GISI atIVE LEADER hIP SUM IT

MAY 23-24, 2022
RENAISSANCE WASHINGTON, DC
DOWNTOWN HOTEL
MONDAY, MAY 23 2022

11:30 AM
Welcome
Speakers: Senator Mazie K. Hirono, State of Hawaii; Congressman Ted Lieu, State of California 33rd District; Congresswoman Judy Chu, State of California 27th District; Lieu Madalene Xuan-Trung Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS; Glenda Beach, Vice President, State Farm & APAICS Board Member

11:50 AM
Lunch

12:00 PM
Coming to America: How Immigration Policies & Reforms will Impact Our Communities
Anacostia Ballroom
Moderator: Irene Bueno, Partner, NVG LLC
Panelists: Kenzi Laceste, Product Manager, FWD.US; Kham Moua, National Policy Director, SEARAC; Jiny Kim, Vice President of Policy and Programs, Advancing Justice | AAJC; Megha Lama, Senior Immigration Organizer, Adhikar
Over the last few years, corporate America has prioritized the recruitment, hiring and training of Veterans. Organizations have seen the value and skills Veterans bring to the table. Hear from companies who employ and serve Veterans, and the unique opportunities and dynamic impact Veterans bring to the business community.

1:00 PM
Together For Our Planet: What We Are Doing Now To Preserve A Livable Climate
Meeting Room 2
Moderator: Rachel Ramirez, Climate Reporter, CNN
Panelists: Angela Manso, National Outreach Director, Center for Policy Advocacy, NRDC; Jayant Kairam, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Walmart; The Hon. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, Senator, State of Vermont; Oliver Campbell, Director and Distinguished Engineer, Dell; Violet Wulf-Saena, Founder & Executive Director, Climate Resilient Communities
Wildfires, heatwaves, and rising sea levels have a devastating impact on all communities—particularly underserved communities. It is clear these threats require new solutions to our everyday lives. What can we do to help address our changing world? How do these changes affect AA & NH/PIs? We look to experts and industry to help make sense of our evolving world.

From College to CEO: Adopting a DEI Growth Mindset
Meeting Room 3
Moderator: Judi Rhee Alloway, National Chairman of Women, NAAAP
Panelists: Sarah Abiusi, Managing Director, Accenture Federal Services; Christine Cadena, Vice President, DEI Market, The Walt Disney Company; Cathy Council, Vice President, DE&I Center for Awareness and Advocacy, NY Life
Statistics show that a culturally diverse workforce generates new perspectives, ideas, and ultimately returns. Hear from companies embracing the challenge to diversify their workforce across all levels and how that has impacted their success.

How the Pandemic Changed the Way We Think about Healthcare
Meeting Room 4
Moderator: Juliet K. Choi, President & CEO, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Panelists: Meha Chiraya, Global Director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Amgen; Charley John, Director, Healthcare Policy & Strategy, Walgreens; John Kung, Head of Legal, U.S. Oncology, Novartis; Taunu’u Ve’e, Co-Chair, Regional Pacific Islander Task Force
COVID-19 disrupted many aspects of our day-to-day lives. For the health industry, it forced shifts in products and services for those in need of care. Hear from health industry leaders about how they are ensuring their treatments are reaching AA & NH/PI communities and what initiatives are underway to promote greater health in our community.

2:00 PM
Coffee Break
Defeating Anti-Asian Hate & Rising Anti-China Rhetoric: Fighting for Truth and Transparency
Meeting Room 2
Moderator: Vikram Aiyer, Deputy Director, ACLU
Panelists: Gisela Perez Kusakawa, Assistant Director, Anti-Racial Profiling Project, Advancing Justice | AAJC; Jessica Lee, Senior Research Fellow, The Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft; Cynthia Choi, Co-Executive Director, Chinese for Affirmative Action | Co-Founder, Stop AAPI Hate; Vanessa Chen, Special Assistant to the President for Criminal Justice and Gun Policy

The AA & NH/PI community often is looked upon with increased suspicion by both the government and general public. We have seen racist attacks on the AA & NH/PI community during the COVID-19 pandemic fueled by misinformation and stereotypes. Additionally, the growing tensions in US-China relations has placed Chinese Americans under suspicion, recalling the WWII experience of Japanese internment camps. How does the AA & NH/PI community protect itself and guard against these attacks? What legal and cultural shifts need to occur—how do they intersect?

Veterans Leading the Way
Meeting Room 3
Moderator: Maj. General Sharon Dunbar, USAF (Ret.), Vice President, General Dynamics
Panelists: Jennifer Rasing, Head of Pan Asian Network (PAN) People & Business Resource Group, Bristol Myers Squibb; Won Palisoul, Chair of Veterans Roundtable, CFA Society New York; Lourdes Tiglao, Director, VA Center for Women Veterans, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Over the last few years, corporate America has prioritized the recruitment, hiring and training of Veterans. Organizations have seen the value and skills Veterans bring to the table. Hear from companies who employ and serve Veterans, and the unique opportunities and dynamic impact Veterans bring to the business community.

Ensuring Connectivity: Society’s Commitment to Keep Educating in Uncertain Times
Meeting Room 4
Moderator: John Nakahata, Chair, Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, LLP
Panelists: Chan Park, Senior Director, Congressional Affairs, Microsoft; Christina Wiskowski, Director, Strategic Communications and Employee Engagement, Comcast; Thu Nguyen, Executive Director, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates; Allister Chang, Board Member, DC Board of Education

When the pandemic shut down in-person education, educators, businesses and elected officials ensured that children had the opportunity to continue learning remotely. This coalition provided services and technology to bring our education system to a new, socially-distanced era. Learn from companies how they are reducing the digital divide and ensuring children across America have access to the education they deserve.

Increasing AA & NH/PI Ranks in the Halls of Congress
Anacostia Ballroom
Moderator: Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS
Speaker: Noel Perez, Director, Federal Affairs, General Motors

Last year, APAICS announced the “Racial Equity Fellowship” with eleven participants in its inaugural class. This program places young people in congressional offices and empowers them to focus on issues of economic opportunity, structural racism and health equity. Working alongside with community-based groups and congressional staff, the Fellows bring a social justice perspective to day-to-day work in these offices. We are excited to feature the Fellows and look forward to hearing about the advocacy and impact they’ve made on behalf of the AA & NH/PI community.
TUESDAY, MAY 24 2022

9:00 AM
Welcome & Breakfast Plenary | Access to the Ballot Box for Every AA & NH/PI Individual
Anacostia Ballroom
Speaker: Madalene Mielke, APAICS
Moderator: Gregg Orton, Executive Director, NCAPA
Panelists: Ni-ying Shah, Director of Litigation, Advancing Justice | AAJC; Christine Chen, President and Executive Director, APIAVote; Jerry Vattamala, Director, Democracy Program, AALDEF
AA & NH/PI were part of the deciding voting block in key states like Georgia in 2020. However, in 2021 and 2022, there has been an unprecedented effort to restrict access to voting with initiatives like voter ID and reduced translated materials for ballots. What are organizations doing to ensure that AA & NH/PI voters have equal access to the voting booth and to ensure every American, regardless of race, can exercise their right to vote?

10:45 AM
Elder Care in the 21st Century: An Evolving Landscape
Meeting Room 2
Moderator: Richard Lui, Anchor, MSNBC
Panelists: Daphne Kwok, Vice President, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Asian American & Pacific Islander Audience Strategy, AARP; David L. Kim, President & CEO, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
Whether its technological advancements, development of new therapeutic, or the growth of food & delivery services, there are more options than ever focused care for our nation’s elders. Those entering retirement have opportunities to live longer, more vibrant lives. How are companies supporting the elders of our community as they transition and live in their retirement?

An Urban Renaissance: The Evolution of Cities
Meeting Room 3
Moderator: David S. Kim, Senior Vice President and Principal, WSP USA
Panelists: Mariah Sheriff Ray, Head of Strategic Partnerships & Innovation Policy, DoorDash; Tanya Skilton, Head of Procurement and Supply Chain, BrightDrop, General Motors
The urban landscape has dramatically changed over the last decade. The growth of cities has stretched existing infrastructure, including transportation, housing and public spaces. Elected officials and business leaders have had to work to meet those demands with innovative policies and investments. Hear from leaders on how they are finding ways to build cities for the future through integrated, interconnected solutions.

Impact Investing & Innovation: Achieving Change Through Enterprise
Meeting Room 4
Moderator: Sonal Shah, Executive Vice President, United Way
Panelists: Audrey Choi, Senior Advisor, Morgan Stanley; Saumya Narechania, Program Director, National Basketball Social Justice Coalition
Impact investing aims to generate positive, measurable social or environmental results through financial asset allocation decisions. Social innovators are driving change in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Environment, Social, Governance (ESG), and Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). Join us for a conversation with corporate and non-profit innovators who are striving to make tangible policy changes to address the world’s biggest challenges.

