



Asian American  
Bar Association  
of New York

# RISING UP TO MEET THE FUTURE:

CULTIVATING TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS TODAY

**5.28.26**

CIPRIANI WALL STREET  
55 WALL STREET  
NEW YORK, NY

**EVENT PROGRAM**

# PRESIDENTS OF AABANY

1991	Serene K. Nakano	2010	Robert W. Leung
1992-93	Denny Chin	2011	Linda Lin
1994-96	Sylvia Fung Chin	2012	Jean Lee
1996-97	Ben Q. Limb	2013	Mike Huang
1997-98	Glenn Lau-Kee	2014	Clara Ohr
1999	John Flock	2015	William Wang
2000	Paul D.Q. Nguyen	2016	Susan Shin
2001	Alec Y. Chang	2017	Dwight Yoo
2002	David Hom	2018	James R. Cho
2003	Christopher W. Chan	2019	Brian Song
2004	Andrew T. Hahn	2020	Sapna Palla
2005	Pui Chi Cheng	2021	Terrence Shen
2006	Lai Sun Yee	2022	William H. Ng
2007	Vincent T. Chang	2023	Karen Kim
2008	Yang Chen	2024	Joseph D. Eng Jr.
2009	James P. Chou	2025	Benjamin C. Hsing
		2026	<b>Varuna Bhattacharyya</b>

# HISTORY

In 1988, the New York State Judicial Commission on Minorities, headed by noted African American attorney Franklin Hall Williams, examined the treatment of minority litigants and court employees. Following hearings in New York City on June 29th and 30th of that year, Rockwell Chin approached Commissioner Serene K. Nakano to discuss the need for an organization for Asian American attorneys. While Chinese and Korean American lawyer associations existed, there had never been an association of Asian American lawyers in New York.

Further impetus came when the National Asian American Bar Association (later called NAPABA) Planning Committee invited various attorneys in New York City to Chicago in October 1988. A core group, including Rockwell Chin, Glenn Ikeda, Yat T. Man, Steve Min and Serene K. Nakano, worked to found a formal association of Asian American lawyers: drafting organizational documents, reaching out to New York and nationwide bar groups, and contacting other Asian American attorneys.

Announcing AABANY's incorporation on October 20, 1989, the group invited attorneys to an inaugural reception at New York University Law School on November 9, 1989. Among the speakers were Judge Dorothy Chin Brandt, Judge Randall Eng, Judge Peter Tom, past president of the American Immigration Law Association Benjamin Gim, Professor Sharon Hom, AALDEF Program Director Stanley Mark, and former NYPD Deputy Commissioner Hugh Mo. All of the speakers emphasized the unfulfilled need for AABANY. The reception was a resounding success, with over 180 attorneys and law students attending. Before the meeting concluded, over 60 people had joined AABANY.

AABANY, operating under an interim board during its first year, hosted further receptions, including evening social events, as well as a meeting at Brooklyn Law School at which Hoyt Zia, then the first President of NAPABA, spoke. Newly formed committees also sprang into action. The Issues Committee, co-chaired by Rockwell Chin and Marilyn Go, began research on redistricting, assisted lobbying for bias crimes legislation and spoke out against bias incidents. The Business Law Committee, co-chaired by Ken Chin and Marilyn Go, established a speaker series of prominent Asian American attorneys. The Events Committee hosted a fall picnic. Prompted by concerns raised by law students at the picnic, Chin Fong and James Minamoto established a student mentor program, presenting a job skills workshop to help law students hone interviewing skills.

On January 12, 1991, AABANY held its first annual meeting, electing Serene Nakano, Doris Ling-Cohan, Steve Min, Glenn Ikeda and Marilyn Go as officers and Rockwell Chin, Sylvia Fung Chin, Merlin Liu, Stanley Mark, Qazi Moid and Judge Peter Tom as directors.

Now one of the most prominent and active minority bar associations in New York, AABANY has over 1,400 members, including practicing attorneys in the private and public sectors, in-house lawyers, judges, professors and law students.

# PROGRAM

## WELCOME

**Richard Lui**  
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

**Benjamin C. Hsing**

## INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Alvina Lo**  
HEAD OF ADVICE, PLANNING AND FIDUCIARY  
SERVICES, BNY WEALTH

## LAW FIRM LEADERSHIP AWARD

**MORRISON  
FOERSTER**

## AABANY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM VIDEO PRESENTATION

## PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

**Hon. L. Austin D'Souza**  
SUPERVISING JUDGE, NEW YORK CITY CIVIL COURT  
(NEW YORK COUNTY)

## CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Grace Fu**  
CHIEF LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, NANIT

