

28th Annual Harvard Asian Pacific American
Law Students Association Conference
Saturday, February 12th, 2022

BREAKTHROUGH

Conference Program

HARVARD
APALSA



Saturday, February 12th, 2022

BREAKTHROUGH

Conference Schedule

9:30 – 10:00	Opening Remarks with Alexander Chen
10:00 – 11:10	Panel: Public Interest
11:15 – 12:25	Panel: Private Practice: Transactional
12:25 – 1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:00 – 2:30pm	Virtual BigLaw Career Fair
2:35 – 3:45pm	Panel: Governance & Adjudication
3:50 – 5:00pm	Panel: Private Practice: Litigation
5:00 – 6:15pm	Keynote: Sam Mihara

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Conference Guests,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 28th Annual Harvard APALSA Conference. We are infinitely grateful for all the people who gathered to help make this Conference a reality – most of all, the Conference Committee and the APALSA Board.

This year's theme is "Breakthrough." The last few years have been turbulent. Not only have we seen rising tides of violence against the AAPI community, we have also witnessed, and sometimes even perpetrated, social, physical, and cultural violence against other marginalized groups. Despite this, AAPI individuals have continued to make enormous legal, political, and socio-cultural progress. And with our success comes a responsibility to the people around us – a responsibility to inspire, to empower, to support, to teach, to learn, and to listen.

To our students: we hope you leave this Conference with lessons to inform your future personal and professional lives. We hope you are inspired by the success stories you hear and that one day, you may return to Harvard Law School and be on the other side of the table.

To our speakers: we hope you are also inspired by your co-panelists and what they have achieved. We hope this experience will be a valuable self-reflection on your own victories and that you take a step back to celebrate yourself. And we hope to one day welcome you back on campus in-person.

Have a wonderful Conference!

With enormous gratitude,
Your Conference Co-Chairs



Lisa Wang



Sami Ilagan

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Opening Remarks

9:30 – 10:00am



Professor Alexander Chen

Harvard Law School

Alexander Chen is the Founding Director of the Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic. Alexander's work focuses on expanding the rights of LGBTQ+ people through impact litigation, policy advocacy, and direct representation at both the national and local levels. Previously, Alexander served as an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, one of the nation's leading LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations. At NCLR, Alexander engaged in LGBTQ+ impact litigation and policy advocacy in education, employment, health care, housing, prisons, and juvenile justice and child welfare settings.

Alexander was a member of the litigation team in the transgender military cases *Doe v. Trump* and *Stockman v. Trump*, as well as the landmark Ninth Circuit transgender prisoner surgery access case *Edmo v. Corizon*. He also co-drafted AB 2119, a bill that made California the first state to guarantee access to transition-related health care for trans youth in foster care.

Alexander has received numerous awards for his work, including being named one of Forbes' 30 Under 30 in Law and Policy, and one of the 40 Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40 by the National LGBT Bar Association. He is also a co-founder of the National Trans Bar Association and a co-author of the Trans Youth Handbook.

Alexander received his B.A. from Oxford University, his M.A. from Columbia University, and his J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he was the first openly transgender editor of the Harvard Law Review and worked on trans issues at the Department of Justice, the ACLU LGBT & HIV Project, and the National Center for Transgender Equality. He clerked on the Ninth Circuit for the Hon. M. Margaret McKeown, and in the Southern District of California for the Hon. Gonzalo P. Curiel.

Panel: Public Interest

10:00 – 11:10am



Prof. Alexander Chen *Harvard Law School*

Alexander Chen is the Founding Director of the Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic. Alexander's work focuses on expanding the rights of LGBTQ+ people through impact litigation, policy advocacy, and direct representation at both the national and local levels. Previously, Alexander served as an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, one of the nation's leading LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations. At NCLR, Alexander engaged in LGBTQ+ impact litigation and policy advocacy in education, employment, health care, housing, prisons, and juvenile justice and child welfare settings. Alexander has received numerous awards for his work, including being named one of Forbes' 30 Under 30 in Law and Policy, and one of the 40 Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40 by the National LGBT Bar Association. He is also a co-founder of the National Trans Bar Association and a co-author of the Trans Youth Handbook.



