LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
MAY 10 - 13, 2021
**Monday, May 10th**

**11:45 AM - 1:15 PM**

**Allyship: The Key to Unlocking the Power of Diversity**

This panel will focus on the growing diversity of America and how communities of color can work with each other to build allyship and solidarity. The discussion will focus on current day issues such as racial justice initiatives, combating hate crimes, and ensuring a diverse workforce. The panel will also focus on building relationships within our diverse groups, so we can rely on each other in times of adversity and challenges. We will also talk about the progress that we have made and if things have gotten better for each of our communities.

- **Juliet Choi**, President and CEO, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
- **Congresswoman Judy Chu** (CA-27)
- **Senator Tammy Duckworth** (IL)
- **Susie Feliz**, Vice President, Policy and Legislative Affairs for the National Urban League (NUL)
- **Congressman Jimmy Gomez** (CA-34)
- **Krish Gupta**, Senior Vice President - Litigation and Intellectual Property, Dell
- **Clarissa Martínez-de-Castro**, Deputy Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, UnidosUS
- **Becky Monroe**, Senior Director, Fighting Hate and Bias, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR)
- **Congressman Raul Ruiz** (CA-36)
- **Fawn Sharp**, President, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
- **Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland** (WA-10)
- **Stuart Ishimaru**, Former Assistant Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Moderator)

**1:45 PM - 3:00 PM**

**America’s Digital Divide and Lack of Access**

*Sponsored by: AT&T, Charter, Comcast, Verizon*

This panel will talk about broadband access, internet affordability, and community adoption in order to close the digital divide, especially in the Asian American community. Community leaders and industry partners will also come together to discuss how we can provide more broadband access for communities of color, rural, and low-income Americans. We will also discuss the challenges that many of these communities face and how COVID has revealed the consequences of a lack of internet access for disadvantaged populations.

- **Laura Berrocal**, Vice President, Policy and External Affairs, Charter
- **Emily Chi**, Assistant Director of Telecommunications, Technology, and Media, Asian American Advancing Justice | AAJC
- **Beth Fujimoto**, Assistant Vice President, Public Policy, AT&T
- **Congresswoman Doris Matsui** (CA-6)
- **Nirali Patel**, Vice President for Global Public Policy, Comcast
- **Albert Shen**, Strategy Manager, Public Sector Strategy, Verizon
- **Michael Nguyen**, Senior Policy & Advocacy Associate, OCA (Moderator)

**3:30 PM - 4:45 PM**

**Immigration: AAPIs are the Fastest Growing Immigrant Group**

*Sponsored by: FWD.us*

This panel will bring together community voices to discuss current immigration policy and its impact on the Asian American community. Panelists will also provide updates on immigration issues such as family reunification, legalization, naturalization, and Southeast Asian deportations. We’ll also hear from national Asian American community advocates who are leading the work in this space, including those that actively lead and participate in NCAPA’s Immigration Committee. NCAPA is the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, a coalition of 37 national AAPI organizations. Based in Washington D.C., NCAPA serves to represent the interests of the greater Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and to provide a national voice for AAPI issues.

- **Jenny Barin**, Director of Projects & Systems, Immigration, FWD.us
- **Patibra Khati Benjamin**, Executive Director, Adhikaar
- **Megan Essaheb**, Director of Immigration Advocacy, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
- **Michelle Liang**, Policy Manager, National Korean American Service & Education Consotrium (NAKASEC)
- **Kham Moua**, Director of National Policy, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
- **Jack Chin**, Professor, University of California, Davis (Moderator)
Tuesday, May 11th

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM  **The Asian American Experience: What the Community Faces Today**
This panel will discuss the historical context of anti-Asian public policy and how the Asian American movement is combating xenophobia and racism. It will also feature speakers from the organizations currently working to stop the rise in Asian American hate. Participants will also discuss the concept of microaggressions directed to Asian Americans and the impacts that implicit racism has on the community.
- **Manjusha Kulkarni**, Executive Director, A3PCON and Stop AAPI Hate
- **Congresswoman Grace Meng** (NY-6)
- **Janelle Wong, PhD**, Senior Researcher, AAPI Data
- **John C. Yang**, President and Executive Director, Asian American Advancing Justice | AAJC
- **Helen Zia**, Writer and Activist
- **Elaine Quijano**, Correspondent, CBSNews (Moderator)

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM  **COVID and its Economic Impact**
This panel will focus on how COVID has impacted the economy and affected AAPI communities around the country. We’ll hear from AAPI business leaders and subject matter experts on how the economy will recover from COVID and how AAPIs can ensure their economic well being.
- **Anna Chu**, Vice President for Strategy and Policy, National Women’s Law Center
- **Congresswoman Young Kim** (CA-39)
- **Daphne Kwok**, Vice President, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Asian American & Pacific Islander Audience Strategy, AARP
- **Susi Feltch-Malohifo’ou**, Chief Executive Officer & Director, Pacific Island Knowledge 2 Action Resources
- **Chiling Tong**, Chief Executive Officer & President, Asian & Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (National ACE)
- **Alvina Yeh**, Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)
- **Kurt Bardella**, Creator and Publisher (Moderator)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM  **The Tech Industry: Building the STEAM Pipeline**
**Sponsored by: Entertainment Software Association, Google**
The Tech Industry: “Building the STEAM Pipeline” panel will explore the tech industry and the role of the Asian American community in making sure America is competitive economically in the years to come. It will raise awareness and potential strategies that can be used to ensure diverse Asian American representation. The panel will also dive deeper into how we can encourage more hiring of Asian Americans in leadership roles.
- **Congressman Ro Khanna** (CA-17)
- **Yul Kwon**, Senior Director of Product Management and Chief-of-Staff to the Chief Legal Officer, Google
- **Hiro Tachibana**, Vice President & General Counsel, Capcom
- **Khánh Vũ**, CEO & Executive Director, Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers
- **Jannie Lau**, Vice Chair of the Asian American Advisory Council, Comcast NBCUniversal Joint Diversity Advisory Council (Moderator)
Wednesday, May 12th

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

Not All About Glamour: Asian Americans Working in Hollywood
Sponsored by: Disney, Motion Picture Association, Nielsen
This panel will present the voices of Asian American leaders in Hollywood. Participants represent a variety of roles within the broader entertainment industry who are working to ensure that there is more diversity in America. This discussion will follow how they ended up in this industry, challenges they have faced in roles where there are few other Asian Americans, and their thoughts on increasing diversity in these spaces. They will also share what their respective media companies plan to do in elevating Asian American stories, both in front and behind the camera.

- Ashley Chang, Senior Content Manager, Hulu
- Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-27)
- Patricia Ratulangi, VP, Global Communications - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Nielson
- Charles Rivkin, Chairman and CEO, Motion Picture Association (MPA)
- Mariecar Mendoza, Senior Arts and Entertainment Editor, San Francisco Chronicle (Moderator)

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Realizing the Power of Representation: AAPI Women Elected Officials
This panel will present the voices of AAPI women elected officials at the local and state levels from across the country during this historic election. The discussion will focus on their respective paths to elected office, representation of our community in their states, and challenges they face in their roles as AAPI elected officials.

- Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, Mulnomah County, Oregon
- Councilmember Esther Kia‘aina, Honolulu City, Hawai’i
- Representative Patty Kim, (PA District 103)
- Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy (FL-7)
- Congresswoman Amata Coleman Radewagen US Delegate to American Samoa
- Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Maryland House of Delegates
- Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) (Moderator)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

AA NHPI Food Insecurity and Food Access
This panel will focus on food insecurity within the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander communities and the lack of access to quality meals. It will also touch upon how COVID has exacerbated these issues and how we can help AA NHPI families access nutritious food. The panel will also talk about public charge, and how the recent withdrawal of the ruling may have implications on access to SNAP benefits.

- Winston Chiu, Founder and CEO, Feed Forward
- Moulika Hitchens, Community Food Systems Manager, Health Promotion, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
- Congressman Kai Kahele (HI-2)
- Melisa Laelan, Founder & Executive Director, Arkansas Coalition of Marshallse
- Dr. Tina Sadarangani, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, GNP-BC, Assistant Professor, New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing
Thursday, May 13th

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

Health Equity: Diversity in Clinical Trials and Health Outcomes
Sponsored by: Biogen, DataRobot, PhRMA
This panel will focus on the need for more diverse clinical trials and medical publications. We will be joined by experts in the field who are familiar with research on underserved and underrepresented communities, especially the Asian American community. The panel will also talk about the consequences of why we need diversity in research and the impacts that lack of representation has on Asian American health outcomes.

- **Behtash Bahador**, Associate Director, Relationship Management and Development, Center for Information and Study on Clinical Research Participation
- **Congressman Ami Bera** (CA-7)
- **Carolyn Ha**, Senior Director in the Policy and Research Development, PhRMA
- **Ellen Huang**, Director, Neurodegeneration Development Unit, Biogen
- **Haniyeh Mahmoudian**, Global AI Ethicist, DataRobot
- **LaTasha Lee, PhD, MPH**, Vice President, Clinical & Social Research and Development
- **Irene Bueno**, Co-Founder, NVG (Moderator)

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Diversity in the Workforce
Sponsored by: Apple, Dell, Walmart, Toyota
This panel will examine the work that companies from various sectors are doing around diversity and inclusion within their own corporate structures as well as in engaging externally with various communities.

- **Krish Gupta**, Senior Vice President - Litigation and Intellectual Property, Dell
- **Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi** (IL-8)
- **Phillip Thomas-Wallace**, Director of Federal Government Affairs, Walmart
- **Julia Wada**, Group Vice President, Strategy, Innovation, & Transformation, Toyota
- **Aimee Cho**, General Assignment Reporter, NBC4 Washington (Moderator)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

APAICS Town Hall with CAPAC Members
This panel will be a robust dialogue with CAPAC Chair Congresswoman Judy Chu and Honorary Legislative Leadership Summit Co-Chairs Congressman Andy Kim and Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland with moderator Kurt Bardella as they discuss how the AAPI community has come together in the past year during the pandemic while combating anti-Asian hate.