## DON H. LIU SCHOLARS PROGRAM AWARDS

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

**Varuna Bhattacharyya**

## PERFORMANCE BY

**Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company**

## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S CLOSING REMARKS

**John Hwang**

## AFTER-PARTY IN THE MEZZANINE

# MENU

## APPETIZER

**CUCUMBER, STRING BEANS,  
AVOCADO, CORN AND CHERRY  
TOMATO SALAD**

## ENTRÉE

**ROASTED RACK OF LAMB WITH  
NATURAL JUS\***

**CLASSIC VEGETABLE PEPPERONATA**

**POTATO TORTINO**

## DESSERT

**TIRAMISU**

**ZABAGLIONE CAKE  
WITH FRESH STRAWBERRIES**

*\*ALTERNATE ENTRÉE OPTIONS ARE  
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.*

# ANNUAL DINNER 2025

CIPRIANI WALL STREET  
55 WALL STREET  
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
RECEPTION

SPONSORED BY



GROOMBRIDGE WU  
BAUGHMAN & STONE

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
COCKTAIL RECEPTION

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
DINNER

10:00 PM – 11:00 PM  
AFTER-PARTY

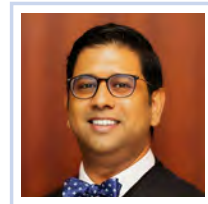
## HONOREES



INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**ALVINA LO**

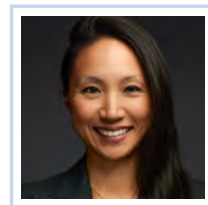
Head of Advice, Planning and  
Fiduciary Services, BNY Wealth



PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

**HON. L. AUSTIN  
D'SOUZA**

Supervising Judge, New York City Civil Court  
(New York County)



CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD

**GRACE FU**

Chief Legal &  
Administrative Officer, Nanit



# VARUNA BHATTACHARYYA

## PRESIDENT

Dear AABANY Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs, Members, and Friends,

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Dinner of the Asian American Bar Association of New York. It is a true honor to serve as AABANY's President and to celebrate this evening with all of you at a moment when our positivity, unity, resilience, and shared purpose are more essential than ever.

This year's theme, "Rising Up to Meet the Future: Cultivating Tomorrow's Leaders Today," reflects our deep belief that there is no limit to what we can achieve when we come together with intention, optimism, and resolve. By building upon the progress of those who came before us, strengthening the work we do today, and investing in the growth and mentorship of the next generation, we ensure that AABANY's impact continues to expand far into the future. You will see these values in action through signature initiatives such as our AABANY Leadership Development Program and the Don H. Liu Scholars Program. More than ever, AABANY remains grounded in honoring our legacy while boldly shaping a stronger, more dynamic future—one in which emerging leaders are equipped now to lead with confidence, integrity, and vision in the years ahead.

Tonight, we proudly honor three outstanding individuals whose achievements embody the spirit of our theme. The Honorable L. Austin D'Souza, Supervising Judge of New York County Civil Court and Acting Justice of the New York Supreme Court, Civil Term, receives our Public Service Award in recognition of a distinguished and trailblazing career devoted to justice and service. Alvina Lo, Head of Advice, Planning, and Fiduciary Services at BNY Wealth, receives our Industry Leadership Award for her extraordinary, ceiling-breaking leadership in wealth, trusts, and estates planning. Grace Fu, Chief Legal & Administrative Officer at Nanit, receives our Corporate Leadership Award for an exemplary in-house career defined by integrity, collaboration, and inspiring leadership. Each of this year's honorees exemplifies what it means to give generously of time, experience, and wisdom as mentors and leaders who lift others as they rise.

Congratulations as well to Morrison Foerster, recipient of AABANY's 2026 Law Firm Leadership Award, in recognition of the firm's commitment to cultivating legal talent and providing meaningful opportunities within the profession. We also congratulate our Don H. Liu Scholars, Lucy Chen, Junao Lin, and Joyce Park for their outstanding accomplishments. We look forward to watching them grow into the future leaders of our community.

We are especially honored to welcome more than 60 General Counsels, along with many additional in-house counsels, to this year's dinner. Your presence reflects the strength, breadth, and influence of our collective network, and we are deeply grateful to celebrate with you an evening dedicated to excellence, connection, and opportunity.

I would also like to recognize Benjamin Hsing for his exceptional leadership during his term as AABANY President. His dedication and vision have left a lasting imprint on the organization. I am equally excited to work with our President-Elect, John Hwang, whose passion and leadership will undoubtedly continue to elevate AABANY in the year ahead.

My deepest thanks go to our sponsors, members, and volunteers—your support makes everything we do possible. I am also profoundly grateful to our dedicated Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs, and to Yang Chen, our Executive Director, and Carrey Wong, our Deputy Executive Director, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes ensure AABANY's continued success.

