

Museum of Chinese in the
Americas - 2006 Legacy
Benefit Dinner.

**The Board of Directors and Staff
of the Museum of Chinese in the Americas pay
tribute to the memory of Robert Wone,
beloved friend and general counsel of MoCA**

It is with the most sincere and heartfelt feelings that we take this time to honor Robert who passed away on August 2, 2006 at the tender age of 32. We also take this time to once again extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Kathy, his parents, William and Aimee Won, his brother, Andrew, and his grandmother, Lucy New. We mourn the loss of such a bright and caring individual. We miss him dearly.

A rising star in the Washington, DC legal arena, Robert was very committed to doing pro-bono work for the Asian American community. Originally from New York, he had been engaged with MoCA during the Museum's initial search for a new permanent home in 2003. Serving as the intermediary to the law offices of Covington and Burling, Robert coordinated critical research on a variety of legal issues, and helped MoCA understand the legal ramifications of the terms and conditions of these early negotiations.

A MoCA member since 2001, Robert continued to be involved with the Museum, and met every challenge put to him, particularly in our 2004 lease negotiations for 211-215 Centre Street. In a process that took 10 months to conclude, Robert re-wrote the lease to protect both the Museum's and landlord's interests—an unheard of practice. Weighing real estate concerns from our Board, he made sure our lease had the absolute best protections. His tenacity and commitment to MoCA's welfare, balanced with his sense of fairness, made it possible for us to consummate a very difficult real estate transaction—enabling MoCA to finally move toward our goal of expanding to a new facility.

With the lease in hand, we were poised to engage a whole host of other friends and supporters, most notably, our partnership with Maya Lin as designer/architect of our new Museum. The stage was set, and the momentum generated by our successful negotiations enabled funders to invest in and support the Museum. All the while, Robert tirelessly worked on several consultant contracts and agreement reviews—all relating to the capital expansion effort.

In short, MoCA would not have gone this far without Robert's excellent work, professionalism, and dedication to community. We remain indebted to him, and continue to be inspired by his memory.

