for future developments and potential Chamber member opportunities from this visit!

INDO-US CHAMBER MISSION

"To provide an active forum in which Asian American professionals and business owners, through an exchange of ideas, with a unified voice, can communicate, interact, and secure a position within the business industry and become a source of inspiration by promoting professionalism and excellence through education and community involvement."



INDO-US CHAMBER NOVEMBER FOCUS: GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



"On Wednesday November 28th, the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce will host its quarterly social event. We invite you to join us at our November Social Mixer to not only network and create new relationships, but to also give back to the community as we collect unwrapped new toys for the Ronald McDonald House. With the month of November comes a feeling of giving back to the community and in these difficult economic times, small business owners can still make a difference without necessarily bearing the financial hardship of philanthropy. According to Jeff Haden of Inc. Magazine, "success is not only a reward- it's a responsibility," and small businesses can "benefit from the exposure and goodwill generated by acts of kindness."

Eric Ripert, chef, co-owner of Le Bernardin, and host of the PBS series Avec Eric is a remarkable entrepreneur in his own right and a master of giving back. He suggests the following tips:

• Donate what you can't use

"In almost every industry, businesses wind up with unused or obsolete supplies, products and services. You can create value for someone else by re-purposing what you don't use."

• Teach

"The best way to make a long-term impact is to help people help themselves." For instance, you can teach an organization to handle its bookkeeping, maintain its own website or create more effective outreach materials. Volunteer your time.

• Fundraise as a team

"You don't have to spend money from your own pocket . . . [y]ou can participate in an established event or create your own. The more creative the better – and the more likely you will be to inspire others to give."

• Participate in a fundraising event

Auctions are often a popular way for organizations to raise money because bidders tend to pay more than the value of an item as a

way to support the organization's purpose.

• Create a win-win partnership

The key to this is to make the tie-in as direct as possible. That way you can raise money and naturally help raise the organization's profile at the same time. It also provides your customers with an easy way to make a difference.

• Use your platform as a business leader to draw attention to a cause

"Almost every organization hopes to create ties to local business owners and community leaders," and you can do the same. "Offer testimonials. Offer to speak at an event and share why you feel the cause is important."

The Chamber encourages you to reach out to one of our Executive Committee members if you have any reservations about the format of our meetings or to simply offer feedback on how we can make the experience more meaningful to you. As is customary with all our monthly business networking events, there is no cost to attend.

(Article citation: Jeff Haden, 6 Ways to Give Back Haden, Jeff. "6 Ways to Give Back." Inc. Magazine. 21 May, 2012. <http://www.inc.com/jeff-haden/6-ways-to-give-back.html>)

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