

NAPIPA

**NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION**



PRESENTS

**5ND ANNUAL PROSECUTORS CONFERENCE
AND 10TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET**

**SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2024
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**

**SAN JOSE MARRIOTT
301 S MARKET ST
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101**

**NAPIPA
NATIONAL
BOARD MEMBERS**



FANNY YU
President
San Diego County, CA

YOUNG CHO
Secretary &
Georgia President
Gwinnett County, GA

ALEXANDER ADAMS
Treasurer &
Northern California
President
Santa Clara County, CA

AN DANG
San Diego President
San Diego County, CA

MAHA GARDNER
Chicago President
Cook County, IL

KIN NG
New York President
Brooklyn, NY

DEBORAH KWON
Southern California
President
Orange County, CA

HANA LEE
Pacific Northwest
President
King County, WA

HAO Q. NGUYEN
Minnesota President
Ramsey County, MN

PAUL JHIN
Immediate Past
President
Santa Clara County, CA

President's Greeting
September 20-21, 2024

Dear Members, Distinguished
Guests, and Friends —

Thank you for attending the
National Asian Pacific Islander
Prosecutors Association's
(NAPIPA) 10th Annual
Scholarship Banquet in San Jose,
CA! My gratitude and thanks to
Alex Adams and the entire
Northern California Chapter
board for all your hard work
putting this year's Prosecutors
Conference and Banquet
together.

NAPIPA is a non-profit
professional organization
dedicated to advancing the
interests of prosecutors of Asian
Pacific Islander (API) heritage
and promoting a greater
understanding of the criminal
justice system in the API
community. We have over 800
members across the country,
consisting of prosecutors (federal,
state, and local), elected officials,
and law students. NAPIPA is
currently made up of eight
chapters: Chicago, Georgia,
Minnesota, New York, Northern
California, Pacific Northwest, San
Diego, and Southern California.

Last fall, The Asian American
Foundation (TAAF) awarded
NAPIPA Foundation a grant to
help us continue educating and
serving our members and AAPI
communities. Yesterday
prosecutors attended NAPIPA's
5th Annual Prosecutors
Conference featuring the Hate
Crimes Plenary panel. The
Conference also provided
opportunities to hear about
pathways to the bench,
preparing for a leadership role
within a prosecution office,
mental health for prosecutors,
and engaging AAPI communities
outside the courtroom. Thank you
to all the speakers and
moderators for your time and
expertise.

We have the honor tonight of
hearing from our keynote
speaker Leesa Manion who is the
first woman and first API elected
as King County Prosecuting

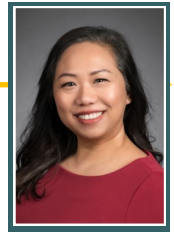
Attorney.
Leesa's
leadership
along with the
tenacity of
many local
prosecutors led to the formation
of NAPIPA's Pacific Northwest
Chapter this June.
Tonight, we celebrate our award
recipients for their
accomplishments.

Congratulations to NAPIPA's
Lifetime Achievement Award
recipient Charles Huang. Charles
co-founded NAPIPA, served for
many years as the first National
President, created the NAPIPA
Foundation, and currently serves
on the Foundation board. We
also congratulate NAPIPA's
Prosecutor of the Year Robert
Song and Law Enforcement
Officer of the Year Ryan Low.
Congratulations to this year's
scholarship recipients: Sara Fujii,
Samuel Lui, and Maliat
Chowdhury. Majority of our past
recipients become prosecutors.
You are the future of this
organization, and we are here to
support you throughout your
prosecution career.

Last, I want to thank our
generous sponsors: AABA Bay
Area, Anh Phoong, Chiang
Family Giving Fund, John
Sanchez (Depo Inc.), Kaplan,
Marriott, Kenny Nguyen, Ling
and Jersey Liang, Majeed
Samara, Matrix Inc. Software,
NAPABA, TAAF, Tim Adams and
Hung Family Giving Trust, Yann
Hung, Michael and Miriam
Moreno.

