



## ASIAN LEADERS of INFLUENCE 2024



SUSAN (SAN) **BAARSCH** NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTHCARE



WELLA **CAMPBELL** C3 RISK & INSURANCE



CARTER SDG&E



KASSANDRA CASTILLO WILSON SONSINI **GOODRICH & ROSATI** 



LEEVA CHUNG **UNIVERSITY OF SAN** DIEGO



KRISTINE CUSTODIO **SUERO** SAN DIEGO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION



RIZZA ELACUADRA SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



ALAN GIN **UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO** 



JANET HAMADA **KELLEY** ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION



HAP JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY



HOGAN NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTHCARE



TED HOLMQUIST **LAW OFFICE OF TED** HOLMQUIST, APC



HOUTH THOMAS QUINN LLP



HOWE LAW OFFICES OF EMILY E. HOWE



**MIKLE JEW FOLEY & LARDNER LLP** 



CYNTHIA KAUI CITY OF CHULA VISTA



CELINE **KRIMSTON EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT** 



LEE RADY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



**JASON** LEE M REAL ESTATE INC.



BRIXTON CAPITAL



**AARON** HONE MAXWELL LLP



**TAMMY** LIN **UNIVERSITY OF** SAN DIEGO



WILL LU NIWC PAC



VIRGINIA LU TANDEM DIABETES CARE



JERRILYN MALANA SAN DIEGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S



SHIREEN **MATTHEWS** JONES DAY



MOLINA



RICK PROTIK MUKHERJEE AWSOME LLC



MARIKO NAKAWATASE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



EDNA **NERONA** EDNASPEAKS.COM



NGO UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



LESLEY **NISHIHIRA** PORT OF SAN DIEGO



**ORNELAS** WILSON TURNER KOSMO



JAE **PARK DENTONS US LLP** 



JOJO **SEVA** MISSION FED CREDIT UNION



ADAM F. SLOUSTCHER FISHER PHILLIPS



**JOURDANNE** SONGCO, J.D.



TEEGALA AWSOME LLC



LAURO "JC" TEOPENGCO III COX BUSINESS



RONALD UY **WELLS FARGO BANK** 



AI FYIS VOLEN **CIRE EQUITY** 



**JOSHUA** VOLEN **CIRE EQUITY** 



SOCHIATA VUTTHY COMMUNITY **HOUSINGWORKS** 



NAVEEN WANEY PLATT/WHITELAW ARCHITECTS, INC.



THOMAS WANG KAISER PERMANENTE



RAYMOND WU COPLEY-PRICE FAMILY YMCA



YANG-HELLEWELL THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



KEISAKU YOGI SAN DIEGO COUNTY **CREDIT UNION** 



ERIC C. YOUNG II RANCHO FAMILY YMCA



ZAPANTA SAN DIEGO SUPERIO COURT

# LEADERS of INFLUENCE 2024



SUSAN (SAN) BAARSCH Director, Nursing Neighborhood Healthcare

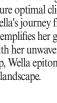
usan is a dedicated and compassionate Registered Nurse (RN) with a progressive career history in direct patient care, triage, and care coordination in a fast-paced environment. In her role as Nursing Manager for Neighborhood Healthcare, she leads a team that, combined, provide quality, compassionate, whole-person care to 90,000 individuals in Riverside and San Diego county, regardless of their situation or financial circumstance. Her proven leadership as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and at Neighborhood unites and guides nursing teams toward achieving care goals, improving patient satisfaction, and adapting to continuous health system changes. Streamline safety protocols for comprehensive patient care. Susan's military decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (2nd Award), National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.





**WELLA CAMPBELL** Director, Insurer Partnerships C3 Risk & Insurance

ella Campbell is a seasoned professional with over 15 years of enriching experience in the insurance realm. As an esteemed leader at C3 Risk & Insurance, she continually enhances her expertise, embodying a commitment to excellence. Wella's journey at C3 reflects her exceptional trajectory; from a client executive, she swiftly ascended to the role of Director of Insurer Partnerships within two years. Her adeptness lies in forging genuine connections with clients and carriers alike. Wella skillfully manages a substantial book of business while nurturing robust carrier relationships to ensure optimal client outcomes. A proud Filipino, Wella's journey from the Philippines to San Diego exemplifies her global perspective and resilience. With her unwavering dedication and astute leadership, Wella epitomizes excellence within the insurance landscape.





MAGGIE CARTER Director, Diversity & Inclusion SDG&E

argaret "Maggie" Carter is a trusted and collaborative HR leader known for her courage in influencing difficult situations and driving forward new ideas. With over two decades of experience, she has demonstrated a keen ability to strategically prioritize and make decisions that balance business objectives with the needs of leaders and employees alike. Currently serving as the Director of Diversity & Inclusion at San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Maggie collaboratively leads efforts to advance an inclusive workplace culture. In this role, she designs and enhances D&I programs encompassing a broad spectrum of initiatives with clear goals and metrics based on best practice principles. Throughout her career, Maggie has been a results-driven leader, aligning HR initiatives with company strategies to achieve impactful outcomes. Her expertise spans various areas including change leadership, talent development, influencing and coaching leaders, compliance, employment law, and diversity, equity and inclusion.





**KASSANDRA CASTILLO** Partner Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

he first person of color to become partner in the San Diego corporate group at Wilson Sonsini, Kassandra helps life sciences innovators and investors bring cutting-edge therapeutics to market-and change patient lives. With experience encompassing financings, acquisitions, and public offerings, she has advised the asset manager Novo Holdings as lead investor in 15 recent multi-million-dollar transactions, including a \$225 million financing of MapLight Therapeutics, which is developing therapies for brain injuries. She has also advised ophthalmic therapeutics company SpyGlass Pharma on its \$90 million series C financing, and emerging San Diego company Tempo Therapeutics on its \$12 million series A financing. Kassandra joined WSGR after graduating from the University of San Diego Law School and spent two years as co-chair of the 1,000-plus-lawyer firm's associates committee. A passionate advocate of diversity, she is a leader within Athena, an organization that empowers women in STEM.