As we celebrate tonight, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to investing in both our individual and collective legacy by cultivating and empowering tomorrow's leaders today. Together, the future is bright—and together, we will continue to rise up.

Thank you for being here and for being part of the AABANY family.

Respectfully,

**Varuna Bhattacharyya**  
President, AABANY



# BENJAMIN C. HSING

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Welcome to 37th Anniversary Gala of the Asian American Bar Association of New York. It is my great pleasure to congratulate this year's honorees: Grace Fu, Alvina Lo, and the Honorable L. Austin D'Souza. Each of you represents the very best of our profession—through your leadership, integrity, and commitment to service. Your achievements are inspiring, and it is an honor for AABANY to recognize you this evening.

As I reflect on my year as AABANY President, I do so with deep gratitude. Serving in this role has been one of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences of my career. It gave me the opportunity to represent our AAPI legal community, to better understand the challenges our members face, and to advocate for greater opportunity, inclusion, and justice.

This past year, our theme—"Together We Thrive: The Power of Us"—was not just a slogan, but something I experienced firsthand. I saw it in the energy at our events, in the dedication of our committees, and in the willingness of our members to show up for one another. Whether at our Annual Dinner, Fall Conference, AAPI Heritage Month programs, or our first-ever Diwali Dinner, I was constantly reminded of how strong and vibrant this community is.

At the same time, this was not an easy year. We navigated a period of uncertainty in which the rule of law was, at times, called into question, law firms were unfairly targeted for the clients they represent, and diversity and inclusion initiatives faced growing challenges. In these moments, AABANY's role became even more important. We spoke out, stood together, and reaffirmed our commitment to fairness, access to justice, and the core values of our profession. I was proud to see our community meet these challenges with resolve, thoughtfulness, and unity.

Through both the highlights and the challenges, one thing became especially clear to me. What I will remember most are not just the milestones, but the people—the friendships formed, the conversations shared, and the collective commitment to lifting each other up. AABANY is a special place because of its people, and it has been a privilege to serve alongside so many talented and generous colleagues.

Although my term as President has come to an end, my connection to AABANY remains as strong as ever. As Immediate Past President, I look forward to staying actively involved and working closely with our President, Varuna Bhattacharyya, to support AABANY's continued growth and success.

Congratulations again to our honorees, and thank you all for being part of this wonderful community.

With gratitude and warmest wishes,

**Benjamin C. Hsing**  
**AABANY Immediate Past President**



# YANG CHEN

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We welcome you all to AABANY's 2026 Annual Dinner, once again at Cipriani Wall Street, once again during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. We are indeed honored and privileged to be hosting you all for this grand and much-anticipated annual celebration.

We are grateful to all our sponsors who are celebrating with us tonight. Your sponsorship makes our year-round programming and initiatives possible.

Certain of our sponsors may have noticed at their tables copies of our 2025 Year End Report. If you are among those sponsors, we hope you will take the time to flip through your copy and perhaps take it home with you to read more fully. Within those pages, you will see concretely how your sponsorship has carried AABANY's mission forward in countless ways, enabling AABANY and its numerous Committees to produce engaging and impactful continuing legal education (CLE) programs and meaningful networking events that bring attorneys together for fellowship, connection, professional development and business development. The Year End Report also chronicles AABANY's community-facing programs and advocacy in support of the AANHPI community and the rule of law during these turbulent times.

If you do not have a copy of the Year End Report at your table, you can review an online copy by visiting the AABANY website ([www.aabany.org](http://www.aabany.org)) and pointing your cursor to "About Us" on the top menu, and on the drop down menu, select "Organizational Documents," and there you will see a collection of Year End Reports going back to 2009, the first year we started to publish them. (That year also happens to be my first year as Executive Director.)

As you read up the page, you will see that we continuously published the Year End Report through 2020. But then, between 2020 and 2025, you will see that we are missing 2021 through 2024. What happened? Did we forget to add them to the page? Or did we simply not publish them for those four years?

We did not forget; we missed four years' worth of Year End Reports – but not because we had no activity to report. To the contrary, we were as busy as ever. You may recall that 2020 and the years immediately after were the years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than slow down or shut down our operations, however, AABANY was super-active during the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown. We kept our community together through weekly Zoom happy hours, to break through the isolation of those no-contact years. Our Pro Bono Clinic went remote and continued to provide legal advice and information over Zoom. We continued our Fall Conference and Annual Dinner through remote means. Our award-winning Legal Referral and Information Service was launched in the fall of 2020 and remains active today. Our Anti-Asian Violence Task Force (AAVTF) was established in 2021, following the release of our first report on anti-Asian violence in New York, *A Rising Tide of Hate and Violence against Asian Americans in New York During COVID-19: Impact, Causes, Solutions*. In 2022, the AAVTF released its second report *Endless Tide: The Continuing Struggle to Overcome Anti-Asian Hate in New York*, and then followed



# YANG CHEN

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

up with a documentary, *Voices Against Anti-Asian Hate*, which was completed in 2024 and received a nomination for best short documentary at the New York Independent Art Film Fest in 2025.

