



- Asian American roots are embedded in at least 20 countries and cover a multitude of cultures, languages and religions. We have our origins in the Far East, Southeastern Asia and the Indian sub-content, including – for example - Cambodia, China, Taiwan, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam.
- Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, and Native Alaskans are sometimes generically grouped together with Asian Americans, but they prefer to be regarded as separate racial / ethnic groups.
- Asian Americans in the U.S. encompass everyone of Asian origin from refugees and recent immigrants to fifth generation Americans.

Presenters



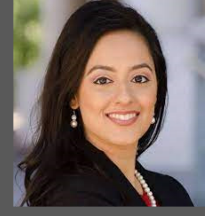
Hon. Roxanne Song Ong (ret.)
Moderator
Phoenix AZ Municipal Court



Hon. Cheri T. Pham
Assistant Presiding Judge
David Yamasaki
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court, Orange County CA



Hon. Gloria Y. Tan
Associate Justice
Massachusetts Juvenile Court



Hon. Rabeea Sultan Collier
113th District Court of Texas
Harris County

Regarding logistics for our webinar today... A video record of the seminar and copies of the PowerPoints, presenter bios, and any key documents referred to during our discussions will be available on NAPCO's website a day or two after the presentation. Questions may be submitted anytime by accessing the Q&A icon at the bottom of your screen. We will try and answer them either during the presentation or at the end of the program.

Faculty resumes may be found among the documents filed in regard to this webinar on NAPCO's website.

Agenda

1. **Diversity: Hallmark of U.S. Asian Community**
 - Wide-ranging education, income, jobs
 - 20 countries; many languages
2. **Barriers / Challenges for Asian Americans as Court Users (criminal, civil, juvenile, etc.)**
3. **Personal Insights / Experiences of the Panelists as Asian Americans who serve in Trial Courts**
4. **Strategies/Advice for Trial Court Leaders in serving Asian-American Communities**
5. **Q & A**



JUDGE SONG ONG... Our program today covers 4 topics.

First, we'll give you a glimpse of the immense diversity of Asian communities in America

Next, the panel will focus on the Barriers and Challenges Asian Americans must traverse as Court Users, including access to justice, adjudication processes, interpreter / translation services, legal aid, children and family issues, etc.

Third, we'll reflect on our personal experiences and insights as Asian Americans serving and working in judicial and court leadership positions in trial courts.

Lastly, we'll offer some strategies and advice for trial court leaders to better serve Asian-American communities in various ways with better access to justice, specialized programs, increased cultural awareness, and improved community outreach.



Diversity

Hallmark of U.S.
Asian Community

American society tends not to think of the complexity and diversity of Asian races and ethnicity.

An example of this thinking actually surfaced in the 2020 Presidential race: During his run for the Democratic nomination, Andrew Yang, who is of Taiwanese descent, was frequently framed by the media and his own campaign as *the Asian candidate* despite his rival Kamala Harris being of Indian heritage.

“My Asian-ness is kind of obvious in a way that might not be true of Kamala,” Yang said, “That’s not a choice. It’s just a fairly evident reality.”

Today’s common American usage of the term Asian American is a relatively recent phenomenon, spiking in popularity after World War II. There are many facts and complexities about Asian American communities today.

Let’s take a quick look at the next two slides which will give you more insight about the multifaceted makeup of Asian Americans.

Key Facts about Asian Americans

85% of Asian Americans are: Chinese/Taiwanese, Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Japanese

Born Outside the U.S.
6 in 10 Asian Americans
1.5 in 10 of all Americans

Despite doing well on ECONOMIC & EDUCATION indicators overall, some Asian sub-groups are not...

*Bhutanese • Bangladeshi • Nepali
Cambodian • Hmong • Laotian • Vietnamese*

By mid-century Asian Americans are projected to be the largest immigrant group in the U.S.