Param-Preet Singh *Human Rights Watch*

Param-Preet Singh is the Deputy Director for Strategy & Collaboration in the Office of the Chief Programs Officer. Prior to this role, she was an associate director in the International Justice Program where she conducted on-the-ground fact-finding missions, authored reports and led advocacy campaigns to press for justice for grave crimes in Myanmar, North Korea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also led Human Rights Watch's Fellowship Program from 2016-2020. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Singh worked as a lawyer with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the Department of Justice in Toronto, Canada. She was also a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard Law School (2013) and a Schell Center Senior Visiting Human Rights Fellow (2013) at Yale Law School. She is a graduate of the University of Alberta and McGill Law School.

Panel: Public Interest

10:00 – 11:10am



Kavya Naini *Public Defender Service, D.C.*

Kavya joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia in 2018. She started as a staff attorney in the Special Litigation Division (SLD) and recently joined the Trial Division as a trial attorney representing indigent individuals charged with crimes in the District of Columbia. As a staff attorney in SLD, she represented individuals sentenced to life as children in post-conviction proceedings and challenged systemic issues affecting PDS clients. During her time at PDS, she has briefed and argued cases in D.C. Superior Court, D.C. District Court, and the D.C. Court of Appeals. Before joining PDS, Kavya clerked for two federal judges. She obtained her J.D. from Harvard Law School, where she spent her summers interning at capital and public defense offices. Prior to law school, she worked in Mexico as a Fulbright scholar and obtained her M.B.A. and B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis.



Chris Kang *Demand Justice*

Christopher Kang is the Cofounder and Chief Counsel of Demand Justice, which is building a progressive movement to restore ideological balance and legitimacy to our nation's courts. Chris served in the White House for nearly seven years as Deputy Counsel to President Obama and Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. He oversaw the selection, vetting, and confirmation of more than 220 judicial nominees, which set records for the most people of color, women, and openly LGBTQ+ judges appointed. He also advised President Obama on commutations and pardons, helped spearhead the confirmations of Justices Sotomayor and Kagan, and helped repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell and pass the Fair Sentencing Act. Chris also served as National Director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and worked for Senator Durbin as Director of Floor Operations and Judiciary Committee Counsel. The National Law Journal named him one of the top 40 minority lawyers in the nation under the age of 40 in 2011. Chris serves on the Board of Advisors of the American Constitution Society and the People's Parity Project.

Panel: Public Interest

10:00 – 11:10am



Neil Makhija *Indian American Impact*

Neil Makhija is a Lecturer in Law at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and Executive Director of Indian American Impact, the nation's leading South Asian civic organization. He has represented essential workers in fair pay litigation, the City of Philadelphia against manufacturers of opioid painkillers, and children in the first class action against e-cigarette manufacturers for unlawful marketing. He currently serves as President of the South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia. During Mr. Makhija's candidacy for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Mr. Makhija won the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court case *In Re: Makhija* (2016), which protected the rights of students and recent graduates to run for office in their home state under the Pennsylvania Constitution. Mr. Makhija earned his J.D. at Harvard Law School on the Horace Lentz Scholarship. While at Harvard, he founded the HLS Homelessness Coalition and was a Senior Policy Editor on the Harvard Law & Policy Review. He received his B.A. in neuroscience from Sarah Lawrence College. In 2021, Mr. Makhija was one of 13 Asian American civil rights leaders invited to the White House to advise President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on voting rights and immigration. He was named by City & State PA as one of the "40 under 40" most influential people in Pennsylvania politics. Mr. Makhija is passionate about issues of voting rights, immigration, enfranchising underrepresented communities, and Pennsylvanian politics.