Over those years, AABANY was as busy as ever, if not more so. AABANY added a Trusts & Estates Committee in 2023. Also in 2023, when Karen Kim became President, she set out to promote wellness and well-being in the legal profession, which led to AABANY holding a Wellness Day in the summer, followed by a Multi-Association Pre-Holiday Gathering in the fall, and then a Wellness Retreat in the spring, at the Blue Cliff Monastery, about 80 miles north of midtown Manhattan. These events have since become annual programs. In 2026, the Wellness Committee became our newest Committee.

Therefore, the four-year absence of the Year End Report was not a result of AABANY becoming less active: it was due to us continuing to be a vibrant and robust association, with a small staff during those years, trying hard to maintain a high level of activity. In the process, it seems, we were not able to keep up with producing a Year End Report.

So what changed? Regular participants at AABANY's events over the course of the past year, since late June, may have noticed a new face, in the form of the energetic and always cheerful Carrey Wong. Carrey is our Deputy Executive Director, coming up on her first full year with us. She has been a tremendous force and a highly-valued member of the team. Together with me and Apollo, our Administrative Assistant, plus a rotating crew of interns, Carrey supports our Board members and Committee Chairs, helping to keep us connected with our sponsors, our sister bar associations and community partners. With Carrey's help, we were able to accomplish many things over the past year, including producing the Year End Report.

Please join me in thanking Carrey Wong for her immense contributions already as our Deputy Executive Director. If you have not met her yet, be sure to introduce yourself ... and don't forget to say "Thank you, Carrey!"

Thanks to all the sponsors, members, General Counsels, judges, bar association leaders, dignitaries, Board members, Committee Co-Chairs, Committee Vice Chairs, volunteers, and all our supporters celebrating with us tonight. Thanks to Ben Hsing for his leadership as President during the 2026 fiscal year, as we look forward to more achievements and successes under the leadership of Varuna Bhattacharyya as President and John Hwang as President-Elect in the new fiscal year ending March 31, 2027.

Onward and upward!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'YC' followed by a long horizontal stroke.



# ALVINA LO

HEAD OF ADVICE, PLANNING AND FIDUCIARY SERVICES, BNY WEALTH

## INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Alvina Lo serves as Head of Advice, Planning and Fiduciary Services for BNY Wealth. In this role, she leads the strategic direction, oversight, and delivery of BNY Wealth's advice planning advisory practice and fiduciary services.

Alvina has 20+ years of experience advising high-net-worth individuals and families, family offices, business owners, and charitable organizations. Prior to joining BNY, she served as Chief Wealth Strategist for Wilmington Trust where she was responsible for wealth planning, family office services, and thought leadership development. Alvina has also served in Director positions at Citi Private Bank and Credit Suisse Private Wealth where she advised clients on domestic and international trusts and estate planning. Earlier in her career, she practiced law at Milbank LLP and was a consultant for Deloitte Consulting and Scient Corporation.

Alvina earned a J.D. summa cum laude from The University of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. in civil engineering with high distinction from The University of Virginia where she was a Thomas Jefferson Scholar. She also holds a Professional Tax Certificate in Estate Planning from New York University School of Law. Alvina is a Fellow of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and a faculty member of the American Bankers Association Advanced Trust School. She is a recipient of the 2021 Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business Award by the Asian American Business Development Center and has been recognized by *Crain's New York Business* as one of their Most Notable Women in Financial Advice and *Worths' Groundbreakers 2020: 50 Women Changing the World*.

She is a published author and frequent lecturer at leading industry conferences for the American Bankers Association, American Bar Association, Delaware Trust Conference, Hawaii Tax Institute, and Barron's Top Women Advisors Summit. She has been quoted in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's*, *Bloomberg*, and *Business Insider*. She is a member of the Executive Committee for the New York State Bar Association, Trusts & Estates Section, and an Editorial Advisory Board member for *Trusts & Estates Magazine*. She is currently Chair of the New York City Walentas Scholars Program for the University of Virginia. Alvina is bilingual and speaks fluent Chinese-Cantonese and basic Chinese-Mandarin.



# HON. L. AUSTIN D'SOUZA

## SUPERVISING JUDGE, NEW YORK CITY CIVIL COURT (NEW YORK COUNTY)

### PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Supervising Judge L. Austin D'Souza was elected to New York City Civil Court (New York County) on November 8, 2022, served in Kings County Civil Court through December 2025, until his promotion to Supervising Judge of New York County Civil Court and Acting Supreme Court Justice in New York Supreme Court, New York County (Civil Term) on January 2, 2025.