- **Congresswoman Judy Chu** (CA-27)
- **Congressman Andy Kim** (NJ-3)
- **Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland** (WA-10)
- **Kurt Bardella**, Creator and Publisher (Moderator)
Behtash Bahador is an Associate Director at the non-profit organization CISCRP, and holds a Master of Science in Health Communication from the Tufts University School of Medicine. Since 2014, he has collaborated with a range of stakeholder groups to establish and implement patient- and public-centric initiatives across the life-cycle of drug and treatment development. This has included supporting the development of regulatory and cross-disciplinary best practice guidelines, operationalizing key elements of evidence-based public health programing into research engagement activities, and always keeping the needs of patients, participants and the public at the forefront of his work.

Kurt Bardella has been a strategic communications advisor and media relations consultant for 16 years. He has worked with local, state, and federal government officials as well as a broad array of private enterprises, trade associations, and national media corporations. Throughout his career, Kurt has advised politicians, CEOs, entertainers, and media figures during crisis situations.

Kurt is currently an LA Times & USA Today Contributor who appears regularly on MSNBC programs such as Morning Joe, Deadline WH with Nicolle Wallace, and The ReidOut. He previously worked as the spokesperson and senior advisor for Republicans on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee under the leadership of Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA). During his time at the committee, Kurt choreographed the media strategy for investigations related to the 2008 financial crisis, the bailouts of financial institutions like Merrill Lynch and Bank of America, probes into corporate conglomerates such as Toyota, BP, and Johnson & Johnson. Kurt first came to Washington D.C. in 2006 to serve as the Communications Director & spokesperson for Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-CA) and later Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME). In his early days, Kurt was based in California where he worked for members of the California State Legislature, for the San Diego City Council, and for a local CBS affiliate as a producer and on-air reporter. Kurt is also the Creator and Publisher of the influential country music media platform the “Morning Hangover.”
Jenny Barin is a passionate immigration advocate who serves as the Projects & Systems Director at FWD.us. Her work has encompassed regulatory strategy, outreach and education to elected officials, and advocacy related to DACA at the Supreme Court. She is the proud daughter of Filipino immigrants, a graduate of Stanford University, and a current Bay Area resident.

Jenny Barin  
Director of Projects & Systems, Immigration, FWD.us

Pabitra Khati Benjamin is a builder, an organizer, a parent, and a lover of diverse cuisines. Pabitra immigrated to the US from Nepal with her parents when she was 7 and has lived in various states since then. Growing up in a working-class household, her passions for community organizing grew out of this experience. Pabitra’s life and work are rooted in the community. She began as a youth activist in Wisconsin, building community collaborations on issues of “diversity” and advocating for LGBTQ rights in the 90s. At the University of Wisconsin, eager to learn about how to shift power, she was trained as a student organizer through the United States Student Association. A supporter of Adhikaar since 2010, Pabitra was elected and has served as an active board member to the organization since 2015, demonstrating a strong commitment to facilitating leadership development as well as pressing us to deepen our political analysis and strategies. She began as Executive Director in 2017 and brings to Adhikaar strong and diverse alliances, seasoned and developed over the last two decades of her life, blending an intersectional approach to race, class, caste, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. Pabitra also brings a holistic approach to leadership, believing that by nurturing relationships among staff and all stakeholders, we stand stronger and more united in creating the change we seek. During her career, Pabitra has served in leading organizing efforts, with Amnesty International USA, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, the Rights Working Group, Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote, and Fair Wisconsin/Action WI Education Fund.

Pabitra Khati Benjamin  
Executive Director  
Adhikaar
Representative Bera is currently a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation. He is also a senior member on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Congressman Bera is also Vice Chair for Outreach for the New Democrat Coalition, a group of over 100 forward-thinking Democrats who are committed to pro-economic growth, pro-innovation, and fiscally responsible policies.

As a first-generation American born and raised in California, Congressman Bera grew up believing America was a land of opportunity, where if you worked hard and played by the rules, you could reach your full potential. He attended California’s public schools from grammar school through medical school, earning both his B.S. and M.D. from the University of California, Irvine. With help from his family, scholarships, and working part-time, he put himself through medical school while taking advantage of federally-funded student loans, and graduating with less than $10,000 in debt. He credits much of his success to his country’s investment in him, and he’s working to ensure that we continue to invest in hard working Americans to keep the American Dream alive for the next generation.

Laura Berrocal serves as Vice President of Policy and External Affairs at Charter Communications, where she specializes in policy and communications strategy development. In this role, Berrocal enables the company to work collaboratively with industry stakeholders and leading national organizations to drive legislative and regulatory solutions that benefit the communities Charter serves, its customers, and the company’s business development objectives.

Prior to joining Charter, Berrocal served as Director of External Affairs at CTIA, where she managed the wireless association’s grassroots, grassroots, and third party relationships. Berrocal was responsible for developing and implementing policy communications strategies to educate communities, including state and local policymakers, on CTIA’s work across the wireless and technology sector. Previously, Berrocal served as Vice President of Public Policy and Legislative Affairs for Net Communications, where she managed legislative, business development, and communications strategies for corporations and trade associations spanning the telecommunications, energy, and utility sectors. Berrocal has also worked with several leading national and international organizations providing public policy counsel in the areas of technology, energy, and health.

Berrocal holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from The George Washington University and a B.A. in Political Science and Professional Studies in Spanish from Temple University.
Irene B. Bueno is a born leader. And she knows how leaders – including key decision-makers throughout government – think. With decades of experience working in and with the highest levels of government, Irene provides clients with critical insights and advice on issues ranging from education to health care. 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 (APAICS). 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.
Ashley Chang is a Senior Content Manager at Hulu. As one of the senior executives on the Drama team, she’s currently working on a number of projects including the upcoming limited series Dopesick starring Michael Keaton, Conversations with Friends, and Love, Victor. She is also currently serving as a Co-Chair of Disney’s Creative Inclusion Council, led by Bob Iger.

Prior to joining Hulu, she was a Senior Director of Development at Funny Or Die, where she served as a Producer on the Netflix series American Vandal, which went on to win a Peabody Award, CBS All-Access series No Activity, and Comedy Central’s The New Negroes. She began her career as an Agent Trainee at Creative Artists Agency before becoming an executive at Ryan Murphy TV, where she worked on critically acclaimed series Glee and American Horror Story. She also worked as an executive in Current Programming at Universal Television, where she worked on numerous shows such as The Mindy Project and Master of None.

Emily Chi is the Assistant Director of Telecommunications, Technology, and Media at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, where she is responsible for developing and providing public policy research, strategies, analysis, and education on telecommunications, technology, and media diversity. Prior to joining Advancing Justice- AAJC, Emily worked as a researcher on various projects at the Harvard Kennedy School, including Product & Society at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy and the Technology and Public Purpose (TAPP) Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

Emily started her career as a paralegal at the U.S. Department of Justice in the Antitrust Division. She went on to work with various Bay Area tech companies to build ethical and consumer privacy-centered products. She has also worked with local government agencies in Toulouse, France and Boston, MA to conduct user research and launch accessible and safe online tools for the community.

Emily received her B.A. in Legal Studies and Political Economy from the University of California, Berkeley. She received her MPP at the Harvard Kennedy School, where she served as Co-Chair of the Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus and contributed to the Asian American Policy Review. Her studies and research in graduate school centered around the social impact of developing technologies, especially in the context of racial equity and workers’ rights.
Jack Chin joined the faculty of the UC Davis School of Law in 2011, where he is now the Edward L. Barrett Jr. Chair and Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law. A graduate of Wesleyan University, and the Michigan and Yale law schools, he clerked for the U.S. District Judge Richard P. Matsch in Denver, and practiced with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom and the Legal Aid Society of New York before entering academia.

He has written extensively in Asian American Legal History. His recent work includes the Duke Law Journal article The War Against Chinese Restaurants, the Boston University Law Review article A Nation of White Immigrants: State and Federal racial Preferences for White Noncitizens, and the The War Against Asian Sailors and Fishers, which is forthcoming in the UCLA Law Review.

He has worked on several law reform projects with students including persuading Ohio to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, Kansas, New Mexico and Wyoming to repeal anti-Asian alien land laws, and the California Supreme Court to admit Hong Yen Chang, the first Chinese American lawyer in the United States, over a century after they excluded him from the bar because of his race.

A New York City Chef and entrepreneur, Winston spent a decade working as an Actuary in a top risk consulting firm before realizing his true calling in the culinary arts. Winston’s sought experience working in some of the top fine dining restaurants in NYC before venturing out to eventually become an owner of both a catering and several restaurants in New York; Bonbite Catering and Little Tong Noodle Shop. In 2017, he cofounded and served as the Chief Strategy Officer of a New York based Non-profit, Rethink Food, which most recently helped distribute and serve over 2.5M+ meals to homebound seniors and those displaced by CoVid-19. As of late 2020, Winston is the Founder & CEO of Feed Forward, an organization which its mission is to empower a health conscious, sustainable, and equitable food economy, through innovative programs, products, and consultancy.
Aimee Cho is a general assignment reporter for News4. Cho grew up in Great Falls, Virginia, where she wanted to be a journalist from a young age. She attended Langley High School then Cornell University. Cho wrote for the Cornell Daily Sun and for Ithaca College’s student-run TV station. After being accepted into the prestigious Emma Bowen Foundation Internship Program, Cho spent three summers at NBC4 working in various departments, including the newsroom. At the conclusion of her participation in 2016, NBC4 hired her to be a multimedia journalist.