12:00 PM
Welcome
Speakers: Madalene Mielke, APAICS; Kai Hirabayashi, Sr. Manager, Public Policy, Amazon

12:00 PM
Lunch Plenary | Achieving Diverse Representation: The New Faces of Asian American Leadership
Anacostia Ballroom
Speakers: Dylan Wells, USA Today, Congress, Campaigns, and Politics Reporter
Moderator: Dylan Wells, USA Today, Congress, Campaigns, and Politics Reporter
Panelists: Hon. Bruce Harrell, Mayor, City of Seattle; Hon. Aftab Pureval, Mayor, City of Cincinnati
The 2021 local elections saw big cities electing Asian American leaders. These Mayors are as diverse as the cities they represent: coming from different backgrounds and bringing unique skills to the job. But they do share one thing in common: they are a new face of their hometowns. Their stories are our stories—APAICS is honored to welcome Mayor Harrell and Mayor Pureval.

Lunch Plenary | Courage to Lead: A Discussion with Connecticut Attorney General William Tong
Anacostia Ballroom
Moderator: Katie Pang, MSNBC, Anchor & Host
Speaker: Madalene Mielke, APAICS
Connecticut Attorney General William Tong is amongst a handful of statewide elected leaders in the United States. As the first Asian American to be elected statewide after serving in the Connecticut General Assembly as Chair of the Judiciary Committee and his priority to address national issues such as the opioid crisis and consumer protection.
Legislative Leadership Summit Welcome Remarks

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke
President & CEO, APAICS

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke is a nationally recognized civil rights leader and a member of USA Today’s Inaugural Leaders of Change. As President & CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and Founder and Principal of Arum Group, LLC, she brings nearly 25 years of experience working in political campaigns and specializes in political/non-profit fundraising and political training.

Senator Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate, Hawaii

Mazie K. Hirono was elected to the Senate in 2012 and sworn in as Hawaii’s first female senator and the country’s first Asian-American, woman senator. Throughout her time in the Senate, Hirono has fought on behalf of Hawaii families and communities whose voices are not often heard in Congress. Hirono serves on the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. She is also Chair of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy.

Congressman Ted Lieu (CA-33)
United States House of Representatives

Ted W. Lieu represents California’s 33rd Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. Ted is serving in his fourth term in Congress and currently sits on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He was also elected by his Democratic Colleagues this Congress to serve as a Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee for a third time. Ted is a former active duty officer in the U.S. Air Force. Following active duty, Ted served in the Air Force Reserve, retiring with the rank of Colonel in 2021.

Congressman Judy Chu (CA-27)
United States House of Representatives

Judy Chu was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2009. She represents the 27th Congressional District, which includes Pasadena and the west San Gabriel Valley of southern California. Rep. Chu currently serves on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over legislation pertaining to taxes, revenues, Social Security, and Medicare. In that Committee, Rep. Chu is a member of the Subcommittees on Health, giving her oversight over healthcare reform and crucial safety net programs.

Glenda Beach
Vice President Agency-Sales, State Farm

Glenda Beach is a Vice President Agency-Sales in the South Central Market Area for State Farm.

Glenda began her career with State Farm in 2002 as an agent in Kennett, Missouri. She was appointed as an Agency Field Consultant in Feb. 2010, as an Agency Field Executive in June 2010, and as a Sales Leader in 2013. She was appointed as a Leadership Development Associate in 2015.

Born in Saigon, Vietnam, Glenda speaks fluent Vietnamese. She has a Juris Doctorate degree from the Brandeis School of Law–University of Louisville and is a Fellow of The Asian Pacific American Women’s Leadership Institute.
**Moderator**

**Irene Bueno**  
Partner, NVG LLC

Irene Bueno is a born leader. And she knows how leaders think. Irene has been recognized as a Top Lobbyist by the National Institute of Lobbying and Ethics. Irene’s experience has helped her develop extensive high-level relationships across government, including in the executive branch; House and Senate Democratic Leadership; Congressional Committees with jurisdiction over health, education, and appropriations issues; and the Tri-Caucus (Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Black Caucus, and Asian Pacific American Caucus).

Before co-founding NVG, Irene served in the Clinton Administration as Special Assistant to the President in the White House Chief of Staff’s Office and Domestic Policy Council and as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Early in her career, she worked as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) and Congressman Edward Roybal (D-CA).

Irene serves on the Planned Parenthood Action Fund Committee and is a leader in the national Asian Pacific Islander American community. She serves on the Asian American Justice Center’s National Advisory Council, Asian American Action Fund Board, and previously served on the Board of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APIAC). Irene has been recognized for her service to the Asian American and Filipino American communities by the Filipino American Women’s Network and the President of the Philippines.

A California native, Irene earned a Juris Doctor from Hastings College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from University of California, Berkeley. She is a member of the California and District of Columbia Bars and was selected to participate in the Coro Foundation Fellowship Program in Public Affairs in San Francisco, California. An accomplished Latin ballroom dancer, Irene competes at national dance competitions.

**Panelists**

**Jiny Kim**  
Vice President, Policy and Programs, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) is a national nonprofit founded in 1991 to advance the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and to build and promote a fair and equitable society for all. For 30 years, Advancing Justice | AAJC has served as the leading Asian American voice on civil rights issues in our nation’s capital, fighting for civil rights through policy advocacy, education, and litigation. Jiny is responsible for developing and implementing Advancing Justice | AAJC’s strategic vision for its policy advocacy agenda, litigation, community engagement, and research initiatives. She was previously a litigator at a global law firm, where she represented corporate clients in complex cases before state and federal courts and in foreign jurisdictions. As part of her pro bono work, she represented asylum applicants from Guatemala and El Salvador. Jiny previously served as Policy Director of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) where she coordinated policy advocacy and developed programs for the association and its affiliates nationwide at the local, state, and federal levels.

Jiny received her B.A. in Political Science and her M.A. in Education Policy Analysis and Evaluation from Stanford University. She received her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Asian American Law Journal (AALJ) and a member of the California Law Review.

**Kenzi Laceste**  
Product Manager, FWD.US

Kenzi Laceste is a Product Manager at FWD.us, a role working to move technological needs to push for immigration and criminal justice reform. Prior to this role, Kenzi served as a Technology Associate responsible for building web pages for FWD.us and partner immigration organizations. Before joining FWD.us, she worked with the California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance, organizing amongst a collective of undocumented immigrant youth and amplifying digital media campaigns for deportation defense campaigns.

Kenzi has served as an advocacy fellow at Chinese for Affirmative Action, organizing with coalition partners to provide community education and lobbying immigration stakeholders in San Francisco, California. Prior to joining CAA, she joined the 2017 DreamSF Fellowship cohort, a fellowship program for undocumented youth through the San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs. Kenzi received her B.A. in Communications and Media Production from California State University–East Bay.

**Megha Lama**  
Senior Immigration Organizer, Adhikar

Megha Lama is an Organizer for the nail salon campaign and also coordinates Adhikar’s civic engagement programs. She started at Adhikar as a SICO Intern (Summer Internship in Community Organizing) in 2009 where she was actively coordinating the youth group program. She is pursuing her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a minor in Asian American Studies. Prior to working at Adhikar full-time, she interned at Chhaya CDC helping their Nepali speaking community members. She also worked at Chase in Queens as a Personal Banker, dealing with clients from a diverse background.
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM - MEETING ROOM 2
Together For Our Planet: What We Are Doing Now To Preserve A Livable Climate

Rachel Ramirez
Climate Reporter, CNN
Rachel Ramirez is a general assignment writer on CNN’s Climate team, covering climate change and environmental justice. She focuses on breaking news, trending stories, and deeply-reported narratives that help CNN readers understand how the climate crisis affects all aspects of their lives.
Prior to joining CNN in 2021, Ramirez spent a year freelance writing for other publications including Vox, HuffPost, The Guardian, Grist, Financial Times, and more.
She is the co-founder of the Asian American Journalists Association’s Pacific Islander Task Force. Currently based in New York City, Ramirez was born and raised on the island of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, a US territory just north of Guam.

Panelist
Oliver Campbell
Director and Distinguished Engineer, Dell Technologies
Oliver is a Director and Distinguished Engineer at Dell Technologies. He is one of the most influential thought leaders in the industry through combining technology innovation and supply chain enablement. Under his leadership, Dell introduced industry changing packaging materials such as bamboo, mushroom, molded paper pulp, ocean bound plastic and pollution ink.
Most recently, Dell launched Ocean Bound Plastic packaging with the aim of creating an industry response to tackle the ocean plastic crisis. As a co-founder of NextWave, a cross-industry consortium of like-minded companies, Dell is creating a commercially viable, and scalable, supply chain that is focused on keeping plastics out of the ocean and in the circular economy. As a measure of the success of the effort, Dell has achieved its United Nations 2025 Sustainable Development Goal of increasing its usage of Ocean Bound Plastic by 10X nearly four years early.
Oliver’s accomplishments have been highlighted for their business and social influence by The Wall Street Journal, Fast Company, LinkedIn, and Fortune among others, in addition to numerous industry innovation awards. Currently, he serves as a lead policy advisor to internal business units in supporting the company’s pursuit of zero emissions by 2040. He has policy expertise in environmental issues across the areas of climate, waste, clean energy and biodiversity at all levels of government and internationally.