As the Supervising Judge, Judge D'Souza manages day-to-day court operations, supervises nine judges, coordinates with court staff, security, and administration, and helps implement policies to ensure timely justice. He also serves as a liaison to the public—fielding concerns, collaborating with attorneys and community leaders, and striving to make the court more transparent and accessible to all. As a trial judge in Civil Court and Supreme Court, Judge D'Souza presides over thousands of cases that span a broad array of civil actions, including personal injury, contract, property damage, real property, and statutory and constitutional matters.

Even before his election, Judge D'Souza dedicated his entire career to public service. He began his legal career as an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the New York City Law Department and rose to the rank of Senior Counsel. As a lead trial attorney, he litigated high exposure jury trials in New York County, Supreme Court. Before his election to the bench, he served as a Principal Law Clerk at the New York Court of Claims, a court of exclusive jurisdiction over claims against the State of New York. As a law clerk, he drafted hundreds of judicial decisions, mediated numerous settlements, handled countless conferences, assisted judges with bench trials in the Court of Claim and jury trials in Bronx County, Supreme Court (Civil Term), and mentored many law student interns.

On top of his extensive responsibilities on the bench, Judge D'Souza has taken on numerous leadership roles within the court system and the legal community at large. In June of 2018, then-Chief Judge Janet DiFiore of the New York Court of Appeals appointed Judge D'Souza to the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission. The Commission leads the judiciary's effort to promote equal participation and equal justice for people of color. In October 2024, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Edwina Richardson (Statewide Justice Initiatives) appointed Judge D'Souza to co-chair the Office of Justice Initiative's Anti-Asian Hate Working Group. Along with two other judges, Judge D'Souza co-led a 30-member team of judges and court professionals who work to initiate, supervise, plan, and execute a statewide professional development program. Together they work to educate court system staff, its users, and the public about anti-Asian hate, the AAPI community's contributions to the US civil rights movement, and to help build an inclusive workplace.

Judge D'Souza is a leader of a number of bar associations. From June 2022 to June 2023, he served on the New York State Bar Association's House of Delegates, the governing body of the State Bar, to vote on reports, policy recommendations, and rules for the organization. Since July 2021, Judge D'Souza has served as a Director on the Board of Directors of NYCLA. From November 2021 to November 2022, Judge D'Souza served as President of the South Asian Bar Association of New York (SABANY). He also was the chairperson of the New York City Bar Association's Disability Law Committee's Law School Outreach subcommittee. Since 2019, Judge D'Souza has served on the New York Law School Association Board of Directors. He also is an active member of the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY), the Metropolitan Black Bar Association of New York (MBBA), and the New York Women's Bar Association (NYWBA).

Before law school, Judge D'Souza worked for the Governor of Washington State and then as a public finance consultant in California. He earned his law degree from New York Law School, where he served as an Executive Board member of the Moot Court Association. Before law school, Judge D'Souza earned a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a bachelor's degree from Stony Brook University, where he graduated cum laude and was elected by the faculty to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.



# GRACE FU

**CHIEF LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, NANIT**

## **CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Grace Fu is a distinguished Chief Legal Officer with extensive experience at public and private companies, widely recognized for her commitment to innovation, collaboration and community.

Grace is currently Chief Legal & Administrative Officer at Nanit, an AI-powered technology company. In her role, she oversees all legal, regulatory, compliance and HR functions at the company.

Grace has held multiple senior executive positions during her career. Previously, Grace served as General Counsel of KAYAK/OpenTable, subsidiaries of Booking Holdings (NASDAQ: BKNG), where she was co-lead of KAYAK's corporate headquarters and Executive Sponsor of multiple employee resource groups. Prior to KAYAK/OpenTable, Grace was Deputy General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Revlon, Inc. (NYSE: REV), where she served as Co-Lead of the ESG Steering Committee. Prior to Revlon, Grace was Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary and Chief Legal & Administrative Officer at Barneys New York. Prior to Barneys, Grace was Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at Tiger Management.

Grace began her legal career as a mergers & acquisitions attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York City. Prior to law school, she was an investment banker focusing on M&A and restructuring.

Grace served two terms on the Board of Directors of AABANY and served on its Nominations and Audit Committees. Prior to her Board service, she was Co-Chair of AABANY's In-House Counsel Committee for several years. She has been a faculty member of the AABANY Leadership Development Program. While at Barneys New York, she also served on the Board of Directors of the Barneys New York Foundation, which she helped establish. Grace has served as an adjunct professor at both Fordham Law School and Cardozo School of Law. She is a recipient of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Best Under 40 Award.