Together, we will continue
advocating for fairness, equality,
and justice for all.

Sincerely,
Fanny Yu
NAPIPA National President





ABOUT US

The National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association (NAPIPA) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting justice and to advancing the interests of prosecutors of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) heritage. The Association serves to organize the efforts of API prosecutors for the collective benefit of the American criminal justice system and of the legal profession. To that end, we advocate for fairness, equality and justice for victims of crime, for the criminally accused, for those working within the criminal justice system, and for the community at large.

NAPIPA currently consists of eight Regional Chapters: Northern California, Southern California, Chicago, New York, San Diego, Georgia, Minnesota, and Pacific Northwest. Each of those regions is headed by a Regional Board. Each Regional Board is made up of elected officers, who then designate the remaining board members. The Regional Chapters exist in order to better serve their respective local API communities. Each Regional Chapter has its own President, and these Regional Chapter Presidents form the National Executive Board.

Our Goals:

- * To develop an information network relevant to the needs of API law enforcement personnel
- * To seek out, encourage and support API law students and attorneys interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement
- * To provide training, both academic and practical, concerning a wide variety of law enforcement-related topics of interest
- * To educate the API community regarding the criminal justice system and provide a forum for communicating the community's needs and concerns
- * To promote, strengthen and support the roles of API in all aspects of law enforcement

PROGRAM

- **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
DION LIM, Emcee
- **President's Message**
FANNY YU, NAPIPA National President
San Diego County District Attorney's Office
- **Special Remarks**
ROB BONTA, Attorney General
State of California
- **Special Remarks**
JOHN CHOI, County Attorney
Ramsey County Attorney's Office
- **Dinner & Last Call for Silent Auction**
- **Keynote Speaker**
LEESA MANION, Prosecuting Attorney
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**
CHARLES HUANG, (ret.)
Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office
- **Law Enforcement of the Year Award**
RYAN LOW, Officer
San Jose Police Department
- **Plenary Speaker**
BILL WONG
Bill Wong LLC
- **Prosecutor of the Year Award**
ROBERT SONG, Deputy District Attorney
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
- **NAPIPA & Hung Family Scholarships for Justice Awards**
MALIAT CHOWDHURY, CWSL
SARA FUJII, UC Law San Francisco
SAMUEL LUI, University of La Verne



NAIIPA

NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION

The Northern California Chapter is proud to host the 10th Annual Scholarship Banquet

**Alexander Adams
President**

Santa Clara County
District Attorney's Office

**Nick Honda
Vice President**

Sacramento County
District Attorney's Office

**Sam Nong
Secretary**

Sacramento County
District Attorney's Office

**Jenny Ow
Board Member**

Placer County
District Attorney's Office

**Abel Hung
Board Member**

Santa Cruz County
District Attorney's Office

**Sam Luzadas
Board Member**

Stanislaus County
District Attorney's Office

**Sarah Ma
Board Member**

Monterey County
District Attorney's Office

**Jason Peck
Board member**

Contra Costa County
District Attorney's Office

**Zachary Malinski
Board Member**

California DOJ

**Shin-Mee Chang
Board Member**

San Mateo
District Attorney's Office

**Edward Liang
Board Member**

Santa Clara County
District Attorney's Office

**Congratulations to NAIIPA
and the award|scholarship recipients.**

Law Offices of
Majeed S. Samara

Criminal Defense & Traffic Law

660 El Camino Real, Suite 214 Millbrae, CA 94030

Office: 1-650-588-7700 Fax: 1-650-588-7188 Email: msamaralaw@yahoo.com



The
Asian American
Foundation

**TAAF Congratulates NAPIPA on
its 10th Scholarship Banquet and
the awardees and scholarship
winners**



The operating system for law.™

**Congratulates the
NAPIPA Awardees and
Scholarship Recipients**



THE WIN LAW FIRM
CRIMINAL DEFENSE | PERSONAL INJURY

**The Win Law Firm Congratulate
the Next Generation of
Scholarship Winners and All of
the Awardees**

Congratulations from Our Sponsors



PHOONG LAW



**MARRIOTT
SAN JOSE**



ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
of the Greater Bay Area

County of Santa Clara

Office of the District Attorney

County Government Center, West Wing
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, California 95110
(408) 299-7400
www.santaclara-da.org