Panelist
Jayant Kairam
Director of Government and Public Affairs, Walmart
Jayant Kairam is a public policy and public management professional who cares deeply about public service and the critical role local governments play in advancing and scaling innovative solutions to improving quality of life.
Jay is currently Director, Global Public Policy–Environment & Sustainability for Walmart. He helps oversee and design the company’s public policy positions and engagement strategy with policymakers, trade associations and NGOs and functions as a lead policy advisor to internal business units in supporting the company’s pursuit of zero emissions by 2040. He has policy expertise in environmental issues across the areas of climate, waste, clean energy and biodiversity at all levels of government and internationally.

Panelist
Angela Manso
National Outreach Director - Center for Policy Advocacy, NRDC
Angela Manso is currently the National Outreach Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council where she directs partnership development with state and national level organizations. She previously served as the Washington, DC Policy Director for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials where she focused on policy affecting Latino access to the political process. Manso, a former Obama Administration appointee from 2009-2017, served as the Senior Policy Advisor in the Western Hemisphere Affairs Bureau at the U.S. Department of State, and the Chief of the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Census Bureau. She spent eight years on Capitol Hill, working for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer and former U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez.

Panelist
The Hon. Kesha Ram Hinsdale
Senator, Vermont State Senate
Kesha is a member of the Vermont Senate and a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the youngest Indian American to ever hold state office and previously served in the state House of Representatives. There, she served as Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. Kesha authored her first bill on environmental justice as a college senior, prior to her election as a State Representative in 2008.
She is a founding member of Emerge Vermont and the Bright Leadership Institute. She has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Previously, she has been legal director for Women Helping Battered Women and interim director for organizational development at the Center for Whole Communities.
Kesha holds a Master’s of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource planning and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Vermont, where she served as student body president.
Violet Wulf-Saena
Executive Director of Climate Resilient Communities

Violet Wulf-Saena has served as an international climate change expert for over ten years working with the United Nations’ Least Developed Countries and Small Island States to protect communities from the impacts of climate change. As Samoa’s first climate change officer she completed Samoa’s first Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment, Initial National Communication to the Conference of the Parties, and Samoa’s National Adaptation Program of Action. Violet’s dedication to elevating community voices and responding to environmental injustice is rooted in her lived experiences in the South-Pacifi. She now works in the Bay Area partnering with governments, research institutions, and community-based organizations to build community capacity to respond to climate change and sea-level rise. In 2020, she founded Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), an organization that supports under-resourced communities of color at the frontline of climate change and sea-level rise.

Aside from serving as CRC’s founder and executive director, Violet serves as the equity program manager for the Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN), an environmental justice advisor for the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and as a community advisory council member to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

Violet earned her Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment in North Carolina. She also holds a Postgraduate Diplomas in Environmental Management from Dresden University in Germany, in Climate Change Urban Management Tools from Erasmus University in the Netherlands, and in Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments on Climate Change from Waikato University in New Zealand.

Sarah Abiusi
Managing Director, Accenture Federal Services

Sara Abiusi is the Quality and Risk lead for Accenture Federal Services. In this role, she is responsible for the quality and delivery of all client-facing work for Accenture Federal Services. Prior to that Sara spent 25 years supporting and delivering large complex technology modernization programs for Civilian and State and local clients. Ms. Abiusi holds various roles in Inclusion & Diversity: US Executive Sponsor of the Asian Pacific American Employee Resource Group and Accenture Federal Services Inclusion and Diversity council. She was awarded Consulting Magazine’s Women in Technology Leadership 2020 award, Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business 2018 award, 2021 Women in Information Technology – CTO of the Year Finalists and an Honorable Mention for the 2017 Accenture Global Inclusion Excellence Award. Ms. Abiusi leads Accenture’s relationship with Asian American Professional Development organization in North America and serves on the Greater Washington Board of Advisors and is a member of the DC Corporate Executive Initiative.

Christine Cadena
Vice President, DEI Market, The Walt Disney Company

Christine Cadena is Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion at The Walt Disney Company. In her role, she is responsible for advancing inclusive marketplace practices, growth across diverse consumer segments and building community partnerships. Over the past 30 years, she has held progressive roles within Disney, including Merchandising, Product Development, Feature Film Marketing and Franchise Development. In her current role, she has lead companywide initiatives focused on the Hispanic Audience, Black Consumers, Disability Inclusion and Narrative Change. Prior to coming to Disney, she began her career as a buyer and product development executive for Nordstrom and currently serves on the board of ASCEND and RespectAbility. Of Japanese and Mexican heritage, Christine was raised in Los Angeles and is a graduate of UCLA.

Cathy Council
Vice President, DE&I Center for Awareness and Advocacy, New York Life

Cathy Council is the Vice President of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Center for Awareness and Advocacy at New York Life. She is responsible for expanding awareness initiatives and supporting programs for diverse talent. Previously, Ms. Council was the company’s CEO Action for Racial Equity fellow. In that role, Ms. Council worked with other CEO Action signatory companies to identify, develop, and promote scalable and sustainable policies and corporate best practices to address systemic racism and social injustice, and improve societal well-being.

Panelists

Violet Wulf-Saena
Sarah Abiusi
Christine Cadena
Cathy Council

Moderator

Judi Rhee Alloway
National Chairwoman of Women, NAAAP

Judi Rhee Alloway is the National Chairwoman of Women in NAAAP (WIN), an organization within the National Asian American Association of Professionals. She also serves as a Commissioner on the Mayor’s Commission on Asian Americans for the City of Philadelphia. She has 15-plus years of experience managing successful businesses, departments and nonprofits. Her public media appearances include Philadelphia Department of Commerce, DC Mayor’s Office of Greater Economic Opportunity, Philadelphia Inquirer, Philly Daily News, Philadelphia Business Journal, Al Dia, Epoch Times, Korean Quarterly, ABC, CBS, Fox, WHYY (PBS), Forbes.com, NPR and Nickelodeon.

Judi is the Founding Director of Women in the National Association of Asian American Professionals. She was also the founding Professional Development Chair of the Philadelphia Chapter of NAAAP. There, she advocates for the advancement of Asian American women in the workplace–from Fortune 500 companies to startups. Her work has focused on empowering AAIP’s through community networks and professional development.

Judi is currently a Commissioner on the Mayor’s Commission on Asian American Affairs and a Steering Committee Member for the City of Philadelphia. She is also a certified professional coach and consultant. Previously, she was Director of the Women’s Business Center for the Empowerment Group and a political fellow at the Center for Progressive Leadership.

She holds an International MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management and a Bachelor’s degree in International Economics and Politics, and Russian Language and Literature from The George Washington University.
How the Pandemic Changed the Way We Think about Healthcare

**Moderator**

**Juliet K. Choi**  
President and CEO, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Juliet K. Choi is president and CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, a national health justice organization working to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

She is a cross-sector leader and coalition builder specializing in change management in the areas of immigration, civil rights, healthcare and disaster relief. In the Obama administration she was chief of staff and senior advisor at HHS and DHS.

The proud daughter of South Korean immigrants, she serves on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and on the boards of NAPABA Law Foundation andYWCA USA.

**Panelist**

**Meha Chiraya**  
Global Director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at Amgen  
Meha Chiraya is the Global Director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at Amgen, where she is a strategic partner to Amgen’s Chief Diversity Officer and executes initiatives aligning to Amgen’s D&I&B strategy. Prior to Amgen, Meha was a global health and social impact consultant at Accenture, where she worked with nonprofit organizations and published a paper with the World Diabetes Foundation on taking a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing gestational diabetes in Colombia.

Outside of her corporate career, Meha is a podcaster and public speaker, and has spoken on the topic of DEI and health equity to audiences at The New School and UC Berkeley. Meha also served as the chief of staff for social justice activist Valarie Kaur to launch The Revolutionary Love Project. Meha holds an MBA from UCLA Anderson, where she served as the Commencement Speaker for her graduating class. She received her B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Michigan, where she was on the student board of the Indian American Students Association and served as President of the Society of Women Engineers.

**Panelist**

**Charley John**  
Director, Healthcare Policy & Strategy, Walgreens  
Charley John is a pharmacist specializing in healthcare policy in Washington, D.C. He has been with the Walgreen Co. for 18 years, 14 of them as a pharmacist.

He has worked to improve access to healthcare through community pharmacy by championing the role pharmacists play with immunizations, health testing, medication counseling and adherence. He has worked in the community partnering with several organizations to increase awareness of health topics such as heart disease, diabetes, and smoking cessation and bringing resources to the underserved and under-informed through screenings, medications, and consultations. Most recently, his work involves engaging with industry and community leaders around healthcare policy in efforts to improve the administration and outcomes of our healthcare system.

He attended the University of Florida where he completed his doctorate of pharmacy.

Apart from work, Charley spends his time with his wife of 11 years, Elizabeth, and his 4 year old daughter, Elyse, and his 2 year old son, Luca. His interests include traveling, sports, and reading.