Grace received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Harvard University, and her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.



# RICHARD LUI

ANCHOR, MS NOW, FORMERLY NBC NEWS AND CNN

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Richard Lui is a Peabody- and Murrow-honored journalist with over 30 years of experience across media, technology, and business. He has spent two decades at NBCU News Group and CNN Worldwide, anchoring breaking national and international coverage. Earlier in his career, he anchored at Asia Pacific network CNA and worked at Citibank Asia Pacific, where he launched a patented, bank-centric fintech exchange with successful exit. He has since launched five tech brands. For 10 years, he has traveled every other week between New York and California to care for his father and mother, who have faced Alzheimer's and/or dementia. That experience has led him to direct two Oscar-qualifying films on caregiving, *Sky Blossom* and *UNCONDITIONAL*. He has begun production on *To the Moon*, on U.S. Congress members who are currently caregivers, and *Dr. Hope*, on the inventor of AIDS/HIV treatment credited with saving more than 32 million lives. A thought leader in the care economy, he serves as Principal, Care & Data Science at CAREGenome (at the University of Michigan) and Chief Impact Officer of Startup Health's Caregiving Moonshot. He also serves as an AARP Caregiving Ambassador, an Alzheimer's Association Celebrity Ambassador, and a UN Global CARE Alliance Champion. He is a recipient of the National Education Association's Human and Civil Rights Award, and his family history includes his grandfather entering the United States as a "paper son," with the family's original last name being Wong.

# AABANY LAW FIRM LEADERSHIP AWARD

In 2025, the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) launched the **AABANY Law Firm Leadership Award** to recognize a law firm that demonstrates exceptional leadership cultivating talent, developing future leaders, and providing meaningful opportunities for attorneys, regardless of their backgrounds, to advance in their careers while ensuring equal opportunity for all.

This award builds on AABANY's long-standing commitment to advancing excellence, inclusion, and opportunity in the legal field. The award honors a law firm that has shown a strong track record in mentorship, sponsorship, and leadership development, as well as a meaningful commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive culture that empowers attorneys to succeed.

Nominees were evaluated based on:

- **Demonstrated commitment to cultivating a strong pipeline of talented attorneys** and providing equal opportunities for professional growth.
- **Proven track record of retaining and promoting attorneys into leadership positions**, including providing mentorship, sponsorship, and development opportunities.
- **Demonstrated leadership in developing and supporting lawyers**, including creating pathways to senior roles within the firm and the legal profession.
- **Meaningful contributions to the broader legal community**, such as active engagement with bar associations like AABANY and support for initiatives aimed at advancing leadership and excellence in the legal profession.
- **Any other factors** the selection committee deems valuable in furthering AABANY's mission to promote the growth and success of attorneys from all backgrounds.

AABANY is proud to honor **Morrison Foerster** as the recipient of the **2026 AABANY Law Firm Leadership Award**. The firm has distinguished itself through its intentional and sustained efforts to mentor and sponsor attorneys, create meaningful leadership pathways, and support a culture of equal opportunity and professional development. By prioritizing initiatives that develop legal talent at every stage, **Morrison Foerster** exemplifies the values this award seeks to celebrate.

**MORRISON  
FOERSTER**

# AABANY ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE: 2025 OVERVIEW

When anti-Asian hate and violence surged during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) responded by establishing the Anti-Asian Violence Task Force (AAVTF). The Task Force brought together leadership from multiple AABANY committees, including Issues, Pro Bono and Community Service, Prosecutors, Student Outreach, Legal Referral and Information Service, and Academic, and partnered with AABANY's 501(c)(3) affiliate, the Asian American Law Fund of New York (AALFNY), to launch the Turning the Tide (T3) Project. This comprehensive initiative addressed anti-Asian hate and violence in New York through three core approaches: Education and Communication, Advocacy, and Research.

Following the pandemic's first year, the AAVTF released two well-received reports on anti-Asian hate and violence. Rather than producing a third report, the Task Force shifted its focus to creating a documentary that would capture the voices of victims, survivors, and activists. The resulting film, "Voices Against Anti-Asian Hate," humanized the experiences of those affected by the unprecedented surge in anti-Asian violence and earned a nomination for best short documentary at the New York Independent Art Film Fest. Throughout 2025, the AAVTF held nineteen screenings, in-person, virtual, and hybrid, with companies, law firms, schools, and community groups, including Assured Guaranty, Kirkland & Ellis, New York University School of Law, and Asia Society. The screening at the Asia Society featured Michael Zhu, Justin Go, Sungkon Lee, and Jennifer Wu on a panel moderated by Chris Kwok. It was especially moving to hear from Justin Go, the father of Michelle Go, and Sungkon Lee, father of Christina Yuna Lee.