#### WILSON SONSINI



**LEEVA CHUNG** Professor of Communication University of San Diego

eeva C. Chung, PhD, has been a member of the University of San Diego faculty since 1998. She is a professor of communication, director of the individualized major, and an affiliate faculty member in Ethnic Studies. Leeva's unique and innovative style of teaching and advocacy for student driven pedagogy has been recognized with numerous awards on campus, such as the Davies Award for Teaching Excellence, Outstanding Preceptor Award, and the Innovation in Community Engagement Award. On Dec. 16, 2015, Leeva was recognized by the City of San Diego for her contributions to Pure Water San Diego and proclaimed it the Leeva Chung Day. Leeva has delivered keynote speeches and conducted a variety of workshops across the country. Chung is actively involved in the community, specifically with the San Diego Asian Film Festival, which premiered at USD in 2000.



**KRISTINE CUSTODIO SUERO** NALA Liaison San Diego Paralegal Association

ristine Custodio Suero is an award-winning legal professional and a highly sought after speaker in her profession inspiring legal professionals to achieve authentic, purpose-driven careers and lives. A true servant leader, she previously led the San Diego Paralegal Association and California Alliance of Paralegal Associations as President and was proud to champion diversity as the first Filipina at the helm of the statewide professional trade association. Kristine continues to serve as the NALA Liaison on the Board of Directors of the San Diego Paralegal Association. Her passion for service spans into education like her elders including her own mother, Zena (yes, pronounced like the warrior princess). A zealot for higher education and NextGen pipeline development, Kristine teaches legal courses for two local San Diego paralegal programs and lends her time as an advisory board member for one of the most prestigious universities in San Diego, among other volunteer roles.





RIZZA DELACUADRA Director, Finance Southwestern Community College District

izza Delacuadra has served Southwestern Community College District since 2011 in the Department of Finance. She is currently the Director of Finance, overseeing a budget of over \$100 million to serve the students and community in Chula Vista and surrounding areas. Rizza was born, raised, and earned her BS in Accounting in the Phillipines. She has lived in the Chula Vista area for over 20 years and has also earned her MBA



**ALAN GIN** Associate Professor of Economics University of San Diego

lan Gin, Ph.D., has been a faculty member at the University of San Diego since 1988, teaching at the undergraduate and MBA levels. He has also provided USD students with incredible educational experiences by serving as a study abroad professor in Hong Kong and Beijing/ Shanghai. Gin's research focuses on the San Diego economy. He is best known for developing the University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County, a monthly report on the outlook for the local economy. Gin's work educating the community is invaluable through his thousands of interviews to local and national media. His interest in the business environment of Asia led to membership on boards for the Asian Business Association (ABA) of San Diego and the Hong Kong Association of Southern California's San Diego chapter. He has received Business Leadership Awards from the ABA and Union of Pan Asian Communities.









# ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER

HERITAGE MONTH

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has made remarkable contributions to the field of computer science. Through groundbreaking technological advancements and the establishment of industry-leading companies, their influence has been profound and farreaching. AAPI professionals are recognized for their substantial presence in top tech companies, where they play crucial roles in shaping the future of technology. Additionally, they have made significant strides in making technology more accessible to people, with inventions such as robotic limbs and the establishment of nonprofit organizations that promote digital literacy. Their relentless commitment and innovative spirit continue to propel progress in the ever-evolving world of computer science.



## ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

# LEADERS of INFLUENCE 2024



JANET HAMADA KELLEY

Executive Director

Alzheimer's Association

anet Hamada Kelley is Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association's San Diego / Imperial Chapter. With over 10 years of volunteer healthcare agency management experience, Hamada Kelley has served in leadership roles previously at the National MS Society and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). With a background combining entrepreneurship, consulting and development, Hamada Kelley provides innovative, thoughtful thinking while focusing on creating collaborative partnerships and elevating the presence of the organization. Hamada Kelley also actively supports the AANHPI community by mentoring AANHPI women in leadership as well as speaking at various AANHPI events. A 2022 fellow for the Asian Pacific American Women Leadership Institute Program, she was also facilitator of Compassion Circle, a nationwide networking cohort for AANHPI women in leadership with the Center for Asian Pacific American Women (CAPAW).





PANA HAP
AVP, Programs & Policy
Junior Achievement of San Diego County

ana Hap is the AVP of Programs & Policy at Junior Achievement of San Diego. Pana has a passion for helping others and has dedicated the last decade of his life to nonprofit causes, serving communities in the greater San Diego area. Pana has stewarded collaborative efforts with corporate, community, and government partners to bring experiential learning experiences that equip youth with the social capital and confidence needed to thrive. He oversees the JA Fellows program which has impacted over 165 youth in communities that historically been underrepresented with paid work-based learning experiences. Pana has expanded JA San Diego's policy work by creating relationships with elected officials and continuing to share the importance of youth employment and workforce development initiatives across our region. Pana serves on the board of the San Diego Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Hawaiian Civic Club of San Diego, and the Copley-Price Family YMCA.





**DOLLY HOGAN**Senior Manager, Regional Operations
Neighborhood Healthcare

s Senior Manager of Regional Operations, Dolly Hogan lives the Neighborhood Healthcare mission to give over 90,000 individuals in Riverside and San Diego Counties quality, compassionate, whole-person care regardless of their situation and financial circumstance. She oversees four sites in her role, prioritizing the facility's needs to meet client and productivity targets. Dolly exhibits a collaborative and motivating leadership style that aims to optimize processes for organizational success. Dolly is a key reason for the organization's rapid expansion into Riverside County to meet a crucial healthcare need when other federally qualified healthcare centers closed operations. Without her ability to quarterback the rapid deployment of resources, thousands of individuals and families would have been without healthcare. Dolly's dedication to her profession is only overshadowed by her commitment to the communities she serves.





**TED HOLMQUIST**Owner & Founder
Law Office of Ted Holmquist, APC

ed Holmquist is Owner and Founder of the Law Office of Ted Holmquist, APC. Ted helps ensure access to justice and advises executives and individuals regarding employment agreements and issues. He also supports nonprofits, and volunteers with AANHPI advocacy efforts. Earlier this year, Ted helped co-found the San Diego Unity Bar, an affiliation of 11 diverse bar associations. He serves on the California Asian Pacific American Bar Association Policy Committee, serves as immediate past President of the Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Law Association, and is an incoming board member of Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego. Ted is actively involved with the San Diego County Bar Association, where he serves on the Labor and Employment Executive Committee, serves on the Legislative and Leadership Outreach Committees, and is a 2024 Leadership Academy Scholar. He is also a member of the La Jolla Bar Association. Ted can be reached at 858-923-1000 or ted@tedholmquistlaw.com.