Jeffrey Rosen
District Attorney

September 3, 2024

National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association
c/o Alexander Adams, President of NAPIPA
70 W. Hedding Street, West Wing
San José, CA 95110

Re: NAPIPA's 5th Annual Conference and 10th Annual Scholarship Banquet

Dear NAPIPA:

I sincerely congratulate the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors' Association (NAPIPA) on their 5th Annual Conference and 10th Annual Scholarship Banquet.

The National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors' Association has made tremendous strides in supporting and encouraging Asian and Pacific Islander Prosecutors. I am proud to support NAPIPA because NAPIPA serves our community, increases justice, and brings diverse people together. I look forward to working with NAPIPA for many years to reflect better and serve our community. I appreciate all of your excellent work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey F. Rosen".

Jeffrey F. Rosen
District Attorney
Santa Clara County

JFR/dm

Plenary Speaker

BILL WONG

Bill Wong is a highly accomplished political consultant with over 30 years of experience in legislative and campaign work. He co-founded the Ronin Project PAC and hosts its podcast, providing insights into political strategy. Wong has served in key roles such as the Senior Political Advisor to California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and the Political Director for the California Assembly Democrats, where he played a major role in securing historic Democratic supermajorities. His expertise spans across a wide array of sectors, including labor organizations, political action committees, and nonprofit organizations. He has been recognized on Capitol Weekly's Top 100 Power List multiple times and is a prominent voice in political media.

Bill's career includes serving as Chief of Staff to several California legislators and successfully advocating for substantial state budget funding for health and human services. As a contract lobbyist, he represented community and labor organizations, advancing legislation on issues such as taxation and public utilities. A graduate of the University of California at Davis, he has been a guest lecturer and media commentator, with deep involvement in numerous community organizations and civic commissions. He has received numerous accolades for his leadership and contributions, including awards from the California Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood, and various Asian Pacific



Emcee DION LIM

targeting Asian Americans in the Bay Area and beyond. Her work has resonated across the country on ABC News Live, Nightline, World News Now, Good Morning America and 20/20.

Dion Lim is an Emmy Award-winning TV news anchor and reporter at ABC7/KGO-TV in San Francisco and author of the upcoming book *AMPLIFY! My Fight For Asian America*, based on her experiences being at the forefront of bringing cases of anti-Asian hate and racism to light during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dion was the first Asian American woman to be at the helm of a weekday newscast at stations in three different markets including Kansas City, Charlotte and Tampa Bay. Her passion for amplifying voices of color and has led the charge worldwide in shedding light on the hate and assaults

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and mayor awarded Dion with a commendation for her dedication to reporting on discrimination and xenophobia. She was also named, alongside Vice President Kamala Harris and other prominent AAPI leaders, a 2021 Gold House 100 A1 most impactful Asians for storytelling in the midst of the #StopAsianHate movement. Dion is also SF Cause's 1st recipient of the Champion of Truth award and Dress for Success San Francisco 2022 honoree for her work elevating women in our community.

In 2022, Dion received a coveted invitation from the Biden administration to participate in the first AAPI Heritage Month celebration at the White House. She also was chosen by

Whether it's interviewing Martha Stewart for the Professional Businesswomen of California's 2024 conference, reporting live from the Oscars red carpet in Hollywood or sitting down with a mom-and-pop donut shop owner in Oakland, Dion takes pride in telling stories with authenticity.

She and her husband and young son Tedy live in San Francisco.

Prosecutor of the Year

ROBERT SONG

Robert Song is a dedicated Deputy District Attorney in the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, specializing in prosecuting gang-related murders and attempted murders, particularly in the Long Beach area. With a strong work ethic, he handles a significant caseload of 24 cases, including 22 murder cases. Robert is known not only for his legal expertise but also for his compassion and mentorship, guiding young attorneys and student volunteers. His commitment to community service is reflected in his active participation on various boards, contributing both professionally and personally to the well-being of the Los Angeles community.