During her time at NBC4, Cho won two awards for her work as a multimedia journalist, shooting, writing and editing stories. One was an EMMY from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the second was from the Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters. Cho also earned an EMMY for a profile of a beloved Bethesda football coach with Down syndrome. Cho is very involved in the Asian American Journalists Association. She currently lives in Chevy Chase.

Juliet K. Choi is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), a national health justice organization which influences policy, mobilizes communities, and strengthens programs and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. She is an accomplished cross-sector leader and coalition builder who specializes in change management, system reform and stakeholder relations, particularly in the areas of immigration, civil rights, healthcare and disaster relief. A senior executive, she served in the Obama administration as the former chief of staff and senior advisor of two federal agencies: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to her political appointments, she led disaster relief operations and strategic partnerships at the American Red Cross as a member of the disaster leadership team. She has previously worked at the Partnership for Public Service, Asian American Justice Center, Mental Health America, and a Fortune 500 corporation. Juliet received her law school’s Alumni Association Award for Leadership and Character and Rising Star Alumnus Award. Currently, she serves on the boards of the NAPABA Law Foundation and national YWCA USA. A certified mediator, Juliet received her J.D. from University of Maryland School of Law and clerked for the Hon. Dennis M. Sweeney (ret.) of the Circuit Court for Howard County, Maryland. She received her B.A. in Economics from University of Virginia.
Anna Chu, Vice President for Strategy and Policy, shapes NWLC’s cross-cutting advocacy and policy work and leads federal and state government relations strategy. Prior to joining NWLC, Ms. Chu served as the Vice President of Policy and Research at the Center for American Progress (CAP) Action Fund, leading its economic justice advocacy work, and was previously the Director of CAP’s Middle Out Economic Program. She has also served as the Policy Director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and spent time on Capitol Hill as Policy Advisor for the House Democratic Caucus. After attending the University of Southern California Law School, she began her career as a law clerk to former Chief Judge Jane A. Restani in her sittings before the U.S. Court of International Trade and in six different federal appellate courts, and then spent time as an attorney at Paul Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP. Ms. Chu currently serves on the National Governing Board of the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum.

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, Worker and Family Support, and Oversight.

She also serves on the House Small Business Committee, which has oversight of the Small Business Administration, and is the Chair of the Small Business Oversight Subcommittee.

Chu was first elected to the Board of Education for Garvey School District in 1985. From there, she was elected to the Monterey Park City Council, where she served as Mayor three times. She then was elected to the State Assembly and then California’s elected tax board, known as the State Board of Equalization. In 2009, she became the first Chinese American woman elected to Congress in history.

In 2011, Chu was elected Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, which advocates for the needs and concerns of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community across the nation. She helps lead the Tri-Caucus, a joint effort with the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.
Senator Tammy Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient and former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who was among the first handful of Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2014. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 after representing Illinois’s Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms.

In 2004, Duckworth was deployed to Iraq as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot for the Illinois Army National Guard. On November 12, 2004, her helicopter was hit by an RPG and she lost her legs and partial use of her right arm. Senator Duckworth spent the next year recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she quickly became an advocate for her fellow Soldiers. After she recovered, she became Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, where she helped create a tax credit for employers that hire Veterans, established a first-in-the-nation 24/7 Veterans crisis hotline and developed innovative programs to improve Veterans’ access to housing and health care.

In 2009, President Obama appointed Duckworth as an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, where she coordinated a joint initiative with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help end Veteran homelessness, worked to address the unique challenges faced by female as well as Native American Veterans and created the Office of Online Communications to improve the VA’s accessibility, especially among young Veterans.

In the U.S. Senate, Duckworth advocates for practical, common-sense solutions needed to move our state and country forward like rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, protecting Illinoisans from lead poisoning, growing manufacturing jobs while supporting minority-owned small businesses, investing in communities that have been ignored for too long and making college more affordable for all Americans. She co-founded the Senate’s first-ever Environmental Justice Caucus and also continues her lifelong mission of supporting, protecting and keeping the promises we’ve made to our Veterans as well as ensuring that we stand fully behind the troops our nation sends into danger overseas. In 2018, after Duckworth became the first Senator to give birth while serving in office, she sent a message to working families across the country about the value of family-friendly policies by securing a historic rules change that allows Senators to bring their infant children onto the Senate floor.

Duckworth is fluent in Thai and Indonesian. She attended college at the University of Hawaii and earned a Master of Arts in International Affairs from the George Washington University. Following graduation, Duckworth moved to Illinois and began pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science at Northern Illinois University and later worked for Rotary International.
Megan Essaheb
Director of Immigration Advocacy
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Megan Horn Essaheb is the Director of Immigration Advocacy at Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC. Megan serves as the co-chair of the Leadership Conference’s Immigration Task Force and the co-chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans immigration committee. Megan advocates in Congress and federal agencies on issues affecting Asian Americans and other immigrants including, access to status for undocumented immigrants, family reunification visas, enforcement policy and appropriations.

Before joining Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, Megan worked at Farmworker Justice where she engaged in policy advocacy on immigration and labor issues affecting farmworkers. Prior to attending law school, Megan was a member of Teach For America in Miami, where she taught for four years.

Megan holds a law degree from Fordham University School of Law where she was a Stein Scholar in Public Interest Law and Ethics. Megan received her B.A. from Wesleyan University.

Susie Feliz brings nearly over fifteen years of federal policy, legislative and advocacy experience supporting causes that advance social and economic change in underserved communities. As the Vice President, Policy and Legislative Affairs for the National Urban League, she leads the National Urban League Washington Bureau’s policy team in the development of public policy priorities and advocacy strategies that advance the National Urban League’s economic empowerment and civil rights agenda. Susie represents the Urban League externally through strategic advocacy before Congress and the Administration as well as through targeted education and outreach to business leaders, advocacy organizations and other key stakeholders and partners. Before joining the National Urban League, Susie served in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate for a decade, advising four members of Congress including as a legislative aide to former Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and legislative director to Representatives Joe Baca (CA-43), AL Green (TX-09) and Karen Bass (CA-37).

Susie Feliz
Vice President, Policy and Legislative Affairs for the National Urban League (NUL)

Twitter: @Nulpolicy and @SusiesDC
Susi Feltch-Malohifo’ou is the CEO of PIK2AR, Pacific Island Knowledge 2 Action Resources a 5 year strength-based 501C3 community based ecosystem of empowering events, programs and services. PIK2AR focuses on empowered living, economic impact, preserving and perpetuating all Pacific Island cultures with dignity, hope and self efficacy. We create alliances and bridge communities, education, resources, support, opportunities and connections to improve the whole health of communities, one person at a time from the inside out.

Susi has a diverse background of experiences in corporate, small business and non profit work coupled with her lived experiences as a survivor of sexual assault and domestic violence, living with mental illness and as an ex felon who received the FBI Community Leader award in 2019 for the state of Utah helps her create structures people can succeed in and empower themselves to their own higher ground.

Ms Susi is a transracial adoptee that was born in the Kingdom of Tonga. Biological daughter of Teleita Vaitai Havili from Taunga, Vava’u, Tonga and Te’apaa Bloomfield from Fatai, Tongatapu, Tonga.

Susi is an avid learner and active in the community. Serves currently as the Utah Public Health Associations Community Health Workers Section Chair, on the Salt Lake County Domestic Violence Coalition Executive Board, Salt Lake County’s CODA Business Committee and a co-founder of Living Color Utah. Susi is a mentor sharing her unique life experiences, continually code switching to empower and navigate in a multicultural, multiethnic world for herself and those around her.

Beth Fujimoto, AVP – Public Policy for AT&T is responsible for state and federal policy development on 21st Century broadband universal service issues including broadband funding mechanisms, Lifeline support for people who have low incomes, and how these programs are funded.

Before joining AT&T, Ms. Fujimoto was a Director of External Affairs for Cingular Wireless; State Regulatory Counsel for AT&T Wireless; a partner in the Honolulu law firm of Watanabe Ing & Kawashima; and Head Researcher and Budget Analyst for the Ways & Means Committee of the Hawai‘i State Senate.

Ms. Fujimoto was born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii. She is a graduate of the Seattle University School of Law and the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa, and lives in Redmond, Washington.
Krish is Senior Vice President for Litigation and Intellectual Property for Dell. Krish leads the litigation and intellectual property teams with global responsibility for managing and resolving business and intellectual property litigation and disputes, providing legal support for and developing the company’s policies for patents, trademarks and copyrights, open source and standards, building and managing the patent, trademark and domain portfolios, intellectual property licensing, driving patent and IP policy efforts and IP support for M&A activities and commercial transactions.

Krish serves as Treasurer and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO), a trade association for owners of patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets. Krish is past President of the Association of Corporate Patent Counsel (ACPC), a membership association of Chief Intellectual Property Counsel of businesses operating in the United States and serves on its Executive Committee. Krish also serves on the Board of the Northeast Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, a global legal association that promotes the common professional and business interests of in-house counsel who work for corporations, associations and other private-sector organizations. Krish also serves as Trustee for The Foundation for Advancement of Diversity in IP Law. Krish also represents Dell on the Board of The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), a national organization dedicated to promoting Asian Pacific American participation and representation at all levels of the political process, from community service to elected office. Krish holds an MS degree in Electrical Engineering from Clemson University and a JD from Suffolk University Law School.

Congressman Jimmy Gomez proudly represents California’s 34th Congressional District, one of the most diverse and culturally rich districts in the country. In the 117th Congress, he serves as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, sits on the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means, and serves as an Assistant Whip for the House Democratic Caucus. Congressman Gomez is also a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), and Future Forum.