JULIE T. HOUTH Associate Attorney Thomas Quinn LLP

ulie T. Houth is an Associate Attorney at Thomas Quinn LLP. Her practice focuses on the representation of employers and carriers in cases brought under the United States Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act and its extensions, including the Defense Base Act. Prior to joining the firm, she practiced plaintiffs' complex litigation including the multi-state district opioids cases. She also has experience in tax litigation. She is admitted to practice in New York and currently serves as the New York State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section's Chair. She was nominated and selected as one of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Young Lawyers Division's (YLD) 2021 On the Rise Top 40 Young Lawyer Honorees. She is Editor in Chief of the ABA GPSolo Division's magazine, the incoming Deputy Editor in Chief of the ABA YLD editorial and content board, and incoming President-Elect of the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego.



EMILY HOWE

Principal & Founder

Law Offices of Emily E. Howe

mily Howe, Esq., of the Law Offices of Emily E. Howe, is based in La Jolla and Kearny Mesa, San Diego. She helps individuals, families, nonprofits, and philanthropists understand, access, and protect their legal rights. Attorney Howe serves as an API leader of influence including as an Officer of the San Diego Law Library Foundation, membership and advisory board chair, and leader of local bar and community associations. Most recently, she participated in the inaugural San Diego Asian Pacific Community Giving Circle and collaborates with Asian Pacific Islander and community leaders. She served as a co-chair of an affinity network and engages in dialogue with committee leaders of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. A San Diego County Bar Association leadership academy alum, she champions wellness, bridge building and justice efforts, supports as a patron member and sponsors SDCBA programs. She is a member of the Honorable William B. Enright Inn of Court.



MIKLE JEW Senior Counsel Attorney Foley & Lardner LLP

s a devoted steward for Foley & Lardner, Mikle Jew has excelled as an active member of our recruiting committee, where he has demonstrated a commitment to identifying and nurturing talent from diverse backgrounds. He has spearheaded taking our San Diego office's summer associate program to a new level as the coordinator and liaison, ensuring a supportive and inclusive environment for young legal professionals to thrive. Furthermore, Mikle is a founding member of our firm's Racial Justice and Equity Practice Group, where he has been at the forefront of advocating for meaningful change within our organization and the legal profession as a whole. His leadership in addressing issues of racial injustice and promoting equity exemplifies his commitment to social responsibility and making a positive impact in the San Diego community.



**CYNTHIA KAUI**Executive Secretary
City of Chula Vista

ynthia Kaui works as the Executive Secretary for Chula Vista Mayor John McCann and the City Council where she represents San Diego County's second largest city to the public, businesses, and agencies. Along with handling the mayor's calendar and office operations, Cynthia manages all his communications including his press relations and social media. Her other work experience includes being a producer and writer for a broadcast TV network and a communications strategist that consulted business owners and non-profit organizations with public affairs and public relations at Focuscom Inc. She has also supported multiple private sector companies with their digital marketing efforts. Cynthia has a Bachelors in Communication from University of California, San Diego. Cynthia was nominated as an ""Outstanding Professional"" by the Philippine American Business Improvement and Development (Phil Am BID).









# CONGRATULATIONS

## **HC** Lee

for being selected as one of San Diego Business Journal's Top Asian Pacific Islander Business Leaders for 2024.

> **HC Lee** is the Director of Developmental Services, Community Programs at Rady Children's Hospital. She is a social worker that supports families with young children and has a background in child development and research on preschool-aged children and social emotional adjustment. She has trained early childhood mental health providers, home visitors, public health nurses and family resource advocates in building positive family relationships and early intervention. She has also launched home visitation programs, broad community health outreach programs and leads her team with reflective practices and hope. She is committed to pursuing the tenants of diversity, equity and inclusion and serves as the President of Rady Children's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Team Resource Group where she has led inaugural educational events and cultural celebrations and promotes increased awareness and cultural understanding of AANHPI patients and families.





#### The mission of Rady Children's AANHPI Circle Team Resource Group is:

To promote awareness and understanding of the unique and diverse cultures within our community and ensure that **AANHPI** (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander) community members are heard and elevated.





## ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

# LEADERS of INFLUENCE 2024



CELINE KRIMSTON
President & CEO
Educational Enrichment Systems, Inc.

eline has been in the field of Early Education for over 30 years and began her journey with EES in 1993 as a Master Teacher at the Linda Vista Child Development Center. Since then, Celine has held various programmatic leadership roles, as well as managing the eligibility and nutrition components of the program. All of the roles have built rich experiences contributing to her position as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer which she has held since 2014. Celine has held board positions with California Child Development Administrators Association, San Diego Association for the Education of Young Children as well as a California Association for the Education of Young Children public policy intern graduate. Celine obtained a Bachelor's of Art in Human Development and is in the process of completing her Master's of Art in Human Development with a Specialization in Leadership in Education from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, California.





HC LEE
Director, Developmental Services
Rady Children's Hospital

C Lee is the Director of Developmental Services, Community Programs at Rady Children's Hospital. She is a social worker that supports families with young children and has a background in child development and research on preschool aged children and social emotional adjustment. She has trained early childhood mental health providers, home visitors, public health nurses and family resource advocates in building positive family relationships and early intervention. She has also launched home visitation programs, broad community health outreach programs and leads her team with reflective practices and hope. She is committed to pursuing the tenants of diversity, equity and inclusion and serves as the President of Rady Children's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group where she has led inaugural educational events and cultural celebrations and promotes increased awareness and cultural understanding of AANHPI patients and families.





JASON LEE CEO JLM Real Estate Inc.

ason Lee is a multi-family real estate broker and CEO of JLM Real Estate, Inc. JLM is a commercial real estate brokerage firm in San Diego County specializing in sales, financing, and 1031 exchanges. Jason owns and operates a \$50 million real estate portfolio comprising more than one hundred units in San Diego County. With a sales team of 16 agents, JLM ranked No. 3 on the 2023 San Diego Business Journal's Fastest Growing Companies, and SDAR honored Jason as one of its 2024 30 Under 30. Born in Seoul, Korea, Jason came to the US at seven years old and graduated from San Diego University. His success is not just about money. It is about being able to support his team and community. In addition, he shares his real estate investing experience via free online courses on Youtube and mentorship groups. The U.S. Times covered Jason's accomplishments in an article titled "From \$500 to Financial Freedom by Age 25."