In January 2025, the AAVTF organized the annual Michelle Go Prayer Walk, led by Hon. Marilyn Go (ret.), to honor her memory while raising awareness about the ongoing threat of anti-Asian hate. On January 15, 2026, the Prayer Walk marked the fourth anniversary of her murder, with a large turnout that brought out the diverse communities in New York who joined together to celebrate her life and legacy.

Through the Hate Eradication Active Response Team (HEART), the AAVTF delivered direct assistance to community members facing bias incidents and hate crimes. This volunteer-driven initiative helped victims navigate reporting to law enforcement, connect with victim services, and access mental health resources. HEART responded to numerous cases throughout 2025, including a widespread cyber harassment targeting several Asian Americans, mostly women, across New York City and California. Working in coordination with the NYPD, the AAVTF provided critical support to affected New Yorkers and helped ensure their reports were being adequately addressed.

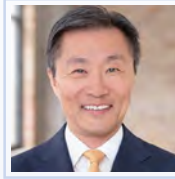
The Anti-Asian Violence Task Force remains committed to its mission. As long as anti-Asian hate persists, AABANY continues to stand with the AAPI community, supporting the victims, educating the public, and advocating for change.

# DON H. LIU SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Don H. Liu Scholars Program, Inc. (DHL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded to address the lack of representation of diverse attorneys in leadership positions in law firms and corporations. In doing so, we've created a supportive and inclusive scholarship and mentorship program that many of our scholars compare to a welcoming and tight-knit extended family.

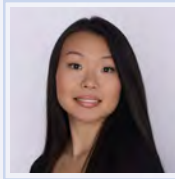
Don H. Liu is the inspiration behind our organization. As the Chief Legal Officer of Flutter Entertainment and a current board member of DHL, Don has mentored a generation of attorneys and offered unwavering support for the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) and National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), among other organizations that promote diversity in the legal profession. Don's commitment to the advancement of diverse attorneys into leadership positions inspired past AABANY Presidents Jean Lee and Mike Huang to establish DHL in 2014.

Each year, DHL names three scholars each of whom receives a \$15,000 law school scholarship as well as mentorship both during and after law school. Through financial support, mentoring, and invaluable professional connections, DHL strives to help the next generation of diverse lawyers to fully realize their potential and become future leaders. By becoming a part of our community, our scholars are able to successfully complete law school and go on to increase the visibility of diverse attorneys in top law firms and corporations.



**DON H. LIU**  
Chief Legal Officer  
Flutter Entertainment

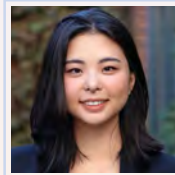
## WE CONGRATULATE THIS YEAR'S DON H. LIU SCHOLARS



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**JOYCE PARK**  
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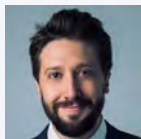
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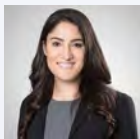
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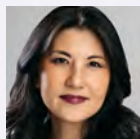
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CHILLEMI**  
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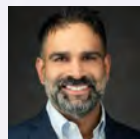
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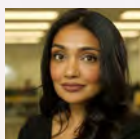
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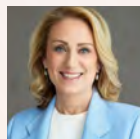
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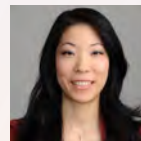
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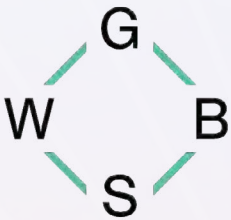
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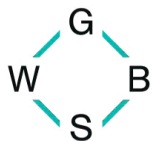
**BOHEE YOON**  
General Counsel &  
Corporate Secretary  
FTAI Aviation

We are honored to welcome the many General Counsels joining us this evening. This list reflects those who have accepted our invitation as of our print deadline, and we warmly thank all who are attending, including those whose names could not be listed in time.

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**We are proud to support the  
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**We Congratulate the Honorees:**

**Corporate Leadership Award**

Grace Fu

Chief Legal & Administrative Officer, Nanit

**Industry Leadership Award**

Alvina Lo

Head of Advice, Planning and Fiduciary Services, BNY Wealth

**Public Service Award**

Hon. L. Austin D'Souza

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**Alvina Lo**, Industry Leadership Award

