



ORANGE COUNTY COALITION FOR
DIVERSITY IN THE LAW INVITES YOU TO

OCCDL's 2021 Diversity Awards

*Honoring Top Young Diverse Lawyers and
Top Legal Organizations for Diversity of OC*

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022
5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

The Boardwalk
18575 JAMBOREE ROAD
IRVINE, CA

Good Evening & Welcome

Good evening and welcome to the first annual OCCDL Top Young Diverse Lawyers of OC and Top Legal Organizations for DEI of OC Awards Ceremony, celebrating our 2021 awardees! We are honored to have you here. We are sure that each of you are connected in some way to our awardees and share in our pride of having them represent our community. Let us all take an evening to recognize their achievements and contributions!

Tonight's Program

- 5:30 PM Networking | Enjoying SoHo Gourmet Tacos &
OC Bar Service No-host Bar
- 6:30 PM Welcome and Presentation of the Awards
- 7:00 PM Closing and Networking

Thank You to Our Vendors



2022 OCCDL Board

Chair: Daniel R. Lopez, Counsel at Marvel Studios

President: Krystal Anderson, Managing Associate at Orrick

Vice President: Diana Chao, Partner at Everett Dorey

Treasurer: Oscar Teran, Director of Career Development at
Western State College of Law

Secretary: Kristin A. Fabella is a civil litigation attorney at
Cullins & Grandy LLP

Mission Statement

The Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law (OCCDL) is a collaborative effort of professionals from leading Orange County law firms and other community partners committed to achieving cultural diversity in recruiting and retaining law students and attorneys in Orange County.





ORANGE COUNTY COALITION FOR
DIVERSITY IN THE LAW HONORS

*The Top Young Diverse
Lawyers of OC*



SARAH M. AYAD
SNELL & WILMER LLP

Sarah Ayad focuses her practice on product liability defense in state and federal courts, with an emphasis on automotive, medical device, appliances, and other consumer products. She has assisted in the defense of several companies in complex negligence and products liability cases involving catastrophic personal injuries and wrongful death. Sarah also handles consumer warranty and consumer fraud-based litigation.

Sarah is the former Secretary of Orange Coalition for Diversity in the Law. In her nomination, one of Sarah's colleagues said, "I consider Sarah to be one of our best attorneys, and an incredible asset to our firm's culture. I don't know how she has the time to be involved in so many groups and still be a great attorney, but she makes it look easy."



DIANA T. CHAO
PARTNER AT EVERETT DOREY LLP

Diana Chao is a litigation attorney with extensive experience in all facets of litigation. Her innovative case handling has benefited clients in pre-litigated and litigated matters. Diana's practice focuses on complex and catastrophic injuries and mass tort litigation. She also provides risk management services, focusing on transfer and elimination of risk.

Diana is a member of her firm's Diversity Leadership Committee, Recruiting Committee, and speaks conversational Vietnamese. She is also involved in the Orange County Asian American Bar Association and Orange County Women Lawyers Association.



SHANNON CHENG
ASSOCIATE AT LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Shannon Cheng is an associate in the Orange County office of Latham & Watkins and primarily handles corporate representation, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and transactional matters. Shannon advises public and private companies and private equity and venture capital firms in the technology, life sciences, healthcare, aerospace, hospitality, and real estate industries.

In addition to her commercial work, Shannon is a member of Latham's Recruiting Committee, maintains a pro bono practice representing survivors of domestic violence, and is an active contributor to Latham's recruiting and diversity programs.



VICTORIA CHO
CORPORATE COUNSEL AT THE HOME DEPOT

Victoria Cho's practice focuses on labor and employment law; including hiring and screening practices, leaves of absence, disability accommodation, restrictive covenant enforceability, wage and hour compliance, employee performance management, employee investigations, severance, and terminations. She has litigated discrimination, wrongful termination, and trade secret misappropriation matters on behalf of corporate employers, and currently serves as corporate counsel for The Home Depot.

Victoria is also Secretary of the Orange County Lavender Bar Association.



KELLY L. GALLIGAN DUNN
ASSOCIATE AT RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Kelly Galligan Dunn is a corporate attorney with a focus on a wide range of general corporate law, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, litigation funding, private equity, and corporate governance. Kelly's practice touches a variety of industries including private equity, apparel and beauty, financial services, food and beverage, health, wellness and fitness, logistics, manufacturing, construction, and entertainment.

Kelly also provides pro bono legal services through the Public Law Center and serves as the Treasurer of Project Youth OCBF (and former Associate Board Chair). Additionally, Kelly is a Board Member of the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA), past President of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association, and past Chair of the OCBA Young Lawyers Division.



ERIC FANCHIANG
ASSOCIATE AT CROWELL & MORING LLP

Eric Fanchiang is an Associate at Crowell & Moring LLP in the Antitrust Group, where he focuses on antitrust litigation and government investigations. Eric represents both defendants and plaintiffs across a broad range of industries including technology, digital media, and transportation. He is a 2017 alumnus of the University of California, Irvine School of Law.