ERIC LI VP, Leasing Brixton Capital

ric Li is Vice President of leasing at Brixton Capital. He has played a major role in Brixton Capital's redevelopment of three outdated malls in Stockton, Calif., Everett, Wash. and Provo, Utah. On all three projects, Eric has leveraged personal relationships with tenants and brokers throughout the West to execute plans for these properties. He's also provided input on design and has the primary role of identifying tenants. For the Stockton mall, Eric executed a lease for the first Sprouts grocery market in the city. Everett has a new and improved Trader Joe's, and Provo has its first full-size Target. Eric oversees a retail property portfolio of 20 assets for a total of 2,619,049 sf of GLA. He is a black belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, an active member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, and a dedicated volunteer for Boy Scouts of America and Habitat for Humanity.







**AARON LI**Senior Associate
Hone Maxwell LLP

aron Li, born in China and bilingual in Mandarin and English, creates legal and cultural connections between businesses and individuals across Asia and the U.S. Aaron's deep knowledge of finance and tax law helps him find solutions to his clients' tax issues. This includes members of San Diego's Chinese community regarding monetary gifts or informal loans - customary financial arrangements in the Chinese culture but transactions the IRS may flag for audits. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics at the University of California, Riverside and his juris doctorate and LL.M in taxation from the University of San Diego School of Law. While in law school, Aaron became involved in the then-fledgling San Diego Chinese Attorneys Association and later served as its president. Aaron is also an active member of the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.



TAMMY LIN
Adjunct Law Professor
University of San Diego

ammy Lin, Esq., is an adjunct law professor and supervising attorney at the University of San Diego School of Law's Immigration Clinic. Lin opened her own practice in 2016 after almost nine years working for Jewish Family Services of San Diego where she was hired to start the asylum and immigration program. She frequently speaks on asylum/refugee and immigration issues at conferences, trainings and with various media outlets, most recently 60 Minutes. Lin was appointed by Mayor Todd Gloria in 2022 to serve as a commissioner on the San Diego Civil Service Commission. She is a two-time former American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) San Diego Chair and current member of AILA National's Media and Advocacy Committee (former chair). Lin served as a committee member for three online AILA courses and was a 2014 AILA Advocacy recipient.





WILL LU
IPT Lead
NIWC PAC

ill Lu is an Integrated Product Team lead at the Navy Informational Warfare Center Pacific. In this role, he leads efforts around optimizing business processes and developing new strategies for business growth. Will brings a diverse set of experience stemming from his background as a Navy veteran, management consultant and time in the financial technology sector. He currently serves the community as a board member at the Armed Services YMCA San Diego. There he drives strategy to shape communications and public relations efforts that support San Diego military families. His work has been recognized by the Society of Asian Scientists & Engineers and is a recipient of the Jefferson Award. He holds an MBA from the UCSD Rady School of Management and was recently accepted into the EMPA program at Cornell University.



VIRGINIA LU
Director, Product Management
Tandem Diabetes Care

irginia Lu is the Director of Product Management at Tandem Diabetes Care where she continues her mission to help improve the lives of people with diabetes through the development of innovative technology. She excels at and is energized by opportunities for technology innovation, problem-solving and cross-functional collaboration. Virginia graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and an M.S. in Commerce. She is renowned for her passion, dedication, and commitment to all causes she believes in. An advocate for supporting women and minority groups, Virginia is a leadership sponsor and co-founder of the Pacific and Asian Coalition at Tandem, an employee resource group created to support Tandem's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts. As an avid member of the community, Virginia also volunteers her time at several healthcare non-profit organizations and local theaters.









AUSTIN | BOSTON | BRUSSELS | CHICAGO | DALLAS | DENVER | DETROIT | HOUSTON | JACKSONVILLE LOS ANGELES | MADISON | MEXICO CITY | MIAMI | MILWAUKEE | NEW YORK | ORLANDO | SACRAMENTO SALT LAKE CITY | SAN DIEGO | SAN FRANCISCO | SILICON VALLEY | TALLAHASSEE | TAMPA | TOKYO | WASHINGTON, D.C.



### ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

# LEADERS of INFLUENCE 2024



JERRILYN MALANA
Chief Deputy District Attorney
San Diego County District Attorney's Office

errilyn Malana is a Chief Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, where she serves as chief of human resources and special counsel. Prior to joining the DA's Office, Jerri served as an Employment Law attorney and Shareholder with the global employment law firm of Littler Mendelson. Jerri was the first Asian Pacific American attorney to serve as President of the San Diego County Bar Association. She is a past President of Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego. Jerri serves as Vice President of the California Lawyers Foundation and is the immediate past Chair of California Lawyers Association's Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee. She also serves as a Trustee on the UC San Diego Foundation Board. Jerri was inducted into the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame as a "Trailblazer." She was also named a "Trailblazer" by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association



SHIREEN MATTHEWS

Partner
Jones Day

hireen Matthews is a partner in Jones Day's Investigations and White Collar Defense practice. A former federal prosecutor, Shireen helps companies conduct internal investigations and build corporate compliance programs. She defends clients in high-stakes government investigations and litigation relating to healthcare, false claims, and data privacy. Shireen previously served as the Criminal Health Care Fraud Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of California, where she prosecuted violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute and criminal false claims. She has broad trial experience and has argued several cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. As an engaged community leader, Shireen serves on the Board of Trustees for Scripps Health and is a past president of the San Diego Chapters of the South-Asian Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. She also serves as Jones Day's San Diego office's Administrative Partner and DEI Committee.



MARIFE MOLINA EVP, Strategic Revenue C3 Risk & Insurance

arife Molina is a dynamic leader at C3 Risk & Insurance, spearheading strategic initiatives for unparalleled revenue growth. With over 15 years of expertise in the insurance domain, her tenure spans pivotal roles within leading insurance carriers. Notably, she championed Chubb's M&A and Private Equity Practice for the Western US, demonstrating a knack for driving robust growth. At C3, Marife orchestrates producer recruitment, training, and fosters a sales ethos rooted in the company's values of Creativity, Collaboration, Care, Curiosity, and Celebrate. Her passion lies in client engagement, crafting tailored insurance solutions that resonate with their evolving needs and the dynamic market landscape. Marife's advocacy extends to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the industry, actively mentoring aspiring female leaders. With a relentless commitment to excellence, she epitomizes visionary leadership in the insurance arena.