Panel: Private Practice: Litigation

11:15am – 12:25pm



Ronald C. Chen *Wachtell*

Ronald C. Chen is a partner at Wachtell in the Corporate Department, focusing primarily on M&A, corporate governance, and securities law matters. Ron has represented numerous public and private entities in a variety of industries and transactions, including domestic and cross-border merger and acquisition transactions, private equity transactions, joint ventures, divestitures, spin-offs and corporate governance matters. Ron is also a lecturer at Stanford Law School. Ron received his A.B. *summa cum laude* from Harvard College, where he received the John Williams Prize as the top graduate in economics. After graduation, Ron served as a staff economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisers and received a Marshall Scholarship to study at the University of Oxford, where he received an M.Sc. in Economic and Social History and an M.B.A. Ron joined McKinsey as a management consultant after completing his M.B.A. Ron received his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School where he was the recipient of a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. After law school, he was a Charles Hamilton Houston Fellow at Harvard Law School and a law clerk to the Honorable Robert D. Sack of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.



Peiyu Yu *Sidley Austin*

Peiyu Yu was born and raised China and is now a member of the M&A, Private Equity, and Emerging Companies & Venture Capital practices at Sidley Austin's Palo Alto office. Every time Peiyu plans for her career, the universe chuckles. She set out to be an environmental litigator, but is now a corporate transactional lawyer; interviewed with all Chicago firms that came to EIP, but ended up in Silicon Valley; wanted to be a specialist, but is now embracing a generalist approach. She is not rushing into any plans just yet because she loves where she is and what she does now. While at HLS, Peiyu was involved with Environmental Law Society, China Law Association, and the Negotiation & Mediation Clinic among other things. She was also an OCS peer advisor during the 2019 EIP and during her 3L year.

Panel: Private Practice: Litigation

11:15am – 12:25pm



Linda Tieh *Simpson Thacher*

Linda Tieh is a Partner in the Private Funds Practice of Simpson Thacher. She advises investment fund sponsors on the formation, structuring and operation of private equity funds. Her practice also includes advising fund sponsors on structured secondary transactions, internal sponsor arrangements, as well as regulatory compliance and fund-related aspects of mergers and acquisitions transactions. She has also worked on a range of pro bono matters, including non-profit and asylum representation, and served on her firm's Diversity Advisory Council and Women's Advisory Council to shape firm initiatives around recruitment, training, mentorship, and promotion. She is a Hiring Partner for her firm's Houston office and currently serves on her firm's Women's and Recruiting Committees. Linda has been with Simpson Thacher since graduating Harvard Law School in 2011. She received her B.B.A in Business Honors and B.A. in Plan II (Liberal Arts) Honors, *summa cum laude*, from The University of Texas at Austin in 2008.



Ken Li *Sullivan & Cromwell*

Ken Li is a partner in Sullivan and Cromwell's Financial Services Group. Ken's practice focuses on advising U.S. and non-U.S. financial institutions on a range of transactional and regulatory matters. His recent transactional representations have included acquisitions and divestitures involving asset management and wealth management businesses, broker-dealers and insurance companies. In addition, Ken routinely advises a variety of financial institutions regarding U.S. banking laws and regulations, including those related to investment management and securities activities, financial reform legislation and merchant banking.

Panel: Private Practice: Litigation

11:15am – 12:25pm



Jean Lee *Cleary Gottlieb*

Jean Lee is a Corporate Associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions Group. Jean received her J.D. from Harvard Law School, where she was a recipient of Victor Brudney Prize for best paper on corporate governance, and her B.A. *summa cum laude* from Princeton University. During her time at Harvard Law School, Jean served as Sponsorship Chair of APALSA, Co-President of KAHLS, and Lead Executive Editor of the Harvard International Law Journal.



Evan Yoo *Paul, Weiss*

Evan received his J.D., *cum laude*, from New York University School of Law in 2020 where he was a Staff Editor of the New York University Annual Survey of American Law. He was a 2019 Summer Associate at Paul, Weiss and a 2018 Summer Associate in the Houston, Texas office of Vinson & Elkins. He received his B.S., *cum laude*, in Business Economics and Finance from Miami University of Ohio in 2017. Evan is currently in his second rotation through the M&A department.



D. Ana Choi *Cravath*

D. Ana Choi is an associate in Cravath's Corporate Department. Ms. Choi focuses her practice on representing corporations and financial institutions in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets transactions and financing transactions. Ms. Choi's clients have included Assurant, Barrick Gold, Canadian National Railway, DiaSorin, GasLog, Minerals Technologies, Proximo Spirits, RELX Group, Scientific Games, Viatris, and ViewRay, among others. Ms. Choi is from Barcelona, Spain. She received an A.B. *magna cum laude* from Harvard College in 2013 and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 2016, where she was an editor of the *Law and Policy Review* and the Co-President of the Korean Association.

