ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE
AND EDUCATION FUND

1974
2019
45 YEARS OF
RIGHTING WRONGS

Anniversary Celebration.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019
PIER SIXTY, CHELSEA PIERS, NYC

Asian American Legal Defense
and Education Fund
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President

Margaret Fung
Executive Director

Emcees
Juju Chang
Co-Anchor, ABC News’ Nightline

Sree Sreenivasan
Digital and social media strategist

2019 Justice in Action Awards Presentation

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Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary
Carter’s, Inc.
Presenter: Samuel S. Choy

Vanita Gupta
President and CEO
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Presenter: Theodore M. Shaw

Special Message
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These individuals have made a special commitment to help AALDEF continue its legacy of protecting and promoting the civil rights of Asian Americans.

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Vanita Gupta

Vanita Gupta is president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the first woman to direct the nation's oldest and largest civil rights coalition founded in 1950. Before joining the Leadership Conference in 2017, Gupta served as Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. Appointed by President Barack Obama in 2014, Gupta oversaw criminal and civil enforcement efforts in such areas as advancing criminal justice reform and police accountability, prosecuting hate crimes and human trafficking, promoting disability rights, protecting the rights of LGBTQ individuals, ensuring voting rights for all, and combating discrimination in education, housing, employment, lending, and religious exercise.

Gupta, the daughter of Indian immigrants, grew up in Philadelphia. After graduating from Yale University and NYU Law School, Gupta became assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where she litigated a series of landmark wrongful drug conviction cases in Tulsa, Texas. Prior to joining the Justice Department, she also served as Deputy Legal Director and Director of the Center for Justice at the American Civil Liberties Union, where she launched the Smart Justice Campaign to end mass incarceration.

After being chosen president of the Leadership Conference, Gupta told the Washington Post: "This organization is perfectly situated to address the current assault on civil rights that we are seeing today. I think it's unfortunate that we're in such a polarized time and these issues appear to be politicized when fundamentally they are about the character of the country and what the country stands for."

For her lifetime dedication to advancing civil rights and her commitment to racial and economic justice, AALDEF is proud to honor Vanita Gupta with the 2019 Justice in Action Award.

Michael C. Wu

Michael C. Wu is senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Carter's, Inc., a leading children's apparel company based in Atlanta with over 20,000 employees and 1,000 company-operated stores. He is responsible for all legal and government affairs, compliance, internal audit, risk management, and corporate social responsibility at Carter's.

Prior to joining Carter's in 2014, Wu was general counsel and corporate secretary of Rosetta Stone Inc. and oversaw the company's successful initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange in 2009. He has also worked as a senior attorney at Montreal-based Teliglobe International Holdings Ltd. and in the Hong Kong and Reston, Virginia offices of Global One.

A graduate of Emory University and the University of Virginia School of Law, Wu is a member of the Retail Industry Leaders Association General Counsel Committee and the National Retail Federation General Counsel Forum. He was named a Top General Counsel to Watch by NYSE's Corporate Board Member magazine in 2013.

As one of the few Asian American attorneys to reach the top ranks of a Fortune 1000 company, Wu speaks at events and panel discussions about the importance of diversity and inclusion in the corporate sector. He serves on the board of directors of the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association and encourages young lawyers to get involved in public service.

For his commitment to diversity and outstanding legal achievements, AALDEF presents the 2019 Justice in Action Award to Michael C. Wu.
After 45 years of precedent-setting litigation, advocacy, and organizing, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) celebrates its hard-fought victories to protect the civil rights of Asian Americans and promote human rights for all. Here are some highlights from our ongoing battle for social justice.

**1974**
- Calls for hiring of Chinese American construction workers at Confucius Plaza in Manhattan's Chinatown.

**1975**
- A group of Asian American lawyers, activists, and students came together at a conference in Lower Manhattan to create the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF).

**1976**
- Joins rally to support Peter Yew, a bystander who was beaten up after complaining about police mishandling of a minor traffic incident. Represents Chinese Americans arrested in protest against police brutality in Chinatown.

**1978**
- Opens first office at 43 Canal Street in Manhattan's Chinatown.

**1979**
- Begins free legal advice clinics at Hamilton-Madison House, Korean Senior Citizens Society, and other community agencies.

**1980**
- Intervenes on behalf of Asian American Law Students Association in Delaney v. Rutgers Law School, defending the inclusion of Asian Americans in minority admissions program.