RICK PROTIK MUKHERJEE

IT Architect

Awsome LLC

ick Protik Mukherjee is an adept IT Architect specializing in IT Architecture, Security & Cloud, with a keen interest in Energy and Utilities. With two successful startups under his belt and a passion for philanthropy, Rick excels in dissecting complex IT challenges into manageable components of people, processes, and technology. He thrives on solving problems in areas like Transportation Electrification, Rate Reform, and Grid Modernization. By day, Rick architects solutions; by night, he delves into development, embodying his belief in leading by example. Rick boasts a vast technology footprint, having worked across diverse platforms, from mainframes to IoT, and from front-end to back-end systems. He navigates seamlessly from security policies to decompilation, with experience spanning multi-million to shoestring budgets. His ability to communicate effectively with both technical experts and executives underscores his versatility and expertise.











# Asian Business Association of San Diego represents the interests of more than 30,000 Asian-owned businesses countywide.



**50 K+ PEOPLE** 

Employed by Asian-owned businesses in San Diego County



\$4+ BILLION

Annual gross sales generated by Asian-owned San Diego County businesses



\$1+ BILLION

Annual payroll generated by Asian-owned San Diego County businesses

## JOIN THE ASIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION TODAY!

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University of San Diego®

to these professors and thought leaders for their outstanding leadership, their service to USD, their scholarly contributions and for the many ways they

At USD, we are dedicated to confronting humanity's

challenges by fostering peace, working for justice and leading with love. Learn more at **sandiego.edu**.

are Lighting the Way Forward.

### ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

# LEADERS of INFLUENCE 2024



MARIKO NAKAWATASE
Assistant District Director
County of San Diego

ariko is a dynamic and results-oriented professional, who has dedicated her career to leadership development, community outreach, and strategic organizational management. Driven by a deep desire to empower others, she pursued her studies with unwavering focus, earning a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Law as well as achieving her MPA, from Arizona State University. Mariko's academic achievements equipped her with invaluable knowledge to navigate complex societal challenges and promote effective and equitable public policies. Recognizing the importance of community engagement, she became actively involved in initiatives that aimed at initiating meaningful dialogue and fostering spaces where everyone's perspectives are heard and valued. Whether it's organizing impactful community events, or volunteering her time and expertise, she consistently seeks opportunities to contribute to the betterment of San Diego.





EDNA NERONA

President

EdnaSpeaks.com

dna Nerona is a dynamic Gen X Filipina speaker and entertainer who is making an impact on mental health and diversity. Since 2020, she has been an anti-bullying speaker, sharing her struggles and lessons from being bullied in middle school and dealing with the perfectionist standards of her Filipino immigrant parents. Edna has garnered high praise from local Rotary, Optimist chapters, and youth organizations such as EXP: The Opportunity Engine and StarPal. For nine years, she has entertained audiences as a stand-up comedy and pianist. With charm and edginess, Edna comedy routine explores Asian American culture and everyday life. She also loves playing keyboard for the musical comedy trio "Less Than Four Play." Recent performance accomplishments include the 2024 Motions and Emotions: Asian Women Speak Out Event and an honorary mention for the American Protégé International Piano and String Competition 2024 at Carnegie Hall in NYC.





**TRUC NGO**Associate Provost, Research Administration
University of San Diego

ruc Ngo, Ph.D., is the associate provost for research administration and a professor of industrial and systems engineering at the University of San Diego. Ngo launched the immensely successful Engineering of Coffee courses and traveled to Guatemala with students to experience the impact of climate change on farmers and the engineering strategies required to grow and process coffee beans. Ngo was recently selected to be one of the 70 inaugural Georgia Tech alumnae honorees as part of the Celebrating Georgia Tech Women: Pathway of Progress - a permanent tribute to the impact of women from Georgia Tech. Ngo spent years traveling to the Dominican Republic working on humanitarian engineering projects with students and staff from USD. She received the University Professorship Award, USD Educational Excellence in the Community Award, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Advancing Technology for Humanity Award, and San Diego's Outstanding Engineering Educator of the Year Award.





**LESLEY NISHIHIRA**Assistant Vice President, Planning
Port of San Diego

esley Nishihira is the Assistant Vice President of Planning at the Port of San Diego. She has been with the Port since 2004 and has been a land use planning professional for over 25 years. Lesley is responsible for managing master planning and environment and sustainability policy initiatives for land and water areas around San Diego Bay. She has extensive experience ensuring compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and California Coastal Act, having managed notable regional projects including the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan and San Diego Convention Center Phase III Expansion. Lesley presently leads the widely acclaimed Port Master Plan Update, the first comprehensive update of the Port's master plan, which will set policy guidance for all future development on Port lands. Lesley values meaningful community engagement and transparency, which has greatly enhanced regional planning processes under her leadership and led to more positive outcomes for the region.



#### SUPPORTING THE KEY CHALLENGES OF ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER BUSINESS OWNERS

May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and an opportunity to celebrate and honor the many contributions the AAPI entrepreneurial community has made. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, AAPIs own 6.2 percent of all small businesses in the U.S., accounting for nearly 2 million businesses and employing over 3.5 million workers.

But despite their growth, this group continues to face challenges when it comes to confidence in meeting financing needs for their businesses.

## Key challenges faced by the AAPI small business community

According to the National ACE State of Asian American and Pacific Islander Business Spring 2023 survey (https://www.nationalace.org/trust-and-access-to-capital-20230), most AAPI entrepreneurs lack confidence they could finance unexpected operating expenses or go after growth opportu-

nities including funding marketing campaigns, increasing payroll or purchasing property or equipment.

Additionally, the study found that the capital needs of many AAPI entrepreneurs could be met by Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) or Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) but that almost half of AAPI business owners lack awareness of these resources.

## Solutions to support this growing segment

Many business owners may not know where to turn for trustworthy information to support them with starting a business or making critical business decisions. Having an initial conversation with your banker is a great first step. There are also many free resources and tools (https://www.wellsfargo.com/biz/small-business-resources/) to help educate business owners around many topics like how to write a business plan, tips for building your network, how to scale your business

competitively, and so much more. There's also free mentorship opportunities (https://thecenter.nasdaq.org/milestone-circles/) for women available where business owners can get hands-on help setting and reaching business goals from peer-mentors and industry experts.