**Hon. L. Austin D'Souza**, Public Service Award

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**GRACE FU**

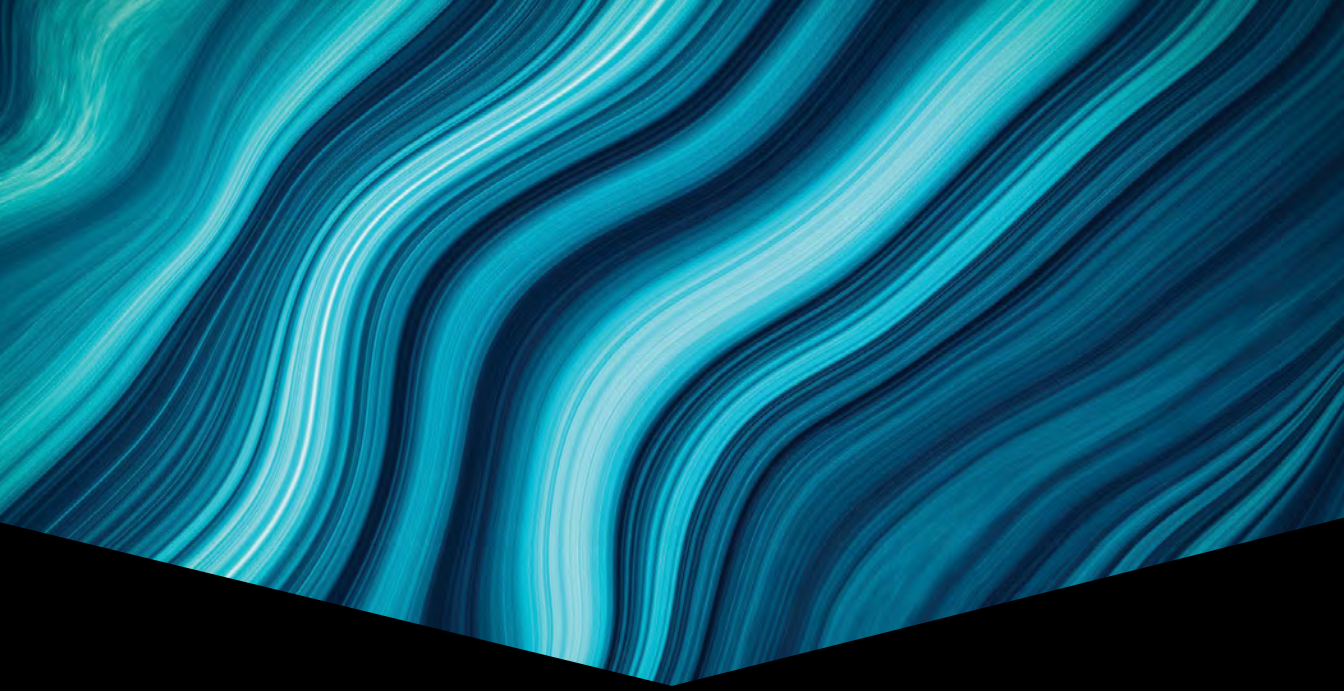
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and

**HON. L. AUSTIN D'SOUZA**

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**We are deeply honored to receive  
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We look forward to celebrating alongside the AABANY  
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Skadden is proud to support  
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of tonight's honorees.

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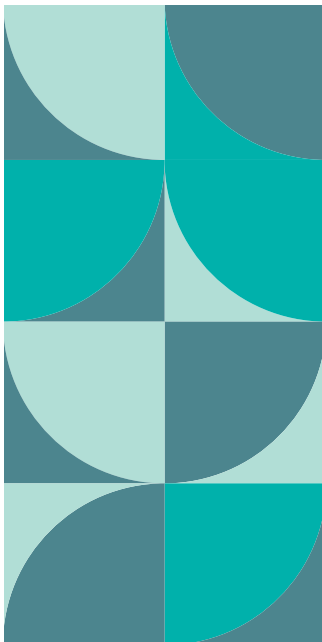
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# We are proud to support the Asian American Bar Association of New York

Congratulations to tonight's honorees,  
Grace Fu, Alvina Lo, and Hon. L. Austin D'Souza

**LEVINE LEE**



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# Congratulations!

Grace, your standout leadership and commitment to innovation, collaboration, and community are truly inspiring.

**Grace Fu**

Nanit, Chief Legal & Administrative Officer

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## 2026 AABANY ANNUAL DINNER

*Rising up to meet the future*

**& honorees tonight:**

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- Alvina Lo - Industry Leadership Award
- Hon. L. Austin D'souza - Public Service Award

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*Grace Fu, Alvina Lo, and Hon. L. Austin D'Souza*

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# Congrats, Grace!

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We thank all our volunteers who generously gave their time, energy, talents, knowledge, experience, insights and compassion to assist members of the Asian American, Pacific Islander and South Asian community, many of whom have limited resources and limited English proficiency, with their legal issues at our Pro Bono Clinics in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens during the 2025 calendar year.

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