

## **THE RECIPIENTS OF 2023 APABA-DC ANNUAL AWARDS**

### **Pioneer Award: Josh Hsu**



Josh Hsu is currently a partner at Jenner & Block, where he focuses on government controversies, crisis management, and congressional investigations. Josh most immediately served as Counsel to the Vice President, where he was the Vice President's chief legal advisor. As her chief legal advisor, he provided counsel on key policy issues, focusing on reproductive rights, voting rights, criminal justice reform, and judicial nominations, including the historic nomination of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court. Before joining the White House, Josh served as the Director of Judicial Nominations on the Biden-Harris Transition. Prior to joining the Transition, Josh served as National Policy Director for then-Senator Kamala D. Harris's presidential campaign.

Josh has also served in various capacities in government, the private sector, and in public interest. This includes serving as Deputy Chief of Staff and General Counsel in then-Senator Harris's Senate office. Before joining Harris's Senate office, Josh served as Chief Counsel for Nominations for former Ranking Member Patrick J. Leahy of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He has also practiced at the law firms of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP and at O'Melveny & Myers LLP. In addition, he was an attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union, National Legal Department. Josh served as a law clerk to the Honorable Denny Chin, then-U.S. District Judge in the Southern District of New York.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to parents of Taiwanese-descent and raised in New Jersey, Josh is a graduate of Georgetown University and Georgetown University Law Center.

### **Member Appreciation Award: Shaila Ohri**



Shaila Lakhani Ohri is Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Uplight, a software and technology partner for energy providers to accelerate the clean energy ecosystem, advising the company and board, and leading the legal team on issues of risk, strategic and commercial transactions, data privacy, intellectual property, corporate governance and compliance. Shaila was previously with Exelon Corporation, a Fortune 200 energy company and the nation's largest utility company, in various legal functions with oversight across a number of areas, including innovation, emerging technology, intellectual property and branding, commercial and corporate transactions, financing, corporate governance and securities. Prior to Exelon, she spent over a decade in various legal roles including at CapitalSource Finance, Dyer, Ellis &

Joseph (combined with Blank Rome), and as a clerk to the Honorable Herbert B. Dixon at the D.C. Superior Court.

She received her J.D. from the George Washington University Law School, and her B.A. from the American University. Shaila is actively involved in volunteer work and in numerous DEI-focused bar associations and organizations, including as co-chair for NAPABA's Women's Leadership Network since 2016, and as co-chair of APABA-DC's In-House Counsel Committee from 2013 to 2023. Shaila was a 2018 LCLD Fellow and the recipient of the MCCA Rising Star Award in 2021 and the NAWL Rising List Award in 2022.

### **Community Appreciation Award: The Honorable Judge Raymond Chen**



The Honorable Raymond T. Chen serves as U.S. Circuit Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2013. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Chen served as Deputy General Counsel for Intellectual Property Law and Solicitor at the United States Patent and Trademark Office from 2008 to 2013. He was an Associate Solicitor in that office from 1998 to 2008. From 1996 to 1998, Judge Chen served as a Technical Assistant at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Before joining the court staff, Judge Chen was an associate with Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear from 1994 to 1996. Before entering law school, Judge Chen worked as a scientist at the law firm of Hecker & Harriman from 1989 to 1991.

Judge Chen received his J.D. from the New York University School of Law in 1994 and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1990.

### **Rising Star Award: Yiyang Wu**



Yiyang Wu is a partner at Relman Colfax, one of the nation's leading civil rights firms. She is an elite trial lawyer, having successfully tried numerous civil rights cases to verdict over the past several years. Yiyang played a leading role in *Gilead Community Services, et al v. Town of Cromwell*, a case against a Connecticut municipality that engaged in a discriminatory campaign to close a group home for people with mental health disabilities. In October 2021, a jury found in favor of the plaintiffs and returned a verdict of nearly \$5.2 million in compensatory and punitive damages. In *Hicks v. Ferreyra, et al.*, Yiyang represented a Black Secret Service agent who was illegally seized by two United States Park Police officers while he was at work and on protective duty. A federal jury awarded Agent Hicks \$730,000, including \$525,000 in punitive damages, and, in March 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit affirmed the verdict. Beyond her litigation practice, Yiyang leads civil rights and racial equity audits and provides civil rights counseling advice to institutions and organizations. She is a frequent

lecturer on housing and lending discrimination issues, including on behalf of the National Fair Housing Alliance and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Yiyang served as co-chair of APABA-DC Nominations Committee from 2021 to 2023 (and continues to proudly serve on the Committee) and on the Board of Directors of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund from 2018 to 2020. She currently sits on the board of The Appellate Project, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to preparing minority law students for work in appellate courts. She is an adjunct professor at the Howard University School of Law.

Prior to joining Relman, Yiyang clerked for the Honorable Mary A. McLaughlin of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and for the Honorable Andre M. Davis of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Yiyang graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and from Harvard College.