Prior to his election to Congress in June of 2017, Congressman Gomez served four and a half years in the California State Assembly where he served as Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. In the Assembly, Congressman Gomez distinguished himself as a proven national champion of paid family leave and combatting climate change. He became a key figure in authoring landmark legislation to address public health, environmental justice, water conservation, access to education, civic engagement, campaign finance disclosure, LGBTQ rights, and affordable housing.
Carolyn Ha, Pharm.D., is a Senior Director in the Policy and Research Department at PhRMA, where she provides clinical expertise to shape policy development and advocacy related to population health and chronic disease management, improvement of medication use and clinical quality strategies. As a clinician, she is passionate about improving patient care and health outcomes, and translating research into actionable policies that will ensure patients get the most out of their medications and creating an equitable health care delivery system that incentivizes innovation. Carolyn received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Rutgers University and is a registered pharmacist in Virginia. Prior to joining PhRMA, she spent time as a practitioner in a community pharmacy and advocated on behalf of independent pharmacy owners.

Moulika Anna Hitchens has been serving as the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center’s Community Food Systems Manager since 2018. Her role is the first of its kind in Hawaii and was created by the Director of Health Promotion at the center as result of the health disparities that exists due to injustices related to healthy, culturally relevant food access.

She is responsible for developing and providing oversight to innovative food security programs and initiatives aimed at increasing food equity and food literacy through School Pantries, Mākeke Farmers Markets, Keiki Produce Prescription Program, Mobile Summer Meals, Mobile Pantry and the Health Center’s Food Pantry. Her parents are Cambodian refugees who survived genocide and was stripped of their culture and robbed of their land. Through food, she is working with communities to reclaim foodways to perpetuate health, wellness and culture all while honoring the land.

From March 2020 to March 2021, her team led emergency food distribution efforts in Waianae resulting in 309,810 meals served and over 3.05 million pounds of food distributed to 36,451 households experiencing food insecurity through WCCHC’s Mobile Food Pantries, Community Food Distributions and Front line Worker Distributions.
Ellen Huang, Pharm.D., is a Director, Clinical Operations Program Lead at Biogen. Ellen has over 20 years of experience in clinical research. She has held multiple roles within clinical research and worked across many therapeutic areas including multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer’s disease. At Biogen, Ellen currently leads program level clinical operations strategy in a number of assets within the Neurodegeneration Development Unit. As part of program level clinical operations strategy, she ensures that strategies around enrollment of underserved and underrepresented patient populations are incorporated in clinical development plan. Ellen received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of Michigan.

Ellen Huang
Director, Neurodegeneration Development Unit
Biogen

Stuart Ishimaru served as the inaugural Director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau from 2012 to his retirement in 2018, and also served concurrently as the Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Fairness. He previously was appointed by President Bush to serve as a Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 2003 to 2012, and designated by President Obama to serve as Acting Chairman from 2009-10. He served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General and as Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice from 1994 to 2001. He was appointed by President Clinton to serve as the Acting Staff Director of the Commission on Civil Rights, 1993-94. He served on the professional staff of the House Armed Services Committee, 1991-93, and the House Judiciary Committee 1984-91. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and the George Washington University School of Law.

Stuart Ishimaru
Former Assistant Director
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Susheela Jayapal has proudly served as your District 2 Multnomah County Commissioner since January, 2019. She was born in India, and came to the United States when she was 16, to go to college. An Oregonian since 1994, Susheela has lived in Northeast Portland for over 25 years, and is the mother of two Grant High School graduates. Susheela is a lawyer, whose last legal job was as General Counsel for adidas America; and has also spent two decades as a volunteer community leader/advocate for a number of different community-based organizations.

Susheela’s diverse experiences prepared her for the multifaceted role of a County Commissioner. As a commissioner she, along with other commissioners, oversees the annual budget process to ensure that public resources are distributed in an equitable, sustainable, and compassionate manner.

U.S. Representative Kaiali‘i (Kai) Kahele is serving his first term in Congress. He represents Hawai‘i’s 2nd Congressional District, encompassing the islands of Hawai‘i, Maui, Kaho‘olawe, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, Kaua‘i, Ni‘ihau and the rural parts of O‘ahu, including Waimanālo, Kailua, Kāne‘ohe, the North Shore, and Leeward coast.

Congressman Kahele serves on two House committees, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, one of the largest committees in Congress that has jurisdiction over all modes of transportation, and the Armed Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over U.S. defense policy, including ongoing military operations.

Congressman Kahele is a combat veteran, pilot and a commissioned officer in the Hawai‘i Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force where he continues to serve as a lieutenant colonel at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai‘i. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules pilot in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Kahele served in the Hawai‘i State Senate where he represented the 1st Senatorial District, which encompasses the greater area of Hilo on the island of Hawai‘i. During his tenure as a state senator, he served as the Majority Whip and Majority Floor Leader as well as the Chair of the Committees on Higher Education and Water and Land.

He earned a B.S. in Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa where he was a member of the University’s NCAA Division 1 volleyball team. He is a graduate of Hilo High School and resides on Hawai‘i.
Congressman Ro Khanna
(CA-17)

Esther Kiaʻāina serves as the Vice-Chair of the Honolulu City Council and Councilmember representing District III, the Windward side of Oahu. She is also the Executive Director of the Pacific Basin Development Council, a regional organization that advances economic and social development in the Pacific Islands.

Esther served in the Obama Administration as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas at the U.S. Department of the Interior, which included coordinating overall federal policy for the U.S. territories and financial assistance for the Freely Associated States of Micronesia.

Previously, Esther served as the First Deputy for Hawaii’s Department of Land and Natural Resources, Chief Advocate for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Land Asset Manager for the Kamehameha Schools, Hawaii’s largest private landowner. She had an extensive career on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., starting as a volunteer intern for Senator Daniel Inouye after college and later serving as Legislative Assistant for Senator Daniel Akaka, Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Guam Congressman Robert Underwood, and Chief of Staff for Congressman Ed Case.
Congressman Andy Kim was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018. He represents the Third Congressional District of New Jersey, which stretches from the Delaware River to the Jersey Shore encompassing most of Burlington County and parts of Ocean County.

As a member of the House, Congressman Kim serves on the House Armed Services Committee, the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Small Business.

In his first term, Congressman Kim passed bills into law that help military servicemembers and their families find economic opportunities and stopped the use of harmful chemicals that impact New Jersey’s water by the U.S. military. In addition, Congressman Kim has held more than two dozen town halls and has helped constituents by resolving more than 4,300 issues with federal agencies.

Prior to serving in the House, Congressman Kim worked as a career public servant under both Democrats and Republicans. He served at USAID, the Pentagon, the State Department, the White House National Security Council, and in Afghanistan as an advisor to Generals Petraeus and Allen.

He currently lives in Burlington county with his wife and two baby boys.

State Representative Patty Kim, a former news anchor and reporter and Harrisburg City Councilwoman, was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 2012 and has been a leader in government reform and transparency. She returned her cost of living increase (COLA) and introduced a bill to eliminate the yearly pay increases. She is also one of the only members of the House to post all of her expenses on her legislative website for public review.

Kim’s priorities in the General Assembly include taking a solution-based approach to statewide issues, working in cooperation and collaboration with colleagues, and utilizing her record of service to support initiatives that stand to better the lives of the citizens she represents.

Kim serves on the Appropriations, Education, Insurance and Local Government committees. She is Vice Co-Chair of the Southeast Delegation. During her second term, she served as Treasurer for the Legislative Black Caucus.

A 1995 graduate of Boston College, Kim is married to John Sider and together they have two children, Brielle and Ryan.
Congresswoman Young Kim is proud to represent California’s 39th District, which includes parts of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As an immigrant to the United States, Young has dedicated her life to giving back to her community. She started her public service as Director of Community Relations and Asian Affairs for former Congressman Ed Royce (CA-39), where she was a key liaison to 39th District and advisor on issues pertaining to the Asian-American community and foreign policy.

Prior to serving in Congress, Young was the first ever Korean-American Republican woman to serve in the California State Assembly. As an Assemblywoman, Young fought to grow jobs, support small businesses, ensure public safety, promote educational opportunities, support veterans, and protect victims of domestic violence.

Young is a small business owner, a long-time community leader, and has been actively involved in numerous organizations throughout the 39th District. She and her husband Charles reside in La Habra and are the proud parents of four grown children – Christine, Kelly, Alvin, and Hannah.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi represents the 8th District of Illinois, which includes Chicago’s west and northwest suburbs. He serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, the Committee on Oversight and Reform and as Chairman of its Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, Co-Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Immigration Task Force, and as an Assistant Whip for the Democratic caucus.

He also is the founder and Chairman of both the bipartisan Congressional Caucus to End the Youth Vaping Epidemic and the bipartisan Solar Caucus.

Raja previously served in Illinois state government on the board of the Illinois Housing Development Authority, as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the office’s anti-corruption unit, and as Deputy State Treasurer, before becoming president of small technology businesses in the Chicago area. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University, and received his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School.

Raja and his wife, Priya, a physician, live in Schaumburg with their two sons and daughter.
Manjusha P. Kulkarni (Manju) is Executive Director of Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), a coalition of over forty community-based organizations that serves and represents the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles County. Manju also serves as a Lecturer in the Asian American Studies Department of UCLA. In March 2020, Manju co-founded Stop AAPI Hate, the nation’s leading aggregator of COVID-19-related hate incidents against AAPIs.

Manju’s work has been featured in numerous publications, including the New York Times, CBS News, and CNN, as well as several ethnic media outlets. On March 18, 2021, Manju testified before Congress at the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties on the issue of anti-Asian hate; she shared Stop AAPI Hate data as well as policy recommendations for addressing the current wave of racism and discrimination faced by AAPIs in the U.S.

Manju received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University and a Juris Doctor degree from Boston University School of Law. In 2014, Manju received the White House Champions of Change award from President Obama for her dedication to improving health care access for Asians American communities.

Daphne Kwok is the Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Asian American & Pacific Audience 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.