Virtual BigLaw Career Fair

I:00 – 2:30pm

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

John Callahan
June Hahm

Alston & Bird

James Abe
Anna Saraie

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton

Jean Lee

Cravath, Swine & Moore

Ana Choi

Kirkland & Ellis

Steven M. Choi
Jina Chung

Latham & Watkins

Phebe Hong
Elaine Zhong

Norton Rose Fulbright

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton &

Garrison
Dan Kang
Jin Kim
Yihan Zhuang

Ropes & Gray
Ningzhou Shen
Shudan Shen

Sidley Austin

Sullivan & Cromwell
Jessica Ljustina
Kirandeep Mahal

Selendy & Gay
Samuel J. Kwak
Youzhihang Deng

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Shub Chandrasekaran
Heather Lee

Williams & Connolly

Quinn Zhang
Natasha Zech

WilmerHale

Jun Lim

Winston & Strawn
Spencer Churchill

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

Kwon-Yong Jin
Amanda Lee
Meng Lu
Michael Ye
Casey Matthew

Panel: Governance & Adjudication

2:35 – 3:45pm



Hon. Lorna G. Schofield S.D.N.Y.

Lorna G. Schofield is a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. She was nominated in 2012 by President Obama and confirmed by a unanimous vote of the U.S. Senate. For 20 years previously, Judge Schofield was a litigation partner at Debevoise & Plimpton. Her practice focused on litigation in complex commercial matters, including regulatory and white collar criminal investigations, class actions, corporate bankruptcies, and other business disputes. Her trials included the successful defense of Rosie O'Donnell in her contract claim against the publisher of Rosie Magazine, and of a "big four" accounting firm in a class action in which the jury returned a defense verdict after only 30 minutes. Judge Schofield previously served as a federal prosecutor and worked on cases involving arms dealing, domestic terrorism, and white collar crime. She is a former Chair of the Section of Litigation of the American Bar Association. Judge Schofield has written and spoken frequently about trial tactics and women in the legal profession. Judge Schofield is the first Filipino-American to be appointed as an Article III federal judge.



Komala Ramachandra CAO

Komala is a human rights lawyer with 15 years of experience working on development finance, corporate accountability, and poverty and inequality. She is currently a social and environmental specialist at the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO). At CAO, she investigates complaints about the social and environmental impacts of projects financed by the International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. Prior to joining CAO, she was associate director of the business and human rights division at Human Rights Watch, conducting research and advocacy on corporate abuses of human rights and building the organization's work on poverty and inequality. Previously, she was the communities director for South Asia at Accountability Counsel, supporting communities in Asia and Latin America to address human rights and environmental abuses related to corporate and development projects. She received degrees in economics and political science from Northwestern University, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Panel: Governance & Adjudication

2:35 – 3:45pm



Ted W. Lieu *U.S. House of Representatives*

Ted W. Lieu represents California's 33rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Ted is serving in his fourth term in Congress and currently sits on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He is currently Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee. He serves as Whip of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Vice Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, and Co-Chair of the Cloud Computing Caucus. Ted is a former active duty officer in the U.S. Air Force, for which he received numerous medals for outstanding service. Following active duty, Ted served in the Air Force Reserve, retiring with the rank of Colonel in 2021. Prior to being elected to Congress in 2014, Ted served as a California State Senator from 2011 to 2014, and before that, as a State Assemblyman from 2005 to 2010. During his time as U.S. Representative and California State Senator, Ted has authored and sponsored bills and spearheaded the discussion on many issues including climate change, government ethics, LGBTQ+ rights, cybersecurity, and anti-discrimination. Ted also co-authored the Article of Impeachment and served as Impeachment Manager for the second Senate trial of President Trump. Ted and his family immigrated to the U.S. when he was three years old. He holds an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and Political Science from Stanford and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from Georgetown, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the law review. He currently lives in Torrance, C.A. with his wife and two sons.