Overall, 72% of all U.S. Asians are “proficient” in English, meaning they only speak English or speak it very well

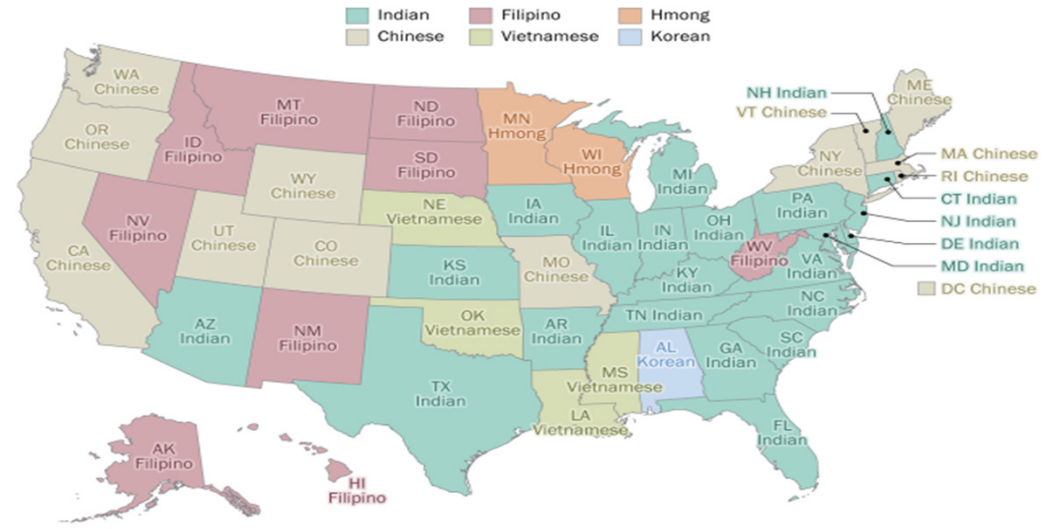
About 1/4 of Asian Americans live in multigenerational households

- “MODEL MINORITY “ label used to characterize Asian Americans is a MYTH... Why?
- Wide differences in socioeconomic experiences exist among U.S. Asian groups
 - It is used to diminish impacts of slavery, discrimination, segregation on other racial groups

Asian Hate Crimes rose to their highest level in 2021 (746 targeted attacks)
FBI Report
March 13, 2023

Asian Origin Groups vary in Size by State
Most Court Leaders are Unaware of this Fact

Largest Asian origin groups by state, 2019



Note: Figures for all origin groups include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin. "Chinese" includes those identifying as Taiwanese.
 Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2017-2019 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Now that a foundation about the Asian American community has been laid in place, it's time for me to engage our panel...

- What are some of the troublesome barriers and challenges Asian American communities confront when dealing with state and local courts?
- Whether U.S. born or immigrants, Asian Americans are often seen by others as “foreigners.” Is that a problem in courts?
- Marginalized, high poverty Asian sub-groups such as Cambodians, Hmong, Laotian and Vietnamese often have trouble obtaining services from courts in civil and family court matters. Do you have programs to help them?
- A recent survey by the Asian American Legal Defense Fund found that half of all Asian Americans polled don't believe police treat them fairly. In your personal opinion, is that general feeling true in your community? How does it translate to courts?



Personal Insights As Judges / Court Staff

- What difficulties – if any – have you encounter in your career as a judge-leader or court executive because of your Asian American ethnicity?
- Research has found that many Asian Americans in the workplace perceive lower levels of fairness, feel less able to be themselves at work, and feel their bosses are not effective in creating advancement opportunities for them. How should D,E & I programs in courts address this situation?
- A recent survey by *AAPI Data* found that 1 in 6 Asian American adults have experienced hate crimes or incidents. Have you experienced such instances? If so, how did the authorities respond?
- A recent study (2022) by the ABA and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association found underrepresentation of Asian Americans in the top ranks of the legal profession, notable progress in the appointment of federal judges and in corporate general counsel positions, and a rebound in law school enrollment from a 20-year low. However... Asian American judgeships at state and local levels don't appear to be increasing. Is that your experience in your community? If so, what can be done to improve those numbers?



- What three (3) things would you advise the national community of state and local trial court leaders to better serve Asian Americans?
- How should court leaders go about surfacing conversations about racial justice involving Asian Americans?