Eric currently serves as a member of the Governing Council of the UCI Law Alumni Association. He is on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Asian American Bar Association and the co-lead of their Community Service Committee, which works in close partnership with other community organizations to host service events such as legal clinics and food drives.



JUSTIN FONG
GENERAL COUNSEL AT AMWEST FUNDING CORP.

Justin Fong is General Counsel for AmWest Funding Corp., one of the nation's largest Non-QM loan originators. As General Counsel, he has assisted his company with over \$500 million in loan securitizations and over \$5 billion in loan sales.

Justin serves on the Board for the Orange County Asian American Bar Association, and co-chairs the Community Service Committee and Stop Asian Hate Committee. In addition, he is active in his community and serves on the Costa Mesa Housing & Public Service Grant Committee and volunteers with several local organizations.



JEANNIE FU
STAFF ATTORNEY AT NEUDESIC

Jeannie Fu received her JD from Chapman Dale E. Fowler School of Law in 2019. She is currently in-house counsel at Neudesic, LLC, a technology consulting coming based in Irvine, California.

She is also currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Asian American Bar Association and serves on the social committee for the Orange County Korean American Bar Association. She is also involved with community outreach for the Orange County Bar Association. In the non-legal community, Jeannie serves as the President of Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders, Los Angeles Chapter. During her free time, she enjoys hiking and traveling.



JENNY HUA
ASSOCIATE AT SNELL & WILMER

Jenny Hua's practice is concentrated in commercial litigation and appellate litigation. She's handled a broad range of litigation matters over business statutes, environmental statutes, franchise statutes, and many others.

Jenny is the Chair-Elect of the Orange County Bar Association's Appellate Section and Chair of the American Bar Association's Appellate Litigation Subcommittee. As an immigrant, she prides herself in giving back to the community and always keeps at least one pro bono case on her plate.



SANAZ "SUNNY" JAHANGARD
ATTORNEY AT BROWN & STREZA

Shanaz Jahangard is a business attorney representing clients in mergers and acquisitions, real estate transactions, and income tax planning. Sanaz understands the unique and complex dynamics of privately held businesses and helps her clients navigate the competing goals of financial growth and harmony amongst the owners. As a former successful business owner, Sanaz applies her inherent business understanding and experiences when advising her clients.

Sanaz speaks Farsi and German and is the President of the Iranian American Bar Association, Orange County Chapter. She also supports non-profit organizations such as International Society for Children with Cancer and Child International.



JOSH JI
ASSOCIATE AT LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Josh Ji is a litigator at Latham & Watkins LLP specializing in complex commercial and intellectual property disputes, including trademark and trade secret litigation.

Josh was elected to serve a second term on the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) Board of Directors (2022–2025) and will Chair their International Law Section in 2022. He currently Co-Chairs the OCBA Mentor on Demand Committee, serves on the OCBA Editorial Advisory Committee, and is a member of the OCBA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Josh previously Co-Chaired the OCBA Intergenerational Task Force, served as President of the Orange County Korean American Bar Association, and was a member of the UCI Law Alumni Association's Governing Council.



ERIN MARIE BOYD LEACH
MANAGING ASSOCIATE AT ORRICK

Erin is a litigator and appellate attorney in the firm's Intellectual Property Group. She has represented clients in federal district courts throughout the country as well as before the International Trade Commission and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Erin's technical expertise covers a wide-range of technologies, including computer hardware and software, medical devices, wireless communications, and semiconductors.

Alongside her intellectual property practice, Erin maintains an active pro bono docket representing veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and on appeal to the Federal Circuit. As a member of a military family, Erin is particularly passionate about helping veterans protect their rights and secure treatment for their service-related injuries.



JULIE LEE
ASSOCIATE AT ORRICK

Julie Lee is an Associate at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. Julie focuses her practice on complex business litigation and represents clients in the financial, technology, and manufacturing sectors. Prior to joining Orrick, Julie was a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Dana M. Sabraw of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

Julie is actively involved in pro bono matters and community outreach. She has served on the board of the Korean American Bar Association in Orange County and San Diego. She is also an active member of the firm's diversity committee, taking the lead on hosting many productive and positive events.



JESSE M. MAXWELL
SENIOR ASSOCIATE AT EVERETT DOREY LLP

Jesse Maxwell is a Senior Associate in Everett Dorey LLP's Orange County office. His practice focuses on the defense of property owners and corporations in complex civil litigation with an emphasis on premises liability, habitability, toxic tort and general liability claims.

Jesse serves on the board for the Lawyers for Warriors Committee for the Veterans Legal Institute, a non-profit dedicated to providing pro bono legal services to homeless, at risk, disabled and low income current and former service members.



HANA OH
COUNSEL AT O'MELVENY

Hana Oh, Ph.D., is an MIT-trained attorney in O'Melveny's Intellectual Property and Technology practice group. Hana focuses on patent and trade secret litigation and licensing issues for innovative companies, including Samsung, Micron, Belkin, Alcon, and Novartis. She is fluent in Korean and serves as an effective advisor to Korean clients regarding litigation in the U.S. and licensing issues.