When it comes to capital needs, there are options where small business owners can connect with a CDFI for potential funding. In 2022, Wells Fargo collaborated with Community Reinvestment Fund, USA to launch the Small Business Resource Navigator, an online portal that enables Wells Fargo bankers to help introduce small business owners to potential financing options and technical assistance through CDFIs. By visiting www.bizresourcenavigator. com and completing a short questionnaire, small businesses may be connected to CDFIs or business advisory resources in their area.

While AAPI business owners are establishing new enterprises every day, data reveals there are still some key challenges they face to be successful. Fortunately, there are resources to help. As a large financial institution, Wells Fargo is committed to strengthening our relationships with AAPI small business owners and increasing access to capital through making traditional banking more accessible and raising awareness of alternatives to traditional banking.





Joseph Mishriki is the Branch Banking Region Director for the San Diego Region. His region consists of 86 branch locations, leading over 900 employees in San Diego County and the Imperial Valley. He is active in the community and currently serves on the board of directors for California State University, San Marcos.

# ASIAN LEADERS OF INFLUENCE 2024



PARADA ORNELAS Partner Wilson Turner Kosmo

arada K. Ornelas is a partner at Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP, one of the largest women-owned law firms in Southern California. A leader in WTK's Product Liability and Warranty practice group, Parada represents manufacturers and companies sued for damages in product liability, personal injury, and breach of warranty matters in state and federal courts. Notably, Parada has negotiated and resolved over 300 cases throughout her career. Outside of her practice, she mentors students through the Crawford High School Academy of Law & Justice, Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego's (PALSD) Mentorship Program, and San Diego County Bar Association & Association of Corporate Counsel's Diversity Fellowship Program. She serves on the San Diego Asian American Legal Education Fund's Board of Directors and chairs the Scholarship Committee for PALSD and Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego. She also volunteers her time assisting domestic violence victims through the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program.

WILSON TURNER KOSMO



**JAE PARK** Partner Dentons US LLP

ae Park is a partner at Dentons US LLP. Park focuses on litigation representing businesses in commercial disputes across a range of industries. He additionally provides pro bono legal services to victims of human rights abuses and represents refugees fleeing persecution. Park is the regional governor of the International Association of Korean Lawyers and co-founder of the Korean American Bar Association. Park serves on the board of Junior Achievement of San Diego. He is additionally a volunteer attorney at Casa Cornelia Law Center. Earlier this year, Park was recognized by Best Lawyers in America for his expertise in commercial litigation. He had been recognized as the 2017 Pro Bono Award recipient by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Attorney of the Year by the Casa Cornelia Law Center in 2016. Early this year, Park was recognized on the Commercial Litigation's Best Lawyers in America.





**JOJO SEVA** Chief Information Officer Mission Fed Credit Union

ojo Seva is the Chief Information Officer at Mission Fed Credit Union. He has dedicated 30 years to the credit union movement, specializing in banking technology, team development, digital transformation, and cybersecurity. In his first five years with Mission Fed, Jojo enhanced technology service delivery, established the Information Security program, effectively enabled the enterprise through the Covid pandemic with effective technology solutions and continue to serve our membership. He spearheaded our recent adoption of agile methodologies fostering a more responsive and productive work environment. He has integrated data science within the credit union's operations. He is also active in giving back to the community. He has volunteered his time to conduct community seminars on cybersecurity, social engineering awareness and ID-Theft prevention. Jojo holds a BS degree in Computer Science from Cal State Fullerton, an MBA from Pepperdine University.





**ADAM F. SLOUSTCHER** Partner Fisher Phillips

dam Sloustcher is a Partner in the San Diego office. He's also Co-Chair of the firm's Sports Team, a diverse group of former collegiate and professional athletes advising sports employers regarding compliance with workplace laws. Adam represents local, regional and national employers in a broad range of employment disputes. He focuses a large portion of his practice on defending employers in wage-and-hour class action lawsuits, as well as those brought under California's (PAGA). Adam has extensive experience litigating equal pay class actions and single-plaintiff discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination lawsuits. He is an accessible, responsive resource who helps clients avoid litigation altogether. He acts as a partner to in-house counsel, business owners, and management by providing preventative advice regarding wage-andhour compliance, investigations of alleged workplace misconduct, hiring, termination practices, leaves and reasonable accommodations.



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO**

## Sochiata Vutthy

Chief Operations Officer Community HousingWorks

on being selected as a **Top Asian Pacific Islander Leader of Influence for 2024** 

The Community HousingWorks team is grateful for your 20 years of service to the CHW mission to provide stable homes for residents of our communities so they can Build Futures.



WWW.CHWORKS.ORG

Founded in 1988, Community HousingWorks is a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that develops, rehabilitates, preserves and operates affordable apartment communities throughout California and in Texas.

WE BUILD FUTURES



## ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

# LEADERS of INFLUENCE 2024



JOURDANNE SONGCO, J.D.

Director, Contracting

Neighborhood Healthcare

n experienced legal support and contracting professional, Jourdanne Songco currently serves as Director of contracting at Neighborhood Healthcare, a federally qualified healthcare organization where we strive to give over 90,000 individuals in Riverside and San Diego Counties quality, compassionate, whole-person care regardless of their situation and financial circumstance. She previously served with the Commercial Team at Certara's Regulatory and Access division, which supported life science companies in successfully bringing much-needed therapies to patients worldwide. Jourdanne's core competencies include contract review, proposal development, relationship management, change management, and process improvement. Apart from dotting the T's and I's in contracts, she exhibits great passion for contributing to a healthy workplace culture and championing diversity and inclusion.



ANIL TEEGALA
IT Architect
Awsome LLC

nil Teegala is a seasoned IT architect with over 16 years of experience in designing and implementing technology solutions across diverse platforms and systems. Grounded in the belief that simplicity is the key to understanding, Anil applies his deep technical knowledge to streamline complex concepts into actionable strategies. Specializing in B2B and A2A communication solutions, he possesses a comprehensive understanding of enterprise computing environments. Anil excels in collaborating with both internal teams and external partners to define solutions that precisely align with customers' needs. With a focus on innovation and efficiency, he plays a pivotal role in driving organizational success through the seamless integration of technology. Anil Teegala's expertise as an IT architect is characterized by a strategic approach and a commitment to delivering value-added solutions that empower businesses to thrive in the digital age.