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 and board member of the Asian American Advertising Federation.
Yul is a senior director of product management and chief-of-staff to the Chief Legal Officer at Google. He previously worked at Facebook, the Federal Communications Commission, McKinsey & Company, and two law firms. He also served as an adjunct instructor at the FBI Academy, a legislative counsel in the U.S Senate, and a judicial clerk on the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals.

Yul hosted the PBS series, America Revealed, and anchored KCETLink’s weekly news program, LinkAsia, from 2011-2013. In 2006, Yul became the first Asian American winner of the CBS reality show, Survivor. He returned in 2020 to compete in the 40th season, Survivor: Winners at War.

Yul received his B.S. in Symbolic Systems from Stanford University, and his J.D. from Yale Law School.

Melisa Laelan is a native of the Marshall Islands, born and raise in the capital city of Majuro. At age 17, she decided to leave the Islands to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Her career in the Army required her to travel globally, which gave her the first-hand exposure to other cultures. It was then that she found her interest in working with people from different walks of lives.

After ten years of serving in the Armed Forces, she ended her enlistment to attend University of Arkansas. Shortly after her move to Arkansas, she discovered the need to have an interpreter in the court system. After two years pursuing her interpreter’s license, Laelan became the first certified interpreter in the nation in 2013. Subsequently, she was appointed by former Governor Mike Beebe to serve on the Arkansas Minority Health Commission. Her official appointment makes her the first Marshall Islander to serve on a State agency capacity. She was reappointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson. She is a recipient of 40 under 40 award by Northwest Arkansas Business Journal in 2014.

Laelan is the founder of Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese (ACOM), a not-for-profit organization that is a Marshallese-operated organization and focuses on health, leadership, education and culture. She is now the Chief Executive Director for the organization. Her daily work put her in the middle of social services and policy advocacy, especially around Marshallese issues. Her leadership led to recent changes in state laws. In 2018, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed a resolution that allows Marshallese children to have access to the State Medicaid program. Her latest policy work has led to the passing of bill HB 1488 and HB 1789, both bills give Marshallese mothers and children protection against human trafficking and adoption schemes. Her relentless advocacy work has led to victorious in a 25-year battle in restoring the COFA Medicaid, extending the Medicaid program to over 56,000 COFA migrants living in the United States.
Jannie K. Lau is the current Vice Chair of the Asian American Advisory Council within the Comcast NBCUniversal Joint Diversity Advisory Council (JDC). Comprised of national leaders in business, politics and civil rights, the JDC provides advice to senior executives at Comcast and NBCUniversal regarding the development and implementation of diversity, inclusion and social justice initiatives in the following five focus areas: Governance, Our People, Supplier Diversity, Programming and Community Investment. Ms. Lau has also served on the Advisory Board of Holistic Industries, one of the largest private, vertically integrated, multi-state operators in the cannabis industry, since 2017.

From October 2012 until her retirement in December 2019, Ms. Lau was the Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of InterDigital, Inc., an S&P 400® multinational technology company (NASDAQ: IDCC). Reporting to the President and Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Lau managed the company’s legal and government affairs functions, including a worldwide team of over 100 legal professionals, and advised the Board of Directors on legal, governance and compliance matters.

Prior to joining InterDigital, Ms. Lau served as securities and transactional counsel at IKON Office Solutions, Inc., then a Fortune® 500 technology company. Before beginning her in-house career, she was a corporate associate at leading global law firms in New York and Boston, where she represented public and pre-IPO companies, primarily in the high technology sector, with respect to securities regulation, mergers and acquisitions, financings and corporate governance matters and counseled private equity and venture capital fund managers on capital formations, portfolio investments and general governance issues.

Ms. Lau currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and on the Board of Directors of the Committee of Seventy. Among other recognitions, Ms. Lau has been honored as one of Pennsylvania’s “Most Powerful & Influential Women” by the National Diversity Council and as a “Woman of the Year” by The Legal Intelligencer.
LaTasha H. Lee, PhD, MPH is responsible for the oversight and implementation of research projects and programs focused on reducing patient risk and identifying optimal care to reduce health disparities and bring about health equity. She also provides input into the overall strategy for research partnerships and health equity research for NMQF. Tasha is working on several projects focused on disproportionate COVID-19 rates and outcomes of individuals in communities of color and diversity in clinical research.

A knowledgeable, skilled and energetic scientist and public policy advisor with experience on Capitol Hill, Dr. Lee has worked very closely with Congress and federal agencies to monitor biomedical research and access to care policy related to various diseases impacting communities of color. She earned her PhD in Integrative Biology with a concentration on Neuroscience from Florida Atlantic University, a MPH in epidemiology from The George Washington University (GWU), and a Bachelor’s in Biology from Florida A&M University. Dr. Lee is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at GWU School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the recipient of numerous awards including the 2018 National Minority Quality Forum’s 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health, Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust Staff Leadership Award in recognition of efforts to end health disparities and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Florida Atlantic University.

Michelle Liang is the Policy Manager at the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) - an Asian American organization organizing for racial, social, and economic justice, with a focus on securing a pathway to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented folx including those formerly or currently incarcerated. Liang was born and raised in the East Bay Area before receiving her Bachelor of Arts at Harvard College in History & Literature, and Studies of Women, Gender, & Sexuality, with a secondary in Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights. Previously, she was a policy intern at Amnesty International and Kushina, a mental health organization in Zimbabwe. During her time in school, she was a recipient of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Grant, Frank M. Boas Fellowship, Lenn Thrower Fellowship, Institute of Politics Director’s Internship grant, and Global Health Institute Summer Fellowship. She also studied and conducted research abroad in Jordan and the Netherlands focusing on the refugee crisis and health and humanitarian action.
Haniyeh is a Global AI Ethicist at DataRobot’s Trusted AI team. Her research focuses on bias, privacy, robustness and stability, and ethics in AI and Machine Learning. She has a demonstrated history of implementing ML and AI in a variety of industries and initiated the incorporation of bias and fairness feature into DataRobot product. She is a thought leader in the area of AI bias and ethical AI. Haniyeh holds a PhD in Astronomy and Astrophysics from the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn.

Haniyeh Mahmoudian
Global AI Ethicist
DataRobot

Clarissa Martínez-De-Castro is passionate about strengthening civil society. As Deputy Vice President at UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza), the largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S, she helps lead the organization’s Policy and Advocacy division. In that role, she oversees efforts to advance fair and effective immigration policies, and to expand Latino civic engagement by helping immigrants become citizens, citizens become voters, and the community overall become an active participant in policy debates. She designed Rise Above, a pilot initiative to build a positive, accurate narrative of our changing America that fosters collaborative action.

Clarissa Martínez-De-Castro
Deputy Vice President, Policy and Advocacy
UnidosUS

A frequent commentator on the Latino electorate and immigration issues on television, radio and print media, she is a graduate of Occidental College and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, a U.S. Vote Foundation advisory board member, a 2015 Presidential Leadership Scholar, and a Nantucket Project 2015 Catalyst Fellow. She also represents UnidosUS on the advisory board of We Can Vote.
Congresswoman Doris Matsui has represented the city of Sacramento and its surrounding areas since 2005. As a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, she serves on the Health, Environment and Climate Change, and Consumer Protection and Commerce subcommittees and is the Vice Chair on the Communications and Technology subcommittee. She is committed to strengthening Sacramento’s flood protection, ensuring quality, affordable health care for all, promoting a clean energy economy, and creating a vibrant region where families can live, work, and play.

Before coming to Congress, Doris Matsui served as Chairwoman on the Board for the KVIE public television station in Sacramento, and in leadership capacities for the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento Children’s Home, and the Sacramento Symphony Orchestra.

After growing up on a farm in California’s Central Valley, Congresswoman Matsui graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. She served as one of eight members of President Clinton’s transition board and later served as Deputy Assistant to the President in the White House Office of Public Liaison. Congresswoman Matsui succeeded her late husband Robert Matsui (who served in Congress from 1979-2005) in a special election in March 2005.

Congresswoman Matsui has a son Brian Matsui and a daughter-in-law Amy Matsui. She has two grandchildren, Anna and Robby. In the Spring of 2020, Congresswoman Matsui married Roger Sant, adding four children, their spouses, and six grandchildren to her family.

Mariecar Mendoza is the senior arts and entertainment editor for the San Francisco Chronicle, where she manages daily coverage and audience engagement for Datebook and datebook.sfchronicle.com.

Prior to The Chronicle, Mariecar was a features digital editor for the Los Angeles News Group, helping cover major pop culture moments in the region like Coachella and Comic-Con to the Emmys and Oscars. She also worked as a multimedia news reporter for several publications throughout the state.

Mariecar currently serves as the vice president of the Asian American Journalists Association’s San Francisco-Bay Area chapter and is co-director of AAJA Features Forum, a group that aims to provide programming, services and support for features, arts, entertainment and lifestyle journalists of color.
As a child growing up in the most diverse county in America, Grace quickly came to believe that every person deserves a seat at the table. Whether young or old, rich or poor, she believes every voice deserves to be heard. That conviction prompted Grace to begin her professional career as a public interest lawyer before serving two terms in the New York State Assembly.

Now, in her third term in Congress, Grace continues to advocate for inclusive policies that benefit the vulnerable and the often overlooked. From her seat on the House Appropriations Committee, and as the mother of two young boys – Tyler and Brandon – she regularly fights for federal programs that benefit women and children. She even co-founded the Bipartisan Congressional Kids’ Safety Caucus which she still co-chairs.

Grace is the national leader on issues pertaining to menstrual hygiene product safety and availability. She successfully fought for the provision of menstrual hygiene products to homeless women, fights for their availability to incarcerated women, denounced the discriminatory tampon tax in New York, and has introduced federal legislation that would require menstrual hygiene product labels to include a list of ingredients.