Hana's tireless advocacy extends to her active pro bono practice, particularly in advocating for domestic violence victims. For example, she argued for and obtained asylum in the U.S. on behalf of three siblings from Guatemala, who were victims of domestic abuse. She also successfully obtained a U Visa for a sexual abuse victim and his family.



MARIA ELENA PARADA
ASSOCIATE AT FORD WALKER HAGGERTY & BEHAR

Maria Elena Parada is an associate at the Long Beach office. Her practice focuses on insurance defense, civil litigation with an emphasis in personal injury matters involving automobile accidents and premises liability.

She is a member of the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Long Beach, and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Maria is on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association and serving a two-year term from 2021–2023. Maria is a fluent Spanish speaker.



CHERYL KANG PROUT
MANAGING PARTNER AND FOUNDER OF
CORDIAL FAMILY LAWYERS, LLP

Cheryl Kang Prout is the Managing Partner and Founder of Cordial Family Lawyers, LLP, where she focuses her practice on prenuptial agreements and divorce mediation. She previously served as General Counsel of XG Communications, LLC, a telecommunications start-up company and practiced with Holland & Knight, LLP, where she worked on international business transactions.

Cheryl served as the President of the Orange County Korean American Bar Association in 2020–2021. She received her B.A. from UC Berkeley and J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law.



ARJUN SIVAKUMAR
ASSOCIATE AT BROWN RUDNICK

Arjun is experienced in all aspects of complex business litigation in state and federal courts and arbitration, including but not limited to drafting complaints and responsive pleadings, taking and defending depositions, managing written discovery and document productions, drafting and arguing dismissal and summary judgment motions, reviewing and analyzing produced evidence, preparing for and examining witnesses at trial, and appellate briefing and argument.

He has played a key role in several complex litigation matters from start to finish, producing excellent results for his clients. Arjun always aims to resolve matters through negotiations with opposing counsel, allowing his clients to avoid the expense and delay of unnecessary litigation.



CHARIESE R. SOLORIO
ASSOCIATE AT SNELL & WILMER

Chariese Solorio focuses her practice on product liability litigation, defending motor vehicle manufacturers in complex negligence and product liability cases. She has litigated a wide array of disputes in both federal and state courts.

Chariese is active in the community as a board member of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County and Project Youth OCBF. In addition to participating with several other organizations, she maintains a strong pro bono practice in addition to her litigation work.



REBEKAH THOMAS
ATTORNEY AT CDF LABOR LAW LLP

Rebekah Thomas's developing litigation practice encompasses a variety of practice areas, including business disputes, real estate matters and family law. She has spent the first three years of her career focusing on family law issues while serving underrepresented communities with Legal Aid Society of Orange County (now Community Legal Aid SoCal). She is also currently an adjunct professor at Santa Ana College teaching courses in Legal Terminology and Business Environment.

Rebekah is the immediate past President of Thurgood Marshall Bar Association, the Black bar association in Orange County. She serves on the Orange County Bar Association's Racial Justice Task Force and was appointed by the Vice Mayor of Irvine to serve as Co-Chair of the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.



MATTHEW TRONCALI
ASSOCIATE AT CROWELL & MORING LLP

Matthew Troncali is an Associate in Crowell & Moring's Antitrust Recovery Group. He pursues matters on behalf of a broad range of national and international clients and has helped them recover more than \$53 million over three years. Before joining the firm, Matt focused on business-related transactions and litigation in state and federal courts, using multidisciplinary experience in law, business, and technology to comprehensively counsel clients.

Matt also serves as a Board Member and is a former President of the Orange County Lavender Bar Association—a professional organization for LGBT attorneys, judges, and allies—and has been actively involved since the organization formed.



PROUD USAHACHAROENPORN
PARTNER AT RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Clients look to trial partner Proud Usahacharoenporn for advice when faced with business disputes involving contracts, real property, class actions, insurance coverage, business and intentional torts, unfair competition, and intellectual property. She counsels clients through the litigation process, with a focus on getting her clients the results they want while balancing their business concerns.

Proud is also actively engaged in community outreach and pro bono work. She has served on several local boards, most currently as a member of the Board of Directors of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and dedicates time to furthering the needs of the Southern California Asian American community.



ASHLEY VERNICK (VACCARO)
SENIOR COUNSEL AT RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

As an experienced litigator, Ms. Vernick handles all aspects of trial, pre-trial, and post-trial proceedings in state and federal courts throughout the country, including mediation and settlement negotiations. Her matters involve general business consulting, covering employment, insurance, breach of contract, securities, environmental, unfair business practices, and business tort claims.

Ms. Vernick has immersed herself in the community and held leadership roles of multiple bar and related affinity organizations and prides herself on helping diverse attorneys prosper in Orange County, including as former President of Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law.



HOLLIE N. WASHINGTON
ASSOCIATE AT BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER

Hollie is a real estate finance attorney who counsels lenders and loan servicers in the origination, sale and servicing of loans. Prior to her legal career