Panel: Governance & Adjudication

2:35 – 3:45pm



Hon. Sanket J. Bulsara *E.D.N.Y*

Sanket J. Bulsara was appointed as a Magistrate Judge of the Eastern District of New York on August 28, 2017. Judge Bulsara was the first South Asian American to serve as a federal judge on any court in the Second Circuit. Judge Bulsara received an A.B. degree *magna cum laude* in 1998 from Harvard College, and a J.D. degree *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 2002. Upon graduating from law school, Judge Bulsara was a law clerk to Judge John G. Koeltl of the Southern District of New York. Thereafter, he worked at WilmerHale from 2005 to 2015, first as an associate, then as a partner. In 2015, he became the Deputy General Counsel for Appellate Litigation, Adjudication, and Enforcement at the Securities and Exchange Commission. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Bulsara served as Acting General Counsel of the S.E.C. Judge Bulsara is an Adjunct Professor of Law at St. John's Law School, where he teaches Remedies and Securities Litigation.



Erik Swabb *WilmerHale*

Erik Swabb's practice focuses on investigations, crisis management, and public policy counseling related to defense and national security. Prior to rejoining the firm in 2019, he served as General Counsel of the US Senate Armed Services Committee and Special Adviser to the Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State. Before his legal career, he was a U.S. Marine infantry officer. Mr. Swabb has conducted internal investigations and responded to government inquiries for defense contractors and other companies whose businesses intersect with national security. These matters have involved a range of issues, including regulatory and government contract compliance, the False Claims Act, anti-corruption, sanctions, military operations, and congressional oversight. He has also counseled clients facing corporate crises, congressional inquiries, and other matters at the intersection of law, national security, and public policy, drawing on his experience in the U.S. government. Mr. Swabb received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2009 and his B.A. in political science from Columbia University in 2002.

Panel: Private Practice: Litigation

3:50 – 5pm



Hailyn Chen *Munger, Tolles & Olson*

Hailyn Chen is a litigation partner and Co-Managing Partner of Munger, Tolles & Olson. Her practice focuses on complex litigation, internal and government investigations, and crisis management. Hailyn has represented companies in a broad range of industries in internal investigations and government involving various topics, including alleged fraud and corruption. In 2021, Hailyn was listed among California's "Top Women Lawyers" by the Daily Journal for the fourth consecutive year and, in 2020, she was named "Managing Partner of the Year" by Corporate Counsel. Hailyn serves by appointment by the California Supreme Court on the State Bar of California's 13-member Board of Trustees and chairs the Regulation and Discipline Committee, which oversees the State Bar's Office of Chief Trial Counsel. Hailyn also serves on the Attorney Liability Assurance Society's Managing Partner Advisory Committee. Hailyn earned her undergraduate degree from Yale and J.D. from UCLA School of Law, where she served as an Articles Editor of the UCLA Law Review. Hailyn clerked for Judge A. Wallace Tashima of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.



Jennifer Poon *Akin Gump*

Since 2018, Jennifer Poon has been practicing bankruptcy, white collar, and securities litigation at Akin Gump. From 2017-2018, Ms. Poon completed a yearlong public service fellowship in the Immigrants' Rights Project at the ACLU of Southern California. From 2015-2017, she practiced transactional law for two years at Simpson Thacher. Ms. Poon received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2015. Ms. Poon is currently on an externship sponsored by Akin Gump at Her Justice, a nonprofit that provides free legal help to indigent women in New York City, until May.

Panel: Private Practice: Litigation

3:50 – 5pm



William F. Lee *WilmerHale*

Bill Lee is a partner at WilmerHale and is one of the country's foremost trial, appellate and intellectual property lawyers. He has tried more than 200 cases and argued more than 100 appeals. Previously, Bill has served as associate counsel to Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh in the Iran-Contra investigation and as a special assistant to the Massachusetts Attorney General for the purpose of investigating alleged incidents of racial bias in the Commonwealth's courts. Bill was also lead trial counsel for Harvard in the case attacking its race conscious admissions policy. Bill is currently the Senior Fellow of the Harvard Corporation and the Eli Goldston Lecturer at Harvard Law School. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American College of Trial Lawyers. Bill has been awarded numerous accolades, including a lifetime achievement award by the American Lawyer and a 50 most powerful people in Boston award by the Boston Business Journal.