Grace represents the only congressional district located entirely in Queens, New York, where she continues to live with her husband, Dr. Wayne Kye, a professor at New York University’s College of Dentistry, and her two boys. She attended New York City public schools, including Stuyvesant High School, received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, and earned her law degree from Yeshiva University’s Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.
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.

After returning from the ’96 campaign, Ms. Mielke worked for the Co-Executive Director at the Presidential Inaugural Committee and later to Vice President Gore’s team. Ms. Mielke started fundraising while working at the New Democrat Network PAC and she returned to her roots as the Training Director for the Ron Brown-Paul Tully Institute (BTI), the training arm of the DNC. In 2002 Ms. Mielke started her political consulting firm, specializing in fundraising and political training. Madalene has collaborated with the NAACP National Voter Fund, John Kerry for President, Democratic National Committee Asian American Leadership Council, Mike Honda for Congress, Friends of Hillary, CHC BOLD PAC, Akaka for US Senate, Xavier Becerra for Congress, Mazie Hirono for Congress, Honda for Congress, America’s Opportunity Fund, Asian American Action (AAA) Fund and Young Democrats of America to raise millions of dollars to empower communities of color.

Throughout her career, Madalene has been a featured speaker or trainer at many conferences and trainings including the American Medical Association (AMA), the Center for Asian Pacific American Women, Virginia Leadership Institute, Netroots Nation, Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL), and numerous other organizations and non-profits.

She has spent her entire professional political career working to bring diversity to the political process and nurturing candidates and staff as they move forward in bringing political change. The Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce awarded Ms. Mielke with its National Community Service award for her work in mentoring and promoting Vietnamese American civic participation.

Madalene is a proud graduate of Tulane University, Newcomb College. She serves as a mentor through a variety of collegiate mentoring programs including the Newcomb College Institute Women to Women Mentoring Program and Georgetown University’s Politics Mentorship Program.
Becky Monroe is the director of the Fighting Hate and Bias program. She was previously the director of the Divided Community Project, supporting local leaders in addressing the reasons underlying community division, including racism and other forms of discrimination. Before that, Monroe launched the Stop Hate Project at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. She led a team of attorneys and organizers in developing innovative legal and advocacy strategies to support people targeted for hate. Monroe joined the Lawyers’ Committee after working for almost eight years for the Obama administration. At the Department of Justice, she was the director for policy and planning and senior counselor to the assistant attorney general for civil rights. She also worked at the White House Domestic Policy Council as a senior policy advisor. And as acting director of the DOJ’s Community Relations Service, she led implementation of its expanded statutory mandate to support communities combating hate. Before joining the government, Monroe was the director of the Employment Rights Project at Bet Tzedek Legal Services in California, where she represented undocumented immigrant workers and women trafficked for labor. Prior to Bet Tzedek, Monroe worked at Strumwasser and Woocher, LLP. A graduate of Georgetown University and Yale Law School, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard A. Paez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Kham S. Moua (he/him/his) is SEARAC’s Director of National Policy and spearheads their national policy portfolio through policy and political analysis, community engagement, and legislative and regulatory advocacy. Prior to SEARAC, Kham was the Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy at OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates. While there, he helped found the AAPI Technology and Telecommunications Table, the only national coalition focused on those issues from an AAPI framework. Before OCA, he worked on state and local advocacy at Hmong National Development and Hmong American Partnership. Kham is also previously served as a board member for the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA). Kham has spent over a decade community building, organizing, and advocating on a wide range of issues, ranging from immigration to military justice.
U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy proudly represents Florida’s Seventh Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district includes all of Seminole County and much of northern Orange County, including downtown Orlando, Maitland, Winter Park, and the University of Central Florida. She currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, where she is a member of the Subcommittee on Trade and the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support. She also serves on the House Armed Services Committee, where she is vice chair of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations and is a member of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.

In addition, Congresswoman Murphy serves as co-chair of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of Democrats focused on fiscal responsibility, a strong national defense, and a principled and pragmatic approach to legislating. Murphy is the first woman of color ever to lead the Blue Dog Coalition, and she is only the second leader in the coalition’s history to serve consecutive terms.

Congresswoman Murphy also serves as a Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Majority. In this role, she helps Democrats better communicate with House leadership so that legislation that comes to the House floor reflects the views of the entire Democratic caucus. As Chief Deputy Whip, Congresswoman Murphy has a seat on the powerful House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, which recommends committee assignments to the Democratic Caucus and helps shape the House policy agenda.

Before her election to Congress, Congresswoman Murphy was a businesswoman and college instructor. Before that, she served as a national security specialist in the office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, where she received numerous awards for her distinguished service, including the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service. She worked on a wide range of security issues from counterterrorism to foreign military relations to strategic planning for the Department. Prior to her service at the Pentagon, Stephanie was a strategy consultant at Deloitte Consulting.

Congresswoman Murphy holds a M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a B.A. in Economics from the College of William and Mary. She lives in Winter Park, Florida, with her husband and two young children.
Michael is the Senior Policy & Advocacy Associate with OCA—Asian Pacific American Advocates, where he leads the civil rights organization's national policy and advocacy efforts to educate and advocate on issues impacting the AAPI community. Michael manages a policy portfolio that includes issues on immigration, education, racial equity and inclusion, civic engagement, and technology & telecommunications.

Prior to joining OCA, Michael worked as an Assistant District Attorney in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he conducted over 40 jury trials to verdict in cases ranging from misdemeanors to serious and violent felonies. Michael also served as Diversity Director of the American Bar Association (ABA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) and Co-Chair of the ABA YLD Men of Color Project, a national initiative aimed at building leaders in the legal field, facilitating intergenerational support, and encouraging community service and civic engagement amongst men of color in the legal profession. In 2018, Michael was named to the ABA's 2018 "On the Rise—Top 40 Young Lawyer," awarded nationally to those who exemplify a broad range of high academic achievement, innovation, leadership, and legal and community service. He received his B.A. from Harvard and his J.D from the University of California Hastings, College of the Law.
Nirali Patel serves as Vice President for Global Public Policy at Comcast. In this role, she focuses on the development of the company’s public policy positions on a range of issues, including broadband. Prior to joining Comcast in 2020, Nirali served in a variety of roles at the Federal Communications Commission, including Wireline Advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Brendan Carr, and Deputy Chief in the Competition Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau. Before joining the FCC in 2017, she served as Counsel in the Technology, Media, and Telecommunications practice of Hogan Lovells US LLP. Previously, Nirali practiced communications law at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP and Sidley Austin LLP. She graduated summa cum laude from the American University Washington College of Law and received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Elaine Quijano is an anchor for CBSN, the CBS News 24-hour digital streaming network, and a correspondent for CBS News, contributing to all CBS News broadcasts and platforms.

In her role at CBSN, Quijano anchors the nightly politics show “Red and Blue.” She also anchors the Sunday edition of the CBS WEEKEND NEWS, and her reporting is featured on CBS THIS MORNING and the CBS EVENING NEWS. In 2020 Quijano led political coverage on CBSN, which included anchoring CBSN during primary, debate, political convention nights and election night.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, she also led CBSN’s political coverage, and was selected by the Commission on Presidential Debates to moderate the 2016 vice presidential debate. It marked the first time an anchor from a digital network would moderate a national debate in a general election campaign.

Quijano joined CBS News in 2010. Based in New York, she has covered a variety of stories, including the Boston Marathon bombings, Superstorm Sandy, and the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Quijano was also part of the CBS News team that received an Alfred I. duPont Award for the Network’s coverage of the 2012 Newtown shootings. In 2011 Quijano revealed in a report that the White House did not send presidential condolence letters to the families of service members who committed suicide. After her report, President Obama reversed that policy.

Prior to joining CBS News, she worked for CNN as a Washington, D.C.-based correspondent. While there, she reported from various beats, including the White House, the Pentagon and the Supreme Court.

Quijano holds a degree in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Since the beginning of 2019, Aumua Amata has served on the President’s Commission for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, appointed by President Trump. This is the second such appointment, as she also served in this role under President George W. Bush, appointed in 2001, as a White House Commissioner for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). At that time, she was the only Pacific Islander on the 15-member Commission. The Commission advised the President on AAPI issues and issued a landmark report on the health care needs of America’s AAPI communities. Amata has been the featured speaker over the years at numerous Asian Pacific American Heritage observances, including those at numerous military bases in CONUS and Europe.

Prior to being a Member of Congress, the Congresswoman served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Majority Leadership Staff for eight years, including Conference scheduling director and supervised the database created to reach out to Asian Pacific and other minority aspirants for congressional staff positions.

Aumua Amata also has been involved in promoting democracy and fighting for women’s and minorities rights since the beginning of her career and helping build democratic institutions abroad. As a trainer since 1992, she has participated in missions to Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan and Morocco for the International Republican Institute and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. She has conducted training in Washington for Iraqi, Congolese and Uyghur women leaders. Other international work has included participation in several Pacific regional conferences.

Patricia Ratulangi is VP, Global Communications. She oversees Nielsen’s internal and external communications focused on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Pat is responsible for proactive external communications around Nielsen’s insights on diverse audiences such as our Diverse Intelligence Series. She is first and foremost a storyteller — bringing to life our corporate narrative to engage diverse communities around the world and using our data to amplify underrepresented voices. With over 20 years experience in corporate communications, Pat supports our executives and teams with communications strategies to engage both internal and external stakeholders. She works with the Nielsen Foundation, our External Advisory Council and our internal Business Resource Groups to extend our community outreach.

Based in Chicago, Pat loves the diversity of her town and exploring new cultures by being in the various neighborhoods — especially trying out restaurants. She loves cooking and getting to know people through the food they eat.
Charles H. Rivkin is Chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association (MPA). He leads the MPA's global mission to advance and support the film, television, and streaming content industry. The MPA's members currently include: Disney, Netflix, Paramount, Sony, Universal, and Warner Bros.

