

Report details the position of Asian Americans in legal profession

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By: Clair Fuller on Jul 30, 2017

Yale Law School and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) have released a "systematic analysis of how Asian Americans are situated in the legal profession," titled *A Portrait of Asian Americans in Law*. Eric Chung, Samuel Dong, Xiaonan April Hu, Christine Kwon, and Goodwin Liu detail the rapid rise in visibility of Asian American lawyers, and offer a comprehensive account of "the career paths of Asian American law students and lawyers," going beyond simple diversity numbers.

From the report: "Over the past three decades, Asian Americans have dramatically increased their presence in the legal profession.

We aim to describe the rise of Asian Americans in the law as well as the incentives and choices that influence their career paths. This information is intended to provide an empirical grounding for broader conversation within and beyond the Asian American community about the unique challenges and opportunities Asian Americans face in the legal profession and possible directions for reform.

Overall, Asian Americans have penetrated virtually every sector of the legal profession, but they are significantly underrepresented in the leadership ranks of law firms, government, and academia. Our study provides a descriptive account of this central finding, laying the groundwork for future exploration of causal mechanisms and potential solutions. Asian Americans have a firm foot in the door of the legal profession; the question now is how wide the door will swing open."