Reprents Silver Palace waiters fired for protesting against employer stealing their tips, assists in formation of first independent Chinatown restaurant workers' union.
Demands federal civil rights prosecution of the murderers of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American engineer beaten to death by two unemployed auto workers in Detroit.

Fred Korematsu attends NYC premiere of "Unfinished Business," Steven Okazaki's film about the Japanese American redress movement, at AALDEF's 10th anniversary event at Lincoln Center.

Reps. Dr. Kausah Shabazz, one of several South Asians attacked by a hate group called the Dorkbusters, works for passage of first hate crimes law in New Jersey.

Protests against the casting of a white British actor for lead Asian role in Broadway musical, Miss Saigon: works with NYC Human Rights Commission to organize hearings on discriminatory hiring practices of Broadway theater producers.

1982
- Testifies in support of Japanese American redress before the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

1983
- Files amicus briefs in U.S. Supreme Court supporting rights of undocumented immigrants to receive a public education (Plyler v. Doe) and to organize under National Labor Relations Act (Sure-Tan v. NLRA).

1984
- Chinese Staff and Workers' Association v. City of New York. Wins landmark ruling requiring environmental review of new developments that may displace low-income tenants and small businesses; court blocks construction of Henry Street Tower.

1986
- Conducts the nation's first nonpartisan exit poll of Asian American voters in the presidential election.

1987
- Submits redistricting plan for Asian Latino NYC Council district in Manhattan's Chinatown and Lower East Side.

1988
- Testifies before U.S. House Judiciary Committee in support of expanding Asian language assistance under the Voting Rights Act.

Represents the family of Yong Xin Huang, the 16-year-old Chinese American fatally shot by NYPD officers in Brooklyn; wins $400,000 settlement in civil rights lawsuit against New York City.

Represents Chinese immigrants seeking political asylum after the Golden Venture freighter runs aground in Far Rockaway, Queens.

Organizes teach-in about the selective prosecution of Los Alamos nuclear engineer Wen Ho Lee for mishandling restricted data. A federal judge releases Lee after nine months of solitary confinement, citing government misconduct.

Moon v. Kwan: Wins $440,000 judgment for back wages on behalf of Korean maintenance worker forced to work without pay in midtown Manhattan hotel.

Educates Asian Americans about participation in Census 2000; secures policy change protecting confidentiality of undocumented immigrants.

After the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, AALDEF represents South Asian and Muslim victims of hate violence and immigrant detainees held without criminal charges.


Testifies before Congress calling for treatment of post-9/11 environmental health problems affecting Chinatown residents; works with Beyond Ground Zero Network to broaden access to 9/11 relief programs.
Justice Department files settlement in federal court in response to AALDEF complaint on behalf of two dozen South Philadelphia High School immigrant students facing anti-Asian harassment and violence.

Rhode Island federal judge awards $1.2 million judgment for Filipina domestic worker who was trafficked by a UAE military officer.

Speaks at rally to support voting rights: Supreme Court limits protections for minority voters under Voting Rights Act in Shelby County v. Holder.

NYC Board of Elections agrees to provide Bengali ballots and interpreters in Queens County after AALDEF files voting rights lawsuit.

2010

Secures $400,000 for Asian small business owners from the NYC Chinatown Business Improvement District, which overcharged local merchants before the BID took effect.

2011

Indian immigrant factory workers recover back wages and overtime pay from Rajbhog Foods, a national distributor of Indian snack foods in Jersey City, NJ.

2012

2013

2014

2015

Korean and Latino workers win $2.67 million judgment in wage theft lawsuit against Kum Gang San restaurant in NYC.

Members of undocumented youth group RAISE (Revolutionizing Asian American Stories on the East Coast) share personal stories in an original theater production, “UndocuAsians.”
**OCA-Greater Houston**

*State of Texas Federal appeals court affirms ruling that Texas election law restricting assistance to limited English proficient voters violates the Voting Rights Act.*

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**2016**

- Releases report on multilingual exit poll of 13,846 Asian American voters in the 2016 presidential election.

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**2017**

- Files amicus brief in federal court on behalf of Asian American groups in *SFFA v. Harvard University,* in support of race-conscious admissions and diversity in higher education.

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**2018**

- **Hawaii v. Trump.** Joins amicus brief in the Supreme Court supporting challenge to Muslim travel ban.

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**Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin.** Supreme Court upholds consideration of race in college admissions process and cites AALDEF amicus brief on behalf of Asian American groups.

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