**Panelist**

**Taunuu Ve’e**  
Co-Chair, Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce  
Taunuu Ve’e is the Co-chair/Co-founder of the Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce who provides leadership and management support to ensure that the mission and core values of the Taskforce are carried out successfully in the greater Bay Area.

After leaving corporate life, Tau already had a well-rounded perspective of the business world and began to merge those knowledge with her non-profit work. Her business instinct in the early years began in her early 20s that started early during her career in the travel industry beginning with United Airlines in marketing to sales management with two top hotel chains of Hyatt and Hilton corporations both domestic and international markets to the largest online college institution as a Corporate Development Manager that allowed her to develop and expand University of Phoenix campuses across the Hawaiian Islands (Oahu, Maui, Big Island, and Kauai).

Prior to the Taskforce, Tau was chosen from a national search to represent one of the most under-served and invisible populations across the continental United States and its affiliated Pacific Island jurisdiction for over eight years. Tau was the National Advisor on Pacific Islander Affairs and Program Officer on Social Justice work at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) for eight years. As an Anchor Institution for Kellogg Foundation’s “America Healing” initiative; Tau led one of Health Forum’s anchor programs the Racial Equity Initiative (REI) which she helped design & developed five collaborative partnerships made up of 26 -community-based organizations across the nation in five states of California, Hawaii, Louisiana, Michigan, and Mississippi. The work helped address structural and institutional racism nationally for Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Tau received her Master’s of Arts Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix-Hawaii and completed two years in her doctorate program in Education from the University of the Pacific in Sacramento, CA.

For stress release, she enjoys a good game of golf with her husband Pete.
Defeating Anti-Asian Hate & Rising Anti-China Rhetoric: Fighting for Truth and Transparency

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM - MEETING ROOM 2

Moderator
Vikrum Aiyer
Deputy Director, ACLU’s National Political Advocacy Department

Vikrum Aiyer is Deputy Director in the ACLU’s National Political Advocacy Department, where he helps oversee federal legislative advocacy and state electoral campaigns across worker’s rights, housing equity, reproductive rights, and LGBTQ+ protections. Aiyer was previously a senior appointee in the Obama Administration, serving as Senior Advisor in The White House for innovation & manufacturing policy, and as the Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property in the Obama Commerce Department. After leaving the Obama Administration, Aiyer built and led the public policy & strategic communications practice for the tech startup, Postmates, up through its $2.6B acquisition by Uber. In these capacities, he served as the principal political and policy advisor to the undersecretary of commerce and coordinated a $3.2B budget.

He has also served on the communications team of Senator Ed Markey (D-MA); Mayor Adrian Fenty (D-Washington, D.C.); and the Democratic National Conventions in 2012 and 2016. He currently serves as an advisor to former Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs’ non-profit to End Poverty in California, and as Commissioner to San Francisco Mayor London Breed’s Workforce Investment Board (WISF).

Panelist
Vanessa Chen
Special Assistant to the President for Criminal Justice and Guns Policy

is the Special Assistant to the President for Criminal Justice and Guns Policy and works in the White House’s Domestic Policy Council. Prior to joining the Administration, Vanessa was an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Southern District of Florida for nearly 9 years and was a recognized leader in her office and national Federal Defender program in terms of her substantive experience, large scale impact litigation, and policy acumen. The Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers awarded its highest honor in 2017 to Vanessa, who was the first solo female recipient of the award. Vanessa also served as Senior Counsel to U.S. Representative Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA03), Detalliee Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and lead Democratic Counsel to the Committee on the Judiciary’s bipartisan Overcriminalization Task Force. Vanessa clerked on a state court of last resort (D.C. Court of Appeals), a federal district court (D. Md.), and a federal circuit court (11th Cir.).
Panelist

Cynthia Choi
Co-Executive Director, Chinese for Affirmative Action | Co-Founder, Stop AAPI Hate

Cynthia Choi (she/her) is the co-executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, a community based civil rights organization committed to protecting the dignity and fair treatment of all immigrants and fulfilling the promise of a multi-racial democracy. Cynthia is also co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition addressing anti-Asian racism across the U.S.

Cynthia has over 30 years of experience working in the nonprofit sector and over 20 years serving in leadership positions. She has led local, state and national community based organizations working on a range of issues from reproductive justice to immigrant/ rights and environmental justice issues.

Panelist

Gisela Perez Kusakawa
Assistant Director, Anti-Racial Profiling Project, Advancing Justice | AAJC

Gisela Perez Kusakawa is the Assistant Director, Anti-Racial Profiling Project at Advancing Justice | AAJC where she leads their advocacy on anti-racial profiling and laid the groundwork for the program. She acts as the supervising attorney for their legal referrals and intake. Gisela spearheaded coalition work to end the DOJ’s China Initiative which raised serious concerns of profiling of Asian Americans and immigrants, particularly of Chinese descent. Gisela’s work encompasses the intersections of national security, technology, criminal law, and immigration, including CVEs, immigration enforcement, and surveillance. She is a Board of Director for CAPAL and a founding member of FALA DC.

Panelist

Jessica Lee
Senior Research Fellow, Quincy Institute

Jessica Lee is a Senior Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute, a foreign policy think tank that focuses on strengthening diplomacy and ending endless wars. Previously, Jessica led the Council of Korean Americans, a nonprofit organization that supports Korean American leadership development. Prior to CKA, Jessica was a Resident Fellow at the Pacific Forum and a senior manager at The Asia Group, LLC. She began her career in DC 14 years ago as a foreign policy advisor on the House of Representatives. She holds an A.M. in East Asian Studies from Harvard University and earned her B.A. in Political Science from Wellesley College.

Panelist

Sharon Dunbar
USAF (Ret.), Vice President, General Dynamics

Sharon Dunbar is vice president of Cross-Company Business Initiatives for General Dynamics Mission Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics. In this capacity, she supports General Dynamics Mission Systems and other General Dynamics business units through joint initiatives, strategy, and interfacing with senior Department of Defense customers.

Before joining General Dynamics in 2014, Sharon served 32 years in the U.S. Air Force. Her assignments spanned command, homeland security, contracting, and government relations. She retired in 2014 as a Major General and Commander of the Air Force District of Washington with responsibilities for aerospace expeditionary operations involving 60,000 personnel assigned worldwide and oversight of national capital region operations to include homeland security, special air missions, and national special security events.

Sharon earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and business management from the U.S. Air Force Academy and graduated with distinction from the National War College with a Master’s Degree in National Security Studies. She also holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from California State University and completed her doctoral studies in Public Policy at The George Washington University along with executive programs at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Defense Acquisition University. Sharon serves on the board of directors for several nonprofit organizations.

Panelist

Won Palisoul
Chair of Veterans Roundtable, CFA Society New York

Won Palisoul is currently a Vice President of Compliance and Co-Chair of Vets Recruitment Committee at an investment bank. In 2021, she was appointed to be the Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (P&R) at the Pentagon. Won supported the optimization of STEM talent management, elite training and education, quality family support, and resilience through Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA). During her year at the Pentagon, she collaborated with the Dept. of Labor, Veterans Affairs, Small Business Administration and the National Economic Council on supply chain and military transition programs.

Prior to the Department of Defense, Won was an Associate Director of Investment Bank CORC at UBS and a Certified Fraud Examiner. She has served as a Senior Compliance Officer of credit-focused asset management firm and hedge fund, a Compliance Consultant in crypto asset and a Compliance Examiner at an SRO for the U.S. derivatives industry. Won’s SRO examiner responsibilities included OTC derivatives, swap dealer compliance programs, and adherence to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Won began her career as a Gas Turbine Technician (Electrical) in the U.S. Navy. After eight years of service (active and reserve), she founded Women Veterans and Families Network and serves on the DNC Vets and Military Families Council. Won is the Chair of Veterans Roundtable at CFA Society New York and the Co-Lead of Women Veterans on Wall Street (wVOWS), a subcommittee of VOWS. She works with leaders of Fortune 500 companies and nonprofits to facilitate roundtable discussions and DEIA best practices forums on hiring military veterans and military spouses.

Won holds an M.A. in IT Management from Webster University and an M.S. in Nonprofit Management from Columbia University’s School of Professional Studies (SPS). She is an adjunct associate faculty member of the M.S. in Human Capital Management Program and serves as an Alumni Advisory Council member at SPS. She was honored with the Alumni Dean’s Excellence Award and serves on the Board of Directors of Columbia DC Alumni Chapter. Won resides in Manhattan with her husband, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and two children.

Panelist

Cynthia Choi
Co-Executive Director, Chinese for Affirmative Action | Co-Founder, Stop AAPI Hate

Cynthia Choi (she/her) is the co-executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, a community based civil rights organization committed to protecting the dignity and fair treatment of all immigrants and fulfilling the promise of a multi-racial democracy. Cynthia is also co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition addressing anti-Asian racism across the U.S.