Drawing on almost 30 years of experience as a media executive and a leading U.S. diplomat, Rivkin advocates for policies that drive investment in film and television production, protect creative content, and open markets. He champions the economic and cultural power of film and television to communities around the world.

As chief executive, Rivkin is also responsible for the MPA's iconic movie ratings system, which has served parents and moviegoers for more than 50 years.

Prior to joining the MPA, Rivkin served for more than seven years at the highest levels of the U.S. government's diplomatic corps. He was the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs from February 2014 to January 2017. He led the State Department Bureau responsible for managing international trade negotiations, intellectual property rights protection, and global internet policy, among other major policy issues. While conducting economic diplomacy for the United States, he visited more than 40 countries and 70 cities around the world.

From 2009 to 2013, Rivkin was the United States Ambassador to France and Monaco. In this role, he guided America's oldest and one of its largest diplomatic missions, with six constituent posts throughout France and representing more than 50 U.S. government agencies.

Before his government service, Rivkin worked in the media and entertainment sector for more than 20 years. During that period, he served as President and CEO of Jim Henson Company, home to The Muppets and other award-winning film and television franchises and beloved characters. He also was CEO of WildBrain, where he won a BAFTA Award as an Executive Producer of the hit children's television series Yo Gabba Gabba!, and Fast Company named him one of the 100 Most Creative People in Business.

Rivkin is a Board member of the American Academy of Diplomacy, the Pacific Council on International Policy, the American Film Institute, and Via Transportation Inc. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the U.S. Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations (ACTPN), and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He received his bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1984, graduating with distinction in political science and international relations. He received his M.B.A. from Harvard University in 1988.
U.S. Representative Raul Ruiz, M.D., grew up in the community of Coachella, California, where both of his parents were farmworkers.

Dr. Ruiz achieved his lifelong dream of becoming a physician through public education. After graduating from Coachella Valley High School, Dr. Ruiz graduated magna cum laude from UCLA. He went on to Harvard University, where he earned his Medical Degree, as well as a Masters of Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government and a Masters of Public Health from the School of Public Health, becoming the first Latino to earn three graduate degrees from Harvard University. He completed his Residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and a Fellowship in International Emergency Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. During his training, Dr. Ruiz served as a consultant to the Ministries of Health of both Serbia and El Salvador.

Dr. Ruiz returned home after completing his medical training and began working as an Emergency Room doctor at Eisenhower Medical Center. Recognizing the physician shortage crisis in the Coachella Valley, Dr. Ruiz started a pre-medical mentorship program for young aspiring doctors, which has grown to include over 100 local students.

The program became part of the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine, where Dr. Ruiz served as a Senior Associate Dean. Through the group Volunteers in Medicine, he helped to open a free clinic to help underserved communities in the Coachella Valley.

In 2010, Dr. Ruiz started the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative, which brought together stakeholders from across the region to address the local healthcare crisis. He has also worked internationally in the medical community. In 2010, Dr. Ruiz flew to Haiti immediately following the 2010 earthquake and served as the Medical Director for the J/P Haitian Relief Organization. The U.S. Army’s 82nd Airborne awarded him the Commanders Award for Public Service for his work.

Dr. Ruiz continued his work as an Emergency Room Doctor until he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012. He represents California's 36th District, which includes the entire Coachella Valley, as well as the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Blythe, Hemet and San Jacinto. He resides in Palm Desert, CA.

Dr. Ruiz currently serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.
Tina Sadarangani is a PhD-prepared board-certified adult and gerontological nurse practitioner with expertise in managing older adults with complex health and social needs. Her work is rooted in a commitment to improving the health of vulnerable populations by leveraging the strengths of community-based organizations. She focuses on developing culturally tailored interventions for persons with dementia that leverage the strengths of adult day care centers. Some her recent work identified racial disparities in nutritional risk in these settings, as well as the role overly restrictive nutrition policies play in exacerbating malnutrition in cognitively impaired Asian American older adults. Her work establishes a need for integrated care in adult day programs for vulnerable persons that places equal focus on social determinants of health, like access to nutritious food, as well as treating clinical conditions.

To date, her research career has blended her in-depth knowledge of anthropology and nursing science. As an anthropology major at Georgetown University, from which she graduated Summa Cum Laude, she became interested in how social, cultural, and policy factors contribute to health. She received her training as an advanced practice nurse at the University of Pennsylvania, focused on enhancing primary care for community-dwelling older adults. Prior to receiving her PhD, she practiced as a nurse practitioner in a variety of settings, including primary care, orthopedic surgery, and home care.

Sadarangani graduated from the PhD program at NYU Rory Meyers as Valedictorian and completed the NYU Provost’s Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Academic Diversity in 2019. She is currently an Assistant Professor at NYU, and a principal investigator on two studies funded by the National Institutes of Health. Her work, which incorporates principles of design thinking, focuses on developing multicomponent interventions involving individuals, families, and communities to meet the needs of older adults. She was recently recognized as a Rising Star and Woman of Distinction in Long-term Care, by McKnight’s, a national leader in long-term news. She is also a leading member of the National Adult Day Services Research committee, shaping research priorities for home and community-based services across the United States.
Fawn Sharp, a member of the Quinault Indian Nation, received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Washington, School of Law. She also holds an advanced certificate in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University. Vice President Sharp attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

Fawn Sharp is serving her first term as Vice President (2021-Present) after five term as President of the Quinault Indian Nation (2006-2021); President for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), an organization established in 1944 representing 566 Tribal Nations (2019-Present); We are Still In Leaders Circle (WASI) member (2018-present). President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), an organization established in 1953 that represents 57 Northwest Tribal Governments (2011-2017). Vice President Sharp was selected by United States Secretary of the Interior Kenneth Salazar to chair the Secretarial Commission on Trust Administration and Reform (2011-2013). Washington State Governor Jay Inslee appointed President Sharp to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce (CERT) in 2014 to consider measures to offset costs to consumers and businesses, and to design strategies to help energy-intensive industries transition from carbon based energy sources.

Prior positions include Managing Attorney/Lead Counsel for the Quinault Indian Nation, Quinault Tribal Court Associate Judge; Administrative Law Judge for the Washington State Department of Revenue Tax Appeals Division, and practiced law with the law firm of Phillips, Krause & Brown. Prior to becoming an attorney, Fawn held positions at the US Central Intelligence Agency and the Washington State Department of Corrections. She was also a member of the Board of Trustees for Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, Washington. President Sharp resides on the Quinault Indian Reservation at Lake Quinault with her three sons, Daniel, Aliah, Jonas, and daughter, Chiara.
Albert Shen is a leader in the Verizon Public Sector Strategy Team. Previously, he was the Senior Advisor for the Toyota Mobility Foundation working on developing new smart city mobility innovation & hydrogen based sustainable energy investment strategies in U.S. cities and was also a Senior Advisor in Advanced Technology and Research at Toyota North America. Before that, in 2014, he was appointed by President Obama to be the National Deputy Director of the U.S Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency to help create U.S. jobs by developing federal policies; new impact investment models and other new business innovation initiatives that promote the growth and global competitiveness of businesses owned and operated by minority and immigrant business owners.

Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland proudly represents Washington’s 10th Congressional District, which covers Pierce County, Thurston County and parts of Mason County. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Strickland is the first African-American to represent Washington State at the federal level, and one of the first Korean-American women elected to Congress in its 230-year history.

Raised in the South Sound, Strickland graduated from Tacoma Public Schools and earned her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Washington. She went on to earn an MBA from Clark-Atlanta University, a Historically Black College and University.

Strickland’s father, who fought in World War II and Korea, met her mother while he was stationed in Korea after the war. Strickland’s parents endured discrimination and hardships that she could never imagine. They wanted her to have opportunities they were denied and taught her to work hard, fight for what’s right, serve the community, and to stand up for the underdog. Those values continue to inspire Congresswoman Strickland every day as she advocates for Washington’s 10th Congressional District in Congress.

Prior to Strickland’s election to Congress, she served as Mayor of Tacoma, where she helped transform a city and economy crippled by a deep recession into a destination for families, workers, artists, tourists and entrepreneurs. In addition to attracting over $1 billion in investment for housing and businesses, she was instrumental in investing over $500 million in infrastructure for roads, bridges, transportation, and the Port, creating over 40,000 new jobs in the Tacoma region.
Mr. Tachibana is Vice President & General Counsel of Capcom U.S.A. in San Francisco, California. Capcom is a leading video game developer and publisher. He brings a career-long passion for law, technology, and liberal arts to his role in Capcom’s expanding video game, merchandise licensing and eSports business in North, Central and South America. Previously, Mr. Tachibana was a partner at Fenwick & West, a leading Silicon Valley law firm where he represented, among other high-tech clients, software and semiconductor companies which provided technology to the video game industry. He also served as Vice President & General Counsel of Digeo, a home-entertainment technology company and Of Counsel with Dorsey & Whitney. He holds a combined B.S.-M.S. degree from Yale where he studied applied mathematics, electronics and computer science and quantitative economics, a J.D. from U.C. Hastings College of Law and a LL. M. in taxation from NYU School of Law. He is registered to practice in patent matters before the USPTO.