Robert's recent cases highlight his skill in handling complex and emotionally challenging trials. In *People v. Woods*, he is prosecuting four defendants charged with murdering an Army veteran while mowing his lawn. In *People v. Gabriel* and *People v. Damian Martinez*, Robert is dealing with



a tragic shooting that claimed the life of a 12-year-old boy near a school. His caseload includes several high-profile cases, such as *People v. Jasso*, where a gang-related shooting led to a second-degree murder conviction, and *People v. Benson and Wright*, a complex case involving the crossfire that killed an innocent bystander at a taco truck.

Among the notable cases he tried, Robert handled *People v. Warren & Burrell*, where two defendants were convicted of first-degree murder and multiple counts of attempted murder after a drive-by shooting killed a grandfather. His legal prowess shone through in the challenging *People v. Sanchez* case, where he assisted a younger attorney in

securing a conviction in a DUI vehicular manslaughter case involving a fatal crash. Despite the complexities surrounding the cause of the crash, Robert's strategic approach led to a successful prosecution.

In addition to his demanding legal work, Robert is deeply involved in the AAPI legal community and serves in leadership roles for the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association (NAPIPA) and the Association of Deputy District Attorneys (ADDA). He also chairs the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section, organizing educational programs and networking opportunities. Outside of law, Robert volunteers as a little league baseball coach for his son and enjoys photography, contributing his skills to various legal and community events. He exemplifies excellence as both a prosecutor and a community leader.

NAPIPA & HUNG FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR JUSTICE

📍 **Maliat Chowdhury**

Maliat Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi American, is in her third year at California Western School of Law (CWSL) and her second year in the Master of Social Work program at San Diego State University (SDSU).

Driven by a passion for addressing legal issues in South Asian populations, she chose to specialize in international human rights law and has earned two intraschool scholarships for her commitment to the field. Her work includes researching vicarious resilience in immigration law, offering pro bono legal support to nonprofits serving Asian American communities, publishing an article on due process rights in Bangladeshi courts, and winning several national and international awards as a three-time competitor in the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court competition.



Maliat is dedicated to using her legal and social work skills to support underrepresented groups, including the Bangladeshi community.

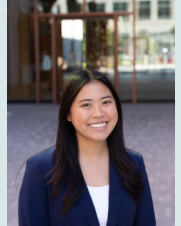
After graduation, she aims to become a prosecutor at the San Diego District Attorney's Office, where she plans to use her multifaceted expertise to break cycles of intergenerational trauma within her community and culture.

📍 **Sarah Fujii**

Sara Fujii is currently a 3L at UC Law SF, formerly UC Hastings.

She was born and raised in San Jose, California, before attending Chapman University and graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy.

This past summer, she worked in the Santa Clara District Attorney's Office as a 2L Honors Law Clerk, and is currently externing at the San Mateo District Attorney's Office. Additionally, she serves as Senior Staff Editor on the UC Law SF Journal of Race and Economic Justice.

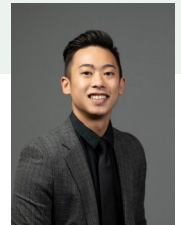


Following graduation, she hopes to continue pursuing a career in public service and work as a prosecutor in a district attorney's office. She is honored to be a recipient of the NAPIPA 2024 Scholarship and grateful for this opportunity.

📍 **Samuel Lui**

Samuel Lui is a (3L)Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Administration candidate at the University of La Verne, where he actively works to promote diverse representation within the legal field.

As a Student Representative for the Southern California Chapter of National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutor's Association (NAPIPA) and the Professional Development Chair for the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) at the University of La Verne, Samuel is committed to uplifting my community through mentorship and advocacy.



His passion for criminal prosecution stems from a desire to contribute to creating a fair and just legal system.