Cynthia has over 30 years of experience working in the nonprofit sector and over 20 years serving in leadership positions. She has led local, state and national community based organizations working on a range of issues from reproductive justice to immigrant/ rights and environmental justice issues.
Jennifer Rasing
Head of Pan Asian Network (PAN) People & Business Resource Group, Bristol Myers Squibb

Jennifer Rasing is a passionate scientist and leader who has spent a career of over 20 years dedicated to the biopharmaceutical industry. She currently leads the Pan Asian Network (PAN) People & Business Resource Group for Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS). The group is focused on promoting a workplace environment that fully values the contributions of Asian employees and helps the organization deepen the understanding of Asian patients, customers and other stakeholders. As Global PAN Lead, Jennifer is committed to championing an inclusive workplace that welcomes, values, and elevates diverse voices.

Beginning her journey at BMS in 2004 as a research scientist, Jennifer’s extensive experience in cell-based and immunological assays was key to the approval of multiple marketed products. In 2013, she transitioned to the clinical trial space, managing key global Immuno-Oncology clinical trial studies as a Senior Project Manager. Most recently, she was a Senior Auditor responsible for the quality governance and auditing of clinical trials, vendors, and platforms across BMS. Jennifer is a change champion, promoting PAN and awareness of Asian and Pacific Islander issues by speaking and driving the development of groundbreaking programs throughout the organization. Her commitment to an inclusive workplace that values diverse viewpoints has led to key initiatives, spanning across many facets of BMS culture. She has moderated several PAN events on the topics of health equity and social justice in the AANHPI community and led workshops to elevate and advance Asian talent across BMS. In addition, Jennifer has mentored aspiring future Asian leaders in the company. Jennifer’s family includes veterans who served in the United States Army Forces in the Far East. Sergeant Rodrigo Rasing, Jennifer’s grandfather, fought in World War II surviving the Bataan Death March. She holds veterans dearly to her heart and highly regards the values and skills that veterans can bring to the business community.

Lourdes Tiglao
Director, VA Center for Women Veterans, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Lourdes Tiglao serves as primary advisor to the Secretary on Department policies, programs, and legislation that affect women Veterans. Her background traverses sectors in the military, federal, and nonprofit organizations, spanning over a decade in leadership roles across business, communications, and healthcare. Before joining the Department of Veterans Affairs, she was the Global Partnerships Manager at Airbnb, overseeing a portfolio of 70+ nonprofit, private sector, and international aid agencies across six continents. Prior to that, she worked within the humanitarian sector as an emergency management professional with Team Rubicon, working with intergovernmental agencies like the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). She is an Air Force veteran with deployments to Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, and more.

John Nakahata
Chair, Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, LLP

John Nakahata, Chair of HWG, is widely regarded as one of the leading telecom lawyers in the United States. For over two decades, John has advised clients with respect to communications rule-making, enforcement actions, regulatory compliance and transactional diligence and regulatory approvals. He served as Chief of Staff of the Federal Communications Commission under Chairman William Kennard, and was Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Reed Hundt. John has had substantial involvement with major FCC competition, inter-carrier compensation, and universal service proceedings since 1996. During his FCC tenure, John was one of the principal staff involved in the FCC’s implementation of the landmark Telecommunications Act of 1996, including the FCC’s “competition trilogy” of interconnection, universal service and interstate access charge orders. After leaving the FCC, John spearheaded the Coalition for Affordable Local and Long Distance Services (CALLS), which developed a comprehensive plan—adopted by the FCC—to reform telecommunications subsidy mechanisms and inter-carrier pricing. He later helped a client end a rival’s long grip on a telecommunications numbering contract, positioning the client successfully to bid for the contract. John also served as a subcommittee staff director and legislative counsel to United States Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Connecticut). In that capacity, he helped to shape and to pass the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, and he organized Senate hearings that resulted in the development and widespread adoption of a voluntary content rating system for video games. John earned a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.
Panelist
Thu Nguyen
Executive Director, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates
Thu Nguyen serves as Executive Director of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA). Previously, she freelanced as an expert in marketing and outreach for a variety of nonprofits and AAPI-owned startups. At OCA, she leads storytelling, relationship building and operations. Thu holds a Bachelor’s degree from Rice University, where she majored in Chemistry and Sociology. There, she entered the nonprofit sector through organizing on campus and bridging partnerships between student and local organizations. She is a native of Houston and a daughter of Vietnamese refugees who is passionate about creating spaces to bring people together through food and art.

Panelist
Chan Park
Senior Director of Congressional Affairs, Microsoft Corporation
Chan Park serves as a Senior Director of Congressional Affairs at Microsoft Corporation. Prior to joining Microsoft, Chan was a Principal at Monument Advocacy, where he consulted for various tech companies and served as Executive Director of the Reform Government Surveillance coalition. From 2009-2017, Chan served in various roles in the Senate, including as General Counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee for former Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and then for Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Before working in the Senate, Chan served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Maryland, where he prosecuted a range of federal criminal cases and received the Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service. He also worked at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, and served as a law clerk to Judge Peter J. Messitte of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Chan attended Yale College and Georgetown Law. Chan was born and raised in Maryland, where he resides with his wife, Jayne, and their two children.

Panelist
Christina Wiskowski
Director, Strategic Communications and Employee Engagement, Comcast
Christina Wiskowski leads communications and employee engagement for Comcast’s Internet Essentials program. In this role, she develops program messaging, shapes brand positioning, and tells authentic Internet Essentials stories by building meaningful relationships with customers, partners, and employees. Christina collaborates with external partners and across the Comcast NBCUniversal platforms to create high-profile, coordinated brand opportunities. Christina also leads the Internet Essentials Ambassador program, a cohort of 3,500+ Comcast employees who volunteer their time to advance digital equity in their own communities by sharing information about Internet Essentials and the Affordable Connectivity Program and helping families sign up. Since 2011, Internet Essentials has connected a cumulative total of more than 10 million people from low-income households to the power of the Internet at home.

Prior to Comcast, Christina owned a small, sustainability-focused business, and before that, she was the Deputy Office Manager and Intern Coordinator for then Senator John Kerry, MA. Christina is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, having enlisted in 2001, and commissioned in 2015. She has traveled the world serving our country, including four deployments to the Middle East for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

Christina holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute of Government and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Temple University.
**MADALENE XUAN-TRANG MIELKE**
President & CEO, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke is a nationally recognized civil rights leader and a member of USA Today’s Inaugural Leaders of Change. As President & CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and Founder and Principal of Arum Group, LLC, she brings nearly 25 years of experience working in political campaigns and specializes in political/non-profit fundraising and political training.

**NOEL PEREZ**
Director, Federal Affairs, General Motors

Noel Perez serves as Director of Government Affairs at General Motors, helping achieve an all-electric future with Zero Crashes, Zero Emissions and Zero Congestion. Prior to joining General Motors, Mr. Perez served as Director of Outreach at the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, where he worked with Democratic Senators to build internal and external coalitions to support the legislative agenda of the caucus. Mr. Perez also served then Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA) as a Legislative Aide and as the Advisor for Member Services and Outreach for the House Democratic Caucus. In addition, he served as the Policy and Program Manager for NALEO Educational Fund, where he advocated to increase the number of qualified and talented staffers of color in Congress.

**CHRISTINE CHEN**
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Asian Pacific Islander American Vote

Christine Chen is a co-Founder and Executive Director of Asian Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote), one of the most trusted national, nonpartisan organizations. APIAVote’s mission is to work with local and state community based organizations (CBOs) to mobilize Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in electoral and civic engagement. Since 2007, APIAVote has been building power in AAPI communities by investing in their capacity and infrastructure to mobilize voters. This investment, as well as, proactively training and resourcing community leaders across the country, paid off in the 2020 election cycle and Census.

Under Chen’s leadership, APIAVote strengthened and expanded APIAVote’s partners into 28 states and made two historical milestones; attracted, then candidate Joe Biden to speak directly to the AAPI electorate, a first in history for a Presidential nominee, and second, contributed to the groundwork that led to the highest AAPI voter turnout in history. Chen has been a champion for the empowerment of AAPI communities from the start of her career. Moving to Washington, DC, from Ohio, she took on organizing and leadership roles at the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), and started a consulting firm, Strategic Alliances USA which was built on her broad and deep pool of relationships and skills in the AAPI community and in government. Chen’s firm included clients such as the Linusity documentary, Comcast, and USDA to coordinate their outreach to Hmong farmers in Arkansas.

While serving as Executive Director of OCA National from 2001 to 2006, Chen served as a member of the executive committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, founding member of APIA Scholars, and served on numerous boards including the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and Demos Board of Trustees. She currently serves on the Kennedy Center Community Advisory Board and the Center for Asian American Media.

**Gregg Orton**
Executive Director, National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)

Gregg is the National Director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans where he leads the coalition in developing policy and communications strategy and advancing a joint agenda to address the needs of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.

Gregg joins NCAPA after spending nine years working on Capitol Hill for Rep. Al Green (D-TX). He has served as a dedicated advocate for the AAPI community, as well as a mentor for many AAPI staffers in Congress.

Gregg hails from Arcadia, CA and attended Vassar College where he earned his B.A. in Political Science. Following graduation, he came to DC as an Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) Housing Fellow and joined Rep. Green’s office. He most recently served as the Congressman’s Chief of Staff.