LAURO "JC" TEOPENGCO III

Hospitality Manager

Cox Business

auro "JC" Teopengco III is a seasoned Sales Professional known for his dedication to excellence and a proven track record of success. Embracing hospitality as a way of life, his Filipino roots have instilled in him a deep commitment to genuine service. As the Hospitality Manager overseeing Cox Business San Diego's Hospitality portfolio, JC adeptly connects clients with innovative solutions to consistently exceed both client and business expectations. In 2023, he surpassed targets, achieving 309% to plan and securing major new logos: Oceanside Frontwave Arena and the San Diego FC, SD's new Major League Soccer team. From hotels/motels to stadiums, and from casinos to resorts, he demonstrates an unparalleled ability to understand diverse business needs. JC actively represents Cox Business in the community, engaging in local events, volunteering, and supporting community initiatives. He is also a member of the Cox enterprise-wide LOTUS, PRIDE, and SALUTE Employee Resource Groups.



RONALD UY Small Business Relationship Management Manager, VP Wells Fargo Bank

Ronald Uy, CFA is a Small Business Relationship Management Manager, VP covering the San Diego and Inland Empire. He has extensive experience in the banking industry working with companies from small business to middle market. He is originally from Los Angeles where he matriculated at the University of Southern California with a B.A. in International Relations and has recently earned the coveted CFA charter. In his spare time, he enjoys an active lifestyle completing the LA Marathon in March 2024 and volunteering with several organizations.



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It is with great pride that we celebrate our leader's outstanding achievement

Anil Teegala
COO, Awsome LLC

linkedin.com/in/anilteegala/

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Asian Pacific Islanders Leaders
of Influence.



SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEADERS OF INFLUENCE

Awsome LLC, where "aw{e}some" innovation meets "aw{e}some" expertise. We are a premier IT consulting firm dedicated to guiding businesses through the complex and dynamic landscape of technology transformation. With a relentless commitment to excellence, we empower organizations to harness the full potential of technology, streamline operations, and achieve their strategic goals.

Www.awsomellc.com

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Fisher Phillips is proud of our trailblazer winner and

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Leaders of Influence.



**Adam Sloustcher** 

Partner San Diego/San Francisco 858.597.9620 asloustcher@fisherphillips.com

With almost 600 attorneys in 41 offices across the United States and Mexico, Fisher Phillips is an international labor and employment firm providing practical business solutions for employers' workplace legal problems. We regularly advise and counsel clients on issues surrounding wage and hour, employment discrimination and harassment, litigation, workplace safety, immigration, trade secrets and non-competes, and more.



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**ALEXIS VOLEN CIRE Equity** 

lexis Volen is COO of CIRE Equity, managing human resources, asset and property management. She sources and manages commercial real estate investments nationally. Under her leadership, CIRE has developed a substantial and diverse investment portfolio exceeding \$900 million. Alexis fosters a culture where inclusivity and diversity of thought, experience and background are highly valued and celebrated. As President-Elect of CREW San Diego, an organization supporting and advancing women in commercial real estate, Alexis led the expansion of the DEI Committee as well as the Careers Outreach program, where she introduced new high schools and programs into CREW's outreach. Her commitment also extends to Kayo, CHIEF, Phelps Forward and the University of California San Diego Real Estate Development Advisory Board. Alexis actively serves as a panelist, podcast guest and mentor, showcasing her dedication to advancing the careers of





Joshua Volen Managing Principal & Co-Founder CIRE Equity

oshua Volen is the Co-Founder and Managing Principal at CIRE Equity, a values-driven real estate private equity firm. With a deep passion for commercial real estate, Joshua drives the company's strategic vision and growth, leading acquisitions and investor relations. Since its establishment in 2010, CIRE has completed over 200 transactions, managing a diverse portfolio with an AUM exceeding \$1 billion, driven by its non-traded REIT, CRE-IT. Josh's leadership has fueled CIRE's impressive growth, boasting a compound annual growth rate of over 45% year-overyear. He's cultivated a diverse investor base, including high-net-worth individuals, family offices, and institutional partnerships. Recognizing the importance of company culture, Josh prioritizes core values to strengthen CIRE's foundation. He fosters authentic relationships, promoting open communication and psychological safety. Josh's growth mindset permeates the organization, encouraging continuous improve-





SOCHIATA VUTTHY Chief Operating Officer Community HousingWorks

ochiata Vutthy has over 19 years of experience in real estate development and operations. Currently serving as Chief Operating Officer for Community HousingWorks (CHW), Vutthy began her affordable housing career via the California Coalition for Rural Housing internship program. Joining CHW as an assistant project manager, Vutthy quickly advanced as she gained expertise in real estate, operations, and strategic planning. Vutthy leads teams to meet financial projections, manage all aspects of affordable multifamily housing development, and implement portfolio-wide strategies to maximize value. She sits on the California Housing Partnership board of directors and has sat on advisory councils focusing on sustainability, energy efficiency, and affordable housing talent development. Vutthy holds a B.A. from San Diego State University in Public Administration and Urban Studies with an emphasis in City Planning, and an Executive M.B.A. from the University of California Los Angeles.





**NAVEEN WANEY** CEO & Principal Platt/Whitelaw Architects, Inc.

fter his business partner retired this year, Naveen Waney became sole owner of one of San Diego's oldest architecture firms (since 1955), Platt/ Whitelaw Architects. PWA employs 17 people and is distinguished for its long history of award-winning public and community-facing architecture. This year, Naveen earned an SMBE certification for PWA, increasing its competitiveness in securing public work as a small- and minority-owned business. Since being in leadership, Naveen has expanded PWA's work in water infrastructure, health & human services and spiritual spaces. Naveen oversees architecture for two high-profile projects converting gray or brackish water to clean water for agriculture. Naveen was chair of the Clairemont Planning Group for five years and vice chair for one, serving on the Planning Group for a total of eight years. For his community service, he received an outstanding volunteer award from the city. Naveen also spent three years as an ACE Mentor to highschoolers.