Spencer Churchill *Winston & Strawn*

Spencer Churchill is a litigation associate and a member of the firm's nationwide white collar, regulatory defense & investigations group. He has represented and advised companies and individuals in matters involving the False Claims Act, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and a range of civil and commercial causes of action. Before joining Winston & Strawn, Spencer clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Spencer was recognized in the 2021 and 2022 editions of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America in the area of Criminal Defense: White-Collar.



Phebe Hong *Latham & Watkins*

Phebe Hong is a first year litigation associate at Latham & Watkins in Boston. She served as the 2020-21 Harvard APALSA Co-President.

Panel: Private Practice: Litigation

3:50 – 5pm



Tai Park *Quinn Emmanuel*

Tai Park is a litigation partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan in New York. His area of specialty is white collar criminal and regulatory defense, but his practice also includes commercial and securities litigation, as well as international arbitration. From 1989 to 1999, Mr. Park served as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where he supervised prosecutors as Chief of the Narcotics Unit and handled the most sensitive cases as Senior Trial Counsel in the Securities & Commodities Fraud Task Force. In private practice, Mr. Park has been a litigation partner at international law firms Shearman & Sterling and White & Case. For ten years, Mr. Park also was the founding partner of a white collar boutique firm, Park Jensen & Bennett. A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Mr. Park currently is co-chair of the Alliance for Asian American Justice, a consortium of 95 major law firms that represent the victims of anti-Asian violence. He received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University and his J.D. from New York University School of Law.



Samuel J. Kwak *Selendy & Gay*

Samuel J. Kwak is a litigator with experience in commercial litigation, arbitration, restructuring, and internal investigations. Samuel earned his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he served as the Financial Editor of the Journal of Transnational Law, and his M.B.A. from Columbia Business School. Prior to joining Selendy & Gay, Samuel served as a law clerk to the Honorable Naomi Reice Buchwald of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and practiced at Davis Polk & Wardwell and Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler.



Quinn Zhang *Williams & Connolly*

Quinn Zhang is an associate at Williams & Connolly, where he primarily practices antitrust and complex commercial litigation. Quinn received his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Harvard Law School, where he was an Articles Editor of the Harvard Law Review, and his B.A. from Yale University.

Keynote: Sam Mihara

5:00 – 6:15pm



Sam Mihara

Sam Mihara is a second-generation Japanese American (Nisei) born and raised in San Francisco. When World War II broke out, the U.S. government and military forced Sam, age 9, and his family into the Heart Mountain, Wyoming prison camp. It was one of ten camps in the country that together housed over 120,000 West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry, most of them U.S.-born American citizens. Sam and his family lived in one room, a twenty-by-twenty square foot space in a barrack, for three years. Conditions at the prison were miserable, and the camp had insufficient sanitary provisions, inadequate food and nutrition, minimum medical care, and no utilities or insulation for the Wyoming winters.

After the war ended, the family returned home to San Francisco. Sam attended Lick Wilmerding High School, U.C. Berkeley undergraduate, and UCLA graduate schools, where he earned engineering degrees. He became a rocket scientist and joined the Boeing Company where he became an executive on space programs.

Following retirement, Sam changed careers. He became a national speaker on the topic of mass imprisonment in the U.S. He has visited many federal prisons including today's detention facilities for undocumented immigrants. Sam has spoken to over 60,000 educators, schools, colleges, libraries, museums, government attorneys, Congress members and staff, law schools, law firms, and other interested organizations about his wartime experience and today's prisons. Sam emphasizes the lessons learned from his personal story that still apply to issues today: namely, immigration detention, the carceral system, and the importance of education funding. Sam was awarded the Paul Gagnon Prize for history educator of the year in 2018 by the National Council for History Education. He was the first Japanese American and first Californian to receive this award.

Sam is also involved in the preservation of the Heart Mountain historic prison site in Northwest Wyoming. Since 2014, he has been a board member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, the non-profit organization that oversees the National Historic Landmark site. The site today includes an award-winning museum and school with original camp structures.