**Christine Chen**
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Asian Pacific Islander American Vote

Christine Chen is a co-Founder and Executive Director of Asian Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote), one of the most trusted national, nonpartisan organizations. APIAVote’s mission is to work with local and state community based organizations (CBOs) to mobilize Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in electoral and civic engagement. Since 2007, APIAVote has been building power in AAPI communities by investing in their capacity and infrastructure to mobilize voters. This investment, as well as, proactively training and resourcing community leaders across the country, paid off in the 2020 election cycle and Census.

Under Chen’s leadership, APIAVote strengthened and expanded APIAVote’s partners into 28 states and made two historical milestones; attracted, then candidate Joe Biden to speak directly to the AAPI electorate, a first in history for a Presidential nominee, and second, contributed to the groundwork that led to the highest AAPI voter turnout in history. Chen has been a champion for the empowerment of AAPI communities from the start of her career. Moving to Washington, DC, from Ohio, she took on organizing and leadership roles at the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), and started a consulting firm, Strategic Alliances USA which was built on her broad and deep pool of relationships and skills in the AAPI community and in government. Chen’s firm included clients such as the Linusity documentary, Comcast, and USDA to coordinate their outreach to Hmong farmers in Arkansas.

While serving as Executive Director of OCA National from 2001 to 2006, Chen served as a member of the executive committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, founding member of APIA Scholars, and served on numerous boards including the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and Demos Board of Trustees. She currently serves on the Kennedy Center Community Advisory Board and the Center for Asian American Media.
Panelist
Niyati Shah
Director of Litigation, Advancing Justice | AAJC

Niyati Shah, is the Director of Litigation at Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC ("Advancing Justice | AAJC"). As such, she leads the litigation program at Advancing Justice | AAJC. In that capacity, Ms. Shah served as one of the lead attorneys in Lupe v. Ross, successfully challenging the addition of the citizenship question to the 2020 census. Ms. Shah litigates voting cases nationwide, including the ongoing challenge to Georgia’s SB 2021 which places severe restrictions on voting. Prior to joining Advancing Justice | AAJC, Ms. Shah investigated, litigated, and advocated against violations of federal constitutional and election laws nationwide, including the Voting Rights Act. She is an expert on the implementation of Sections 5 and 7 of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), working both cooperatively with, as well as litigating against, states to enforce the NVRA in federal courts across the country.

Panelist
Jerry Vattamala
Director of Democracy Program, The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Jerry has been a leader in collecting electoral data on and protecting Asian American voters, organizing AALDEF’s National Asian American Exit Poll and Voter Protection Program which deployed over 850 volunteers in 14 states and Washington DC, to survey and protect almost 14,000 Asian American voters on Election Day 2016. Jerry has also organized the Asian American community for redistricting, serving as AALDEF’s lead attorney on New York’s Favors v. Cuomo federal redistricting litigation, resulting in more Asian majority and influence districts at all legislative levels. Jerry has also testified on behalf of the Asian American community at redistricting hearings throughout the Northeast, and observed elections for compliance with state and federal voting laws across the country. Jerry litigates cases concerning violations of Sections 203 and 208 of the Voting Rights Act and regularly meets with Boards of Elections across the country to ensure full compliance with federal and local language assistance provisions and the Help America Vote Act. Jerry is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at New York law School. Prior to joining AALDEF, Jerry worked as a commercial litigator at Proskauer Rose LLP. Jerry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering from Binghamton University and is a graduate of Hofstra University School of Law.
Moderator
Richard Lui
Anchor, MSNBC

A content and social specialist with 30+ years at the intersection of race, journalism, business, politics, and community.

A civil rights journalist that has reported on major events in race and ethnicity since Rodney King. Lui became the first Asian American male to anchor a daily national news program in 2007. He has reported on seminal issues related to Latino, African, Asian, and Native American communities over his 20-year journalistic career.

Richard has written, anchored, and produced content for broadcast, social, web and print platforms including CNN Worldwide, MSNBC, NBC News, USA Today, Politico, Seattle Times, Detroit Free Press, and others. Richard’s domestic/global storytelling has earned him team Peabody and Emmy Awards. Richard also wrote a book, “ENOUGH ABOUT ME: The Unexpected Power of Selflessness,” an instruction manual on how to make bite-size efforts to develop selfless muscle sets. As well as produced the film, “SKY BLOSSOM,” an uplifting feature-length documentary named by Variety Magazine as a “Top Contender for the 2021 Awards Season.” The film, based on Richard’s personal experience as a caregiver for his father, profiles five students across the country representing every color, class, and community who are learning to be caregivers.

Richard sits on four boards of directors / advisers. He started in business, working 15 years building B2B and B2C marketing infrastructure for technology enterprises. At Citibank he co-founded and patented a payments backbone, and later launched an artificial intelligence brand with the same partners. He was management consultant at Mercer building its early IBM/JV platform.

Richard is a former campaign manager and currently a Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund. He’s reported on every U.S. national election since 2004 and elections in Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan. He’s interviewed hundreds of politicians from U.S. Senators to U.S. President.

As United Nations Spokesperson, US State Dept. Traveling Speaker, and ambassador for several NGOs, Richard has spoken at thousands of events in recent years including commencement speeches at UC Berkeley, University of Guam, City College of SF, and others. Venues include business programs at Duke, Harvard and Michigan; firms like Delta, Wells Fargo and Google; and locations on six continents.

Panelist
David L. Kim
President & CEO, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

David L. Kim is the President & CEO of the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA), a 43-year old national, non-partisan non-profit dedicated to helping Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander seniors.

Prior to rejoining NAPCA, where he served as a board member and past board chair, Kim was Vice President, Multicultural Markets and Engagements at AARP where he developed and managed the first ever integrated marketing strategy that generated an increase in lifetime and multi-year memberships among Asian members that was the highest of all multicultural groups combined.

Kim serves on several national corporate and non-profit boards, including the Duke University Libraries Advisory Board and as the Managing Member of the Multicultural Marketing Advisory Board for Diageo.

He has served as chairman of several boards of Asian American and Pacific Islander community organizations such as the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), Organization of Chinese Americans Business Advisory Council (OCA BAC) and has served on the boards and advisory boards of other AAPI organizations based in New York, Chicago, New Orleans, and Los Angeles.

Kim graduated from Duke University with an A.B. in Political Science and attended Columbia University Graduate School of International and Public Affairs.

Panelist
Daphne Kwok
Vice President, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Asian American & Pacific Islander Audience Strategy, AARP

Daphne Kwok is the Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Asian American & Pacific Islander Strategy at AARP. Her work empowers Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) to choose how they live as they age. She brings to AARP her experience as a “leader of leaders” through her community service in promoting and empowering the AAPI community.

Ms. Kwok was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2010 to chair his Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The Commission served as the “eyes and ears” of the community advising the President and the federal government about the issues impacting the AAPI community.

Previously, Ms. Kwok was Executive Director of Asians & Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California. She was also the Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation in San Francisco. For 11 years, she was the Executive Director of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), a national membership based civil rights organization. She was the first elected Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, a network of national APA organizations. She also served as Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

A 1984 graduate of Wesleyan University, Ms. Kwok is the first Asian American to serve on its Board of Trustees, is a trustee emeritus and chaired the Wesleyan Alumni Association.

Ms. Kwok’s board service includes: Chair of APIAVote, a member of the Comcast-NBCUniversal Joint Diversity Advisory Council, Co-Chair of the Nielsen External Asian Pacific Advisory Council, board member of the Asian American Advertising Federation and board member of Normal Next.
An Urban Renaissance: The Evolution of Cities

Moderator

The Hon. David S. Kim
Senior Vice President and Principal, WSP USA

David S. Kim, who has served as secretary of the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) since 2019, joined WSP USA in 2022.

In his new senior vice president position, Kim will work with WSP’s Advisory national business line, collaborating with public and private senior transportation executives across the U.S. He will guide policy-making that supports federal funding for transportation projects anticipated under the U.S. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in November 2021. He will also guide the delivery of transportation capital projects, including strategic planning and policy, environmental process, funding and finance and capital delivery.

Kim’s career in public service spans more than 35 years, including nearly 20 years in transportation leadership. In July 2019 he was appointed as the third secretary of CalSTA by California Governor Gavin Newsom, the cabinet-level agency responsible for 40,000 employees across eight departments, boards and commissions.

Under his leadership, CalSTA focused on advancing safe, accessible low-carbon multi-modal transportation systems. His agency developed the state’s Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure, an aggressive framework to overhaul transportation planning and project selection by aligning transportation investments with climate, health and equity goals.

Kim previously served the Obama Administration as deputy administrator and associate administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, and as deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Transportation. From 2004-2009, he served in several leadership roles for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, including head of LA Metro’s Government Relations Department in Washington, D.C. From 2017-2019, he worked in the private sector as vice president of government affairs for the Hyundai Motor Company.

Earlier in his career, Kim served on the staff of elected officials in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Washington, including more than four years as deputy director in the California Governor’s Office, and as a senior legislative assistant for U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra (currently U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services).