Keynote Speaker LEESA Manion

Leesa Manion is the first woman, the first person of color, and the first Asian-American to be elected to serve as King County Prosecuting Attorney. Leesa is also the first Korean-American woman in the United States to be elected Prosecuting Attorney.

Prior to her election in 2022, Leesa served as Chief of Staff of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) for 15 years.

During the course of her career, Leesa has implemented effective programs that have improved public safety, enhanced victim services, and reduced racial disproportionality.

She was a co-founding partner of Choose 180, a proven and effective pre-filed diversion program that helped reduce juvenile crime to all time lows. Leesa was also a key stakeholder in launching the PAO's Regional Domestic Violence Firearm Enforcement Unit, which leads the nation in its multi-disciplinary approach to tracking and enforcing Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), as well as the removal, storage and return of surrendered firearms across all



of King County.

Leesa also serves on the Boards of the Alliance for Gun Responsibility and the

Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and is an award-winning member of the Korean Prosecutors Association and a member of the Korean American Bar Association (KABA) of Washington. She is a former Board Member for Pioneer Human Services and the Beecher's Foundation.

Leesa was an advisor for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) "Unbundle Policing" Solve Venture Lab Initiative, which focused on improving public safety and policing in the United States. She was also a member of the Juvenile Prosecutor's Leadership Network, which was organized within Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

Outside of the office Leesa enjoys spending time with her two teenage children and her partner Perry Tarrant, a retired Assistant Police Chief and former President of NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives).

Charles Huang

Lifetime Achievement Award



Charlie Huang encountered blatant racism early in his career when a judge told him to "go back to China" during one of his first trials. Despite never having been to China and being born in the U.S., Charlie faced the comment with defiance rather than submission. This moment solidified his determination to fight injustice, which became a cornerstone of his career as he advocated for equality and fairness in the courtroom.

After earning his degrees from U.C. Davis and Chicago-Kent College of Law, Charlie began his legal career in 2002 as a Deputy District Attorney in Contra Costa County. He later moved to the San Mateo County District Attorney's office before joining Santa Clara County's District Attorney's office in 2006. In Santa Clara, he became the first Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) homicide prosecutor. As an AAPI lawyer, Charlie faced implicit and explicit biases but worked tirelessly to challenge stereotypes and push for greater representation in the legal field.

In 2010, Charlie co-founded the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association (NAPIPA) alongside Paul Jhin. What began as a small group of Bay Area prosecutors grew into a national organization with eight chapters and over 800 members. NAPIPA's mission is to promote justice and support the interests of AAPI prosecutors across the country, aiming to break down the barriers and prejudices often faced by minority lawyers in the field.

In 2019, Charlie was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, a life-threatening blood cancer. After several rounds of chemotherapy and a relapse, he required a bone marrow transplant but found no match in the global donor registry. Thankfully, his brother Denny, initially ruled out due to being a brain cancer survivor, became his donor, and Charlie underwent a successful stem cell transplant in 2021. His battle with cancer inspired him to advocate for legislation making it easier for Californians to sign up as bone marrow donors, leading to the passing of "Charlie's Law" in 2022, which will go into effect in 2027.

After over two decades as a prosecutor, Charlie transitioned to a new role in 2024, advocating for victims at a law firm. His career, marked by his refusal to submit to injustice, continues to be a testament to his dedication to justice, equality, and community service both inside and outside the courtroom.

Gold Sponsors

**The Asian American Foundation
The Hung Family
Matrix Software Solutions
Kenny Nguyen**

Silver Sponsors

**Majeed Samara
NAPABA
Kaplan Bar Review
Loanne Luu and Applied Materials
The Chiang Family
Fanny Yu
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office
Anh Phoong
Marriott
John Sanchez**

Bronze Sponsors

**AABA Bay Area
The Moreno Family Law Firm**

Friend of NAPIPA Sponsors

**Hon. Cynthia Lie
Alexis Causey**

Special Thanks to the NAPIPA Foundation

**Charles Huang
Eunice Lee
Yi Liu
Christina Lee**

Thank You to our Sponsors