Phillip Thomas-Wallace is a senior public policy advisor and currently serves as Director of Federal Government Affairs at Walmart, Inc. (NYSE: WMT), where his wide range of responsibilities include global thought leadership, building consensus among external stakeholders, developing legislative strategies, and advising company decision makers on political matters. Prior to joining Walmart, Phillip built a long track record of success in past management roles at venture capital firm Intellectual Ventures, Hyundai Motor Company, and AHRI (global trade association). After launching Hyundai’s US State Government Affairs Program, he worked with state legislatures across the country to pass new laws that criminalize the creation, sale, and distribution of counterfeit airbags—a serious interstate commerce issue that impacted the safety of American consumers. During his time at Intellectual Ventures, Phillip designed and executed smart-growth strategies for multiple start-up companies in the biotech, metamaterials, instrument fabrication, and advanced physics space—helping them to tackle public policy challenges and accelerate the commercialization of their technologies. A lifelong Democrat, Phillip started his career as a US Senate staffer for the Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship (under the leadership of former Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu) and served during negotiations and final passage of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, which created the Small Business Lending Fund Program administered by the US Treasury Department. In addition to his corporate experience, Phillip is an active member of Electing a Democratic Generation (EDGE), where he regularly provides insight to Millennial incumbents and candidates seeking office. He is also a member of the Corporate Advisory Committee at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and is Chair of the Washington Government Relations Group Foundation. He earned a B.A. degree in Political Science and Economics from the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs at Southern University and a master’s degree from the Graduate School of Political Management at The George Washington University.
Chiling Tong has extensive domestic and international experience in economic and business development, with a focus on enhancing the growth of small and minority business enterprises competing in the global market. She is the President of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (National ACE). Tong was the founding of the International Leadership Foundation (ILF). Over 20 years, Tong has built a strong nationwide network of 20 chapters consisting of entrepreneurs and community leaders to support ILF’s mission. Tong was also an Ash Center Research fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School. In 2017, Tong received an "advocate of the year award" from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Chiling Tong previously served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Commerce and was also the Chief of Staff and Associate Director at the Minority Business Development Agency. Tong has been a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Tong was on the Board of Directors of the Congressional Awards Board for young leaders. Tong was awarded a Coro Public Affairs Fellowship and the Chairperson of the Los Angeles County Community Action Board.

Kris began her career in healthcare as a Respiratory Therapist. She later combined her loves of public service and communications as a Strategic Communications Specialist for multiple organizations and unions, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (AFSCME) at the International Headquarters in Washington, DC. In that role, Kris worked on many issues including child care, home health care and healthcare organizing. During her over two decades in the labor movement, Kris was also involved in the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA). Along the communications path, she also serves as co-host and anchor of “Valderrama’s America,” a multicultural TV news magazine.

Kris was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2006, and currently serves on the Economic Matters Committee where she chairs the Workers Compensation Subcommittee, and also serves as the House Chair of the Joint Worker’s Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight Committee. She currently chairs the Bi-County Subcommittee of the Prince George’s House Delegation.

Kris previously served on the House Judiciary Committee for eight years, and as Chair of the Law Enforcement and State Appointed Board Committee of the Prince George’s House Delegation for two terms. Kris currently chairs the Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus and is also a member of the Women Legislators of Maryland.
Khánh and his family immigrated to the USA from Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam conflict. His family found their way to Colorado. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School, a Denver Public School. Khánh graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a degree in chemical engineering and 3 minors: McBride Honors Program in Public Affairs, Latin American Specialization and Environmental Science.

He worked for Amoco after graduation. At Amoco, he oversaw 350 gas wells in the San Juan Basin (New Mexico/Colorado). He explored and researched effects of cavitation on high production coal-bed methane. After the BP-Amoco merger, the Denver office was moved to Houston and Khánh chose to stay in Colorado. He subsequently went to work for the family businesses: Asian grocery and real estate. He helped grow the family business to become the largest Asian grocer in the region. After selling the retail business, Khánh continued to work in real estate. His passion for helping young adults and fondness for Mines led him back to accepting the position as the fourth Director of the Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP). As the MEP Director, he helped over 1,000 students with their recruitment, retention and professional development.

As a Society of Asian Scientists & Engineers (SASE) volunteer, Khánh helped plan the 2011 National Conference. Khánh joined SASE full time as the CEO & Executive Director in late 2011. Khánh oversaw the doubling of the collegiate chapters and tripling its membership during his 1st year tenure with SASE. SASE has become the largest professional Asian American Organization in the US by numbers of chapters, conference size and organizational support.

Khánh enjoys spending time with his wife, Uyên, and 4 children: Thiên Ân “JP”, Thiên Sơn “Vincent”, Thiên Hải “Dominic” & Thiên Hà “Teresa”. His hobbies include youth ministry, volleyball and being a foodie.
Julia Wada is group vice president, Strategy, Innovation & Transformation at Toyota Financial Services (TFS). Wada serves on the Executive Management Committee and reports to Mark Templin, President, and CEO.

Wada leads strategic transformation initiatives and efforts while also building diverse, inclusive, and engaged teams. She is a team builder and champion of One Toyota initiatives including TFS’ high-performing culture and capabilities. As part of the One Toyota leadership team, Wada led the successful transition of TFS’ headquarters move to Plano.

Wada joined Toyota Motor Sales (TMS) in 1991 as part of the Graduate Management Associate program. At both TMS and TFS, her career has spanned a variety of leadership responsibilities including; product planning, pricing, sales planning, strategic planning, human resources, real estate and facilities, diversity and inclusion, information technology and indirect procurement shared services.

Prior to her Toyota career, Wada worked as a program manager and engineer for Lockheed Missiles & Space Corporation. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, and her Master of Science degree in Management from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Wada serves on the board of directors for the Toyota Foundation, a $100 million endowment to support STEM education. She also serves on the boards of the Japan America Society of Dallas Fort Worth and the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.
Janelle Wong is Professor of American Studies, Government and Politics and a core faculty member in the Asian American Studies Program. She received her PhD in 2001 from the Department of Political Science at Yale University. Wong is the author of Immigrants, Evangelicals and Politics in an Era of Demographic Change (2018, Russell Sage Foundation), Democracy’s Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions (2006, University of Michigan Press) and co-author of two books on Asian American politics, including Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and their Political Identities (2011, Russell Sage Foundation), based on the first national, multilingual, multiethnic survey of Asian Americans. She was a Co-Principal Investigator on the 2016 National Asian American Survey, a nation-wide survey of Asian American political and social attitudes.

From 2014 to 2017 Wong served on the national board of the Association for Asian American Studies. Her advocacy work has focused on support for affirmative action and other Asian American issues.

John C. Yang is the President and Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC. He leads the organization’s efforts to fight for civil rights and empower Asian Americans to create a more just America for all through public policy advocacy, education, and litigation.

John C. Yang is the President and Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC. He leads the organization’s efforts to fight for civil rights and empower Asian Americans to create a more just America for all through public policy advocacy, education, and litigation.

Mr. Yang served in the Obama Administration as Senior Advisor for Trade and Strategic Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where he was the principal advisor to Secretary Penny Pritzker on issues related to Asia and worked with the White House and other U.S. agencies on strategic and economic issues concerning the region. Previously, Mr. Yang was a partner with a major Washington, D.C. law firm, and also worked in Shanghai, China as the legal director for the Asia-Pacific operations of a U.S. Fortune 200 company. Mr. Yang was the 2003-04 President of NAPABA.

Mr. Yang’s other leadership positions have included: Member, National Advisory Committee for Race, Ethnicity & Other Populations, U.S. Census Bureau (2017-2019); Co-Chair, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (2019-present); Member, American Bar Association House of Delegates (2008-18; Minority Caucus Chair, 2014–16); General Counsel, D.C. Bar (2000-02); Advisory Committee on Pro Se Litigation for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (1998–2002). In 1998, Mr. Yang co-founded the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the direct service legal needs of Asian Pacific Americans in the D.C. metropolitan area.

He received his law degree from George Washington University Law School.
Alvina (she/her/hers) serves as the Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) and Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement (IAPALA). Originally from Colorado, Alvina comes from a Chinese family who fled from the war in Vietnam. Alvina is a lifelong community organizer with experience in electoral and issue-based campaigns. She is deeply passionate about building a movement where everyone has a fair shot in a thriving society. She has previously served as the Director of State Capacity Building with State Voices, working with state-based coalitions on program management, strategic planning, and organizational development. Her prior experiences include work on several campaigns at the congressional and presidential level and serving as Program Director at Asian Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote). Alvina currently serves as the Co-Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and serves the following organizations: Congressional Progressive Caucus Center Advisory Board, National Korean American Service & Education Consortium Action Fund (NAKASEC AF) Board, and the Solidarity Center. Alvina lives in Washington, D.C. with her partner, Jeff, and child, Mazie. In her free time, you can find her risking friendships over a competitive board game, crafting, trying new food, or just trying to take a nap.

Helen Zia is a writer, activist and Fulbright Scholar. Her latest book, Last Boat out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese who Fled Mao’s Revolution, was an NPR best book of 2019 and shortlisted for a 2020 national PEN AMERICA award. Her first book, Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People, about the contemporary civil rights struggles of Asian Americans, is a staple of Asian American studies classes.

The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Helen was born and raised in New Jersey during the civil rights, anti-war and women’s movements and her journalism centers on stories of social change and justice. She was Executive Editor of the iconic feminist publication Ms. magazine, and has been outspoken on issues ranging from human rights to countering gender and hate violence and homophobia. Her work on the Asian American landmark civil rights case of anti-Asian violence appears in the Oscar-nominated film, “Who Killed Vincent Chin?” and she is featured in the 2020 PBS documentary series, The Asian Americans. In 2010, Helen became a witness in the federal case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that made marriage equality the law of the land.

Helen has received honorary doctorates from the University of San Francisco and the City University of New York Law School. She attended Princeton University on a full scholarship and was a member of its first graduating class of women. Helen quit medical school to work as a construction laborer, an autoworker, and a community organizer, until she discovered her life’s work as a journalist and writer.
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On behalf of Toyota, we wish you a productive 2021 Legislative Leadership Summit and a Happy Asian Pacific American Heritage Month!

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About APAICS

Founded by former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta in 1994, The APAICS is a national non-partisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to building the Asian Pacific American (APA) political pipeline at all levels, from community advocacy to elected office. APAICS programs focus on leadership development and filling the political pipeline for AAPIs to pursue public office at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as other careers in public policy.

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