Kim is a graduate of Occidental College with a bachelor’s degree in political science, and the University of Southern California with a master’s degree in public administration. During his tenure as CalSTA secretary, Kim served as a member of the ITS America Board of Directors, the Mineta Transportation Institute Board of Trustees and the University of California Institute of Transportation Studies Board of Advisors.
Panelist

Tanya S. Skilton
Head of Procurement and Supply Chain, BrightDrop, General Motors

Tanya is shaping the BrightDrop supply chain to lead the scaling of the unique last mile product roadmap with sustainability, ethics and resilience built in from the ground up.

Prior to BrightDrop, Tanya grew GM’s first Smart Cities enabling platform, Future Road from concept to MVP. Tanya’s time at GM includes partnering with Cruise Automation, startups and technology leaders to forge viable commercialization paths for autonomy enabling sensing and computing capabilities.

Before GM, Tanya spent over a decade with the Rio Tinto Group, where she laid the commercial foundations for the implementation of fully autonomous mining trucks, drills to transform safety and productivity.

Tanya has a passion for her faith, lifelong learning, history and languages, leading to a global career spanning her native India, as well as the United States, France, China, Japan, Australia and Singapore.

Tanya holds dual Bachelors’ degrees in Economics and Communications and a Masters of International Business. Skilton serves on the Board of FiveTwo, a Christian organization equipping entrepreneurs to start new ventures, as well as on the Leadership Advisory Board of the General Motors Asian Connections employee resources group.

Panelist

Mariah Sheriff-Ray
Head of Strategic Partnerships & Innovation Policy, DoorDash

Mariah is Head of Strategic Partnerships and Innovation Policy at DoorDash, the largest on-demand logistics platform in North America. In this role she is developing and executing the company’s innovation policy strategy and establishing partnerships that align with key policy and business objectives. Mariah brings considerable experience in government and the social sector to her role at DoorDash.

Mariah formerly led government sales at FUSE Corps, growing the scale and impact of FUSE’s executive fellowship program with city and county government partners across the country.

From 2011-2015, Mariah served in the administration of Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson as his Deputy Chief of Staff. In this capacity, she led government affairs, external affairs, education initiatives and strategic partnerships. Among her major accomplishments as one of the Mayor’s most trusted senior advisors, she oversaw the Mayor’s Presidency of the US Conference of Mayors (USCM), his Presidency of the African American Mayors Association (AAMA), and served as his liaison to the Obama Administration.

Mariah began her career as a Corps Member with Teach for America, teaching Financial Literacy and Investments to youth at Ariel Community Academy, a Chicago Public School founded by Ariel Investments. Mariah holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, a Masters in Teaching from Dominican University, and a BA in Economics and International Studies from DePaul University.

Panelist

We’re here for you

Proud sponsor of the 2022 APAICS Legislative Leadership Summit
Impact Investing & Innovation: Achieving Change Through Enterprise

Moderator
Sonal Shah
Executive Vice President, United Way

Sonal Shah serves as Interim Executive Vice President, Worldwide Network Advancement. She leads the U.S. and International Network teams to work with local United Ways to help deliver the greatest impact for UWW’s communities. She serves on the UWW Executive Leadership Team.

Ms. Shah is a global leader on social impact and innovation. Most recently she founded and led The Asian American Foundation, raising over $1 billion, the largest philanthropic effort serving the Asian American community. In the Obama Administration, Ms. Shah served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Social Innovation at the White House, leading the efforts across government to introduce social innovation, including financial innovation, impact metrics, and the role of technology.

Ms. Shah also has significant experience working internationally as an economist at the Department of Treasury, setting up the central bank in Bosnia, working for post-conflict reconstruction in Kosovo, and implementing poverty reduction strategies in Africa. She also served as the chief of operations for the Center for Global Development.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Panelist
Audrey Choi
Senior Advisor, Morgan Stanley

With a career spanning multiple businesses, industries and sectors, from The Wall Street Journal to the White House, Audrey Choi brings a unique perspective to her role as Morgan Stanley Senior Advisor.

As the first CSO on Wall Street, Choi’s viewpoint has been crucial to her success in overseeing the firm’s commitment to promote global sustainability through the capital markets, including founding the Institute in 2013 and heading up the firm’s Global Sustainable Finance (GSF) Group, which she launched in 2009. “I have long believed in the potential of the capital markets to help bring about positive change with unparalleled speed and scale,” she says. “For more than a decade, Morgan Stanley has been a leader in sustainable investing, with the dedication, insight and creativity of the GSF team helping pioneers and grow the field. Interest in sustainable investing has exploded in recent years, presenting significant new opportunities across the entire firm.”

Choi’s focus is on the firm’s sustainable investing initiatives, with specific attention to product innovation, thought leadership and strategic integration. Choi also served as Morgan Stanley’s Chief Marketing Officer for four years, from 2007-2011. In that role, she oversaw the creation of a strong brand narrative that included the award-winning “We are Morgan Stanley” campaign, consisting of video, print and digital stories that highlight the insights of thought leaders from across the firm.

Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Choi held senior policy positions in the Clinton Administration, including Chief of Staff of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President Al Gore. Previously, Choi was a foreign correspondent and bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal.

Panelist
Sonal Shah
Executive Vice President, United Way

Sonal Shah serves as Interim Executive Vice President, Worldwide Network Advancement. She leads the U.S. and International Network teams to work with local United Ways to help deliver the greatest impact for UWW’s communities. She serves on the UWW Executive Leadership Team.

Ms. Shah is a global leader on social impact and innovation. Most recently she founded and led The Asian American Foundation, raising over $1 billion, the largest philanthropic effort serving the Asian American community. In the Obama Administration, Ms. Shah served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Social Innovation at the White House, leading the efforts across government to introduce social innovation, including financial innovation, impact metrics, and the role of technology.

Ms. Shah also has significant experience working internationally as an economist at the Department of Treasury, setting up the central bank in Bosnia, working for post-conflict reconstruction in Kosovo, and implementing poverty reduction strategies in Africa. She also served as the chief of operations for the Center for Global Development.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Panelist
Sonal Shah
Executive Vice President, United Way

Sonal Shah serves as Interim Executive Vice President, Worldwide Network Advancement. She leads the U.S. and International Network teams to work with local United Ways to help deliver the greatest impact for UWW’s communities. She serves on the UWW Executive Leadership Team.

Ms. Shah is a global leader on social impact and innovation. Most recently she founded and led The Asian American Foundation, raising over $1 billion, the largest philanthropic effort serving the Asian American community. In the Obama Administration, Ms. Shah served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Social Innovation at the White House, leading the efforts across government to introduce social innovation, including financial innovation, impact metrics, and the role of technology.

Ms. Shah also has significant experience working internationally as an economist at the Department of Treasury, setting up the central bank in Bosnia, working for post-conflict reconstruction in Kosovo, and implementing poverty reduction strategies in Africa. She also served as the chief of operations for the Center for Global Development.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Panelist
Sonal Shah
Executive Vice President, United Way

Sonal Shah serves as Interim Executive Vice President, Worldwide Network Advancement. She leads the U.S. and International Network teams to work with local United Ways to help deliver the greatest impact for UWW’s communities. She serves on the UWW Executive Leadership Team.

Ms. Shah is a global leader on social impact and innovation. Most recently she founded and led The Asian American Foundation, raising over $1 billion, the largest philanthropic effort serving the Asian American community. In the Obama Administration, Ms. Shah served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Social Innovation at the White House, leading the efforts across government to introduce social innovation, including financial innovation, impact metrics, and the role of technology.

Ms. Shah also has significant experience working internationally as an economist at the Department of Treasury, setting up the central bank in Bosnia, working for post-conflict reconstruction in Kosovo, and implementing poverty reduction strategies in Africa. She also served as the chief of operations for the Center for Global Development.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Panelist
Sonal Shah
Executive Vice President, United Way

Sonal Shah serves as Interim Executive Vice President, Worldwide Network Advancement. She leads the U.S. and International Network teams to work with local United Ways to help deliver the greatest impact for UWW’s communities. She serves on the UWW Executive Leadership Team.

Ms. Shah is a global leader on social impact and innovation. Most recently she founded and led The Asian American Foundation, raising over $1 billion, the largest philanthropic effort serving the Asian American community. In the Obama Administration, Ms. Shah served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Social Innovation at the White House, leading the efforts across government to introduce social innovation, including financial innovation, impact metrics, and the role of technology.

Ms. Shah also has significant experience working internationally as an economist at the Department of Treasury, setting up the central bank in Bosnia, working for post-conflict reconstruction in Kosovo, and implementing poverty reduction strategies in Africa. She also served as the chief of operations for the Center for Global Development.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Panelist
Sonal Shah
Executive Vice President, United Way

Sonal Shah serves as Interim Executive Vice President, Worldwide Network Advancement. She leads the U.S. and International Network teams to work with local United Ways to help deliver the greatest impact for UWW’s communities. She serves on the UWW Executive Leadership Team.