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THOMAS WANG Regional Coordinating Chief, Occupational Medicine Kaiser Permanente

r. Thomas Wang is Regional Coordinating Chief of Occupational Medicine at Kaiser Permanente, managing physicians and clinics in San Diego and guiding strategic direction and business implementation in Southern California and Hawaii. He has been a practicing physician in Occupational Medicine with Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG) for over two decades. In this role, he provides medical care for injured workers throughout San Diego. Dr. Wang is also a Physician Ambassador for the Permanente Medical Group. In this role, he assists in providing perspective on medical matters in terms of impact on business operations. Prior to joining SCPMG, Dr. Wang was trained in Family Medicine with a subsequent fellowship in Sports Medicine. He has published and edited multiple papers and provided talks in musculoskeletal and sports medicine across the country. Dr. Wang also serves on the Board of Directors for the Asian Business Association.



## Congratulations

Dr. Thomas Wang, on being recognized by the San Diego Business Journal as an Asian/Pacific Islander Leader of Influence!



**Thomas Wang, MD** 

Thank you for your leadership of Kaiser Permanente Occupational Medicine across Southern California and Hawaii, and for your dedication to the well-being of your San Diego patients!

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San Diego Business Journal LEADERS of INFLUENCE



# LEADERS of INFLUENCE 2024



RAYMOND WU **Executive Manager** Copley-Price Family YMCA

ay Wu is the Executive Manager at the Copley-Price Family YMCA and has held various leadership roles at the YMCA of San Diego County for 12 years. As a Burmese-Chinese immigrant, Ray is passionate about the Y's strategic initiatives surrounding community well-being and belonging. The Copley-Price Family YMCA is his canvas, where he blends compassion, innovation, and dedication to uplift one of San Diego's most diverse communities, City Heights. His leadership efforts have secured funding to provide over 14,000 community members access to cooking classes, food pantry services, health education, and other resources at no cost. In times of crisis, Ray helped ensure the Y extended free memberships to those affected by San Diego's devastating flood. Ray leads by example, believing the Y's mission stretches beyond physical fitness and that the Copley-Price Family YMCA must be a community-centric organization that aims to foster connections, strengthen families, and promote positive change.





**ELIZABETH YANG-**HELLEWELL Executive Director & CEO

s a first-generation Chinese American, Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell (she/ her), draws from her family's immigration journey to foster inclusion and belonging as the Executive Director and CEO of The New Children's Museum (NCM). With a background in museum leadership and philanthropy, including roles at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and ArtPower!, she has led NCM's strategic growth since 2022, prioritizing organizational sustainability and creating spaces for children and families to engage with big, bold ideas through play. Passionate about expanding access to art and education, Elizabeth spearheaded NCM's upcoming studio expansion opening in summer 2024, which will add 8,600 square feet of additional artmaking and education spaces that will allow the Museum to welcome a broader multi-generational audience. Proudly part of the LGBTQ community, Elizabeth and her wife have been married since 2011, raising their two young



children in South Bay.



KEISAKU YOGI SVP, Marketing San Diego County Credit Union

eisaku Yogi is Senior Vice President of Marketing at San Diego County Credit Union (SDCCU). With over a decade of financial industry marketing experience, he is responsible for leading the department's strategic planning, brand, marketing and media relations activities to elevate awareness and drive growth and success for SDCCU. Yogi's contributions have helped propel SDCCU to being voted BEST Credit Union for the 24th consecutive year. Yogi's work has earned notable recognition, including two 2023 Gold Hermes Creative Awards for SDCCU's Avoid Financial Market Ups and Downs Certificate Commercial and SDCCU's Short and Sweet Roller Coaster Certificate Commercial, SDCCU's Stuff the Bus campaign was recognized with a 2023 Gold Stevie Award, SDCCU's Weathering the Financial Storm Video earned a 2023 Gold DotCOMM Award and SDCCU was named one of Forbes Top 5 Best-in-State Credit Unions. Yogi holds a BS - Marketing and Finance from New York University.





ERIC C. YOUNG II **Board Member** Rancho Family YMCA

ric Young is the Policy Advisor for San Diego City Councilmember ■ von Wilpert. As a Policy Advisor for Councilmember von Wilpert, Eric serves as the policy lead for the City of San Diego's Public Safety Committee. Additionally, Eric develops impactful policies around critical issues, such as the Commission of Police Practices, Park Master Plan, and bringing forward the office's legislation on Eliminate Non-Serialized Untraceable Firearm (E.N.U.F) towards the proliferation of unsterilized firearms "Ghost Guns." Eric is bi-racial (half Korean), and he has a steadfast commitment to serving his community and advancing policies that promote equity, sustainability, and progress. Eric joined the Rancho Family YMCA board in 2022 and truly reflects the diverse and vibrant community our YMCA serves. The Y is dedicated to nurturing a healthy spirit, mind, and body so all can thrive. Eric volunteers his time, talent and treasure, and ensures our voices are heard and our community is seen.





**ROHANEE ZAPANTA** Judicial Officer - Judge San Diego Superior Court

udge Rohanee Zapanta was appointed in 2018 by Governor Brown as the second Filipina American to serve as Superior Court Judge for San Diego County. She was recently awarded the Most Influential Filipina Women in the World by Filipina Women's Network in 2023. Judge Zapanta believes in empowering youth of diverse backgrounds through celebrating core values. She created and now co-chairs the youth project -|Brown Faces to the Sun, featuring cultural pillars through hiphop music. She co-chairs and co-founded the California Judges Association's Ethics & Wellness Workshops for first generation law students. She teaches workshops for Silayan Filipina's youth program and received their Legacy Award in 2023. She sits on the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Task Force for the University of San Diego Alumni Board of Directors. She is one of the Chief Editors of The Bench - the official journal of the CJA where she regularly contributes a self-assessment column on identity and wellness.



# COX BUSINESS

As an end-to-end provider and integrator of technologies, we help hotels, casinos, resorts, and venues exceed the technology expectations of today's guests and visitors.

Congratulations to Cox Business Hospitality Manager Lauro "JC" Teopengco III on this well-deserved honor from San Diego Business Journal in 2024!

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#### **JUNE 10**

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#### **JUNE 17**

LARGEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

#### **JUNE 24**

LAW FIRMS

#### **JULY 1**

ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

#### **JULY 1**

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

If you have any questions, or if you would like to be on one of our lists, please contact sdbjlists@sdbj.com