Ms. Shah is a global leader on social impact and innovation. Most recently she founded and led The Asian American Foundation, raising over $1 billion, the largest philanthropic effort serving the Asian American community. In the Obama Administration, Ms. Shah served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Social Innovation at the White House, leading the efforts across government to introduce social innovation, including financial innovation, impact metrics, and the role of technology.

Ms. Shah also has significant experience working internationally as an economist at the Department of Treasury, setting up the central bank in Bosnia, working for post-conflict reconstruction in Kosovo, and implementing poverty reduction strategies in Africa. She also served as the chief of operations for the Center for Global Development.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Panelist
Sonal Shah
Executive Vice President, United Way

Sonal Shah serves as Interim Executive Vice President, Worldwide Network Advancement. She leads the U.S. and International Network teams to work with local United Ways to help deliver the greatest impact for UWW’s communities. She serves on the UWW Executive Leadership Team.

Ms. Shah is a global leader on social impact and innovation. Most recently she founded and led The Asian American Foundation, raising over $1 billion, the largest philanthropic effort serving the Asian American community. In the Obama Administration, Ms. Shah served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Social Innovation at the White House, leading the efforts across government to introduce social innovation, including financial innovation, impact metrics, and the role of technology.

Ms. Shah also has significant experience working internationally as an economist at the Department of Treasury, setting up the central bank in Bosnia, working for post-conflict reconstruction in Kosovo, and implementing poverty reduction strategies in Africa. She also served as the chief of operations for the Center for Global Development.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Ms. Shah was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commissioner on the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. She also serves on the Homeland Security Advisory Council.
Lunch Plenary | Achieving Diverse Representation: The New Faces of Asian American Leadership

Moderator

Dylan Wells
USA Today, Congress, Campaigns, and Politics Reporter

Dylan Wells is a Congress, campaigns and politics reporter at USA TODAY. She was previously a national political correspondent at National Journal Hotline. Before that she worked for CNN in DC and Des Moines, where she covered two dozen presidential candidates in the lead-up to the Iowa caucuses. Dylan is from Portland, Oregon, and graduated from the University of Chicago.

Panelist

Hon. Bruce Harrell
Mayor of Seattle

Mayor Bruce Harrell was elected the 57th mayor of Seattle in 2021, and was sworn in as Seattle’s 54th mayor for an interim period in 2017.

Bruce Harrell was born in Seattle to an African American father who was one of the first Black union linemen at Seattle City Light, and a Japanese American mother who had been incarcerated at Minidoka during World War II. He is Seattle’s first Asian American and first biracial mayor and Seattle’s second Black mayor.

Bruce attended the University of Washington on a football scholarship—declining offers from Harvard and Stanford to stay in his hometown. Bruce later earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Washington School of Law. As an attorney, he spent his early career in technology and telecommunications as an in-house attorney.

Bruce was elected to the Seattle City Council in 2007. On the Council, Bruce was a leader on issues of racial equity, public safety reform, and economic and educational opportunity for all. In 2021, Bruce was elected mayor of Seattle on a commitment to address the homelessness crisis with urgency and compassion, to ensure public safety for all communities, and to restore trust, hope, and unity in local government and civic life.

Bruce and his wife Joanne are proud to be the parents of three children and the grandparents to two grandchildren.

Panelist

Hon. Aftab Pureval
Mayor of Cincinnati

Mayor Aftab Pureval was elected as Cincinnati’s 70th Mayor on November 2, 2021. Aftab is currently the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts, and was the first Democrat elected to this office in more than 100 years. During his tenure, Aftab has brought modern and professional reforms to the Clerk’s office. He has also invested in the people who serve us, by paying a living wage to all employees and becoming the first county officeholder in Ohio to offer comprehensive paid family leave.

Aftab was born and raised in Southwest Ohio, the son of first-generation Americans. The product of public schools, Aftab went off to The Ohio State University for college, then UC for law school. He has also worked as a Special Assistant United States Attorney where he worked with the FBI to prosecute crimes against children.

Before becoming Clerk of Courts, Aftab worked at P&G as the global brand attorney for Olay. He has been awarded the NAACP Theodore Berry Award for Service and been recognized by the Business Courier as one of their 40 under 40.

Aftab lives in Clifton with his wife Whitney, a doctor who treats COVID patients, and their one-year old son, Bodhi.

Speaker

Kai Hirabayashi
Sr. Manager, Public Policy, Amazon

Kai is a Senior Manager for Public Policy at Amazon.com in Washington, D.C. As part of the government affairs team, Kai advocates for Amazon’s immigration, and previously labor and workforce priorities before Congress and the Administration.

Prior to Amazon, Kai was Senior Government Affairs Rep at Caterpillar, Inc. Kai also served in various other positions in Washington, D.C., including: Labor Counsel for the Senate HELP Committee, under then Ranking Member, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN); U.S. Chamber of Commerce; the U.S. Department of Labor; and started his career on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce under then Chairman, Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-CA).

Kai graduated from American University Law School in Washington, D.C. with an LL.M. in Administrative and Regulatory Law. He earned his J.D. from Gonzaga Law School in Spokane, WA, and his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. In his limited spare time, Kai enjoys watching his sons play hockey and baseball, and rooting for the UW Huskies, Mariners and Seahawks.
Moderator

Katie Phang
MSNBC, Anchor & Host

Katie S. Phang is the anchor and host of the Katie Phang Show on MSNBC and Peacock, and the co-host of CNBC’s Money Court. Katie has provided legal analysis for network and cable news since 2005. Currently a Legal Contributor for NBC News/MSNBC, Katie leverages her significant trial experience to provide analysis and commentary on the latest legal issues across the globe. The principal and founder of her own law firm, Katie S. Phang, P.A. Katie chose the North Star as her logo “because it is [her firm’s] sincere desire to be a source of stability during some of your darkest hours.”

Katie serves as an Adjunct Professor of Litigation Skills at the University of Miami School of Law and is a Past-President of the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. She is the Chair of a Florida Bar Grievance Committee and is a Presidential Appointee to the Board of Directors of the University of Miami Law Alumni Association.

Panelist

Hon. William Tong
Attorney General, State of Connecticut

William Tong is the 25th Attorney General to serve the State of Connecticut. Assuming office in January 2019, Tong is the first Asian American elected at the statewide level in Connecticut. As the son of immigrants and small business owners, Tong knows first-hand the constant pressure on Connecticut families, squeezed by expensive healthcare and prescription drugs, ever-rising utility costs, the high cost of housing and education, and many other expenses.

Since taking office, Attorney General Tong has become a national leader on a range of issues. Most prominently, AG Tong has taken a leading role in the fight against the opioid crisis; he has championed strong legal actions against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and other bad actors that have created and fueled this crisis—most notably the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma, makers of Oxycontin. Tong has also become a national leader on antitrust enforcement, pursuing strong actions against large corporations in the pharmaceutical and technology sectors that have abused their positions to put profits ahead of consumers.

Prior to his service as Attorney General, William Tong worked as a litigator with private firms for 18 years before being elected as a State Representative in the Connecticut General Assembly—a seat he held for 12 years and in which he was the chairman of the Judiciary and Banking Committees. Attorney General Tong resides in Stamford with his wife, Elizabeth, and their three children (and way too many pets).
Mission
The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) is a national non-partisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting Asian Pacific American participation and representation at all levels of the political process, from community service to elected office.

APAICS programs focus on developing leadership, building public policy knowledge, and filling the political pipeline for Asian Pacific Americans to pursue public office at the local, state, and federal levels.

Our History
APAICS was founded alongside the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) in 1994 by former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and former Delegate Robert Underwood.

Originally founded as the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Institute (CAPACI), APAICS continues to support CAPAC by serving as a resource to Congress and promoting a politically active and civically engaged Asian Pacific American community.

Board of Directors

APAICS FOUNDER
The Hon. Norman Y. Mineta

TREASURER
Robin Rorick

BOARD CHAIR
Susan Jin Davis

BOARD MEMBERS
June Lee
The Hon. Judy Chu
Ron Chu
Krish Gupta

The Hon. Manufou Liaiga-Anoa’i

National Advisory Council

Irene Bueno
The Hon. Jay Chen
Kim Delevett
Curtis D.W. Hom
Jim Park

APAICS Staff

Madalene Mielke
President & CEO

Dian Herrman
Chief Administrative Officer

Danielle Moon
Director of Programs & Community Engagement

Nicholas Kimshaba
Program Associate

Ethan Tsui
Staff Assistant

CMI A/V Communications
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) staff
Grace Choi, Karis Consulting Group

Special Thanks
Ivory Zorich, Event Consultant
James Reid, Creative Print Group
Michelle Roque, Art Director
Les Tahanan, Photography

Going to incredible lengths

Horizon is proud to support APAICS

Horizon is focused on researching, developing and commercializing medicines that address critical needs for people impacted by rare, autoimmune and severe inflammatory diseases. Our pipeline is purposeful: we apply scientific expertise and courage to bring clinically meaningful therapies to patients. At Horizon, we believe science and compassion must work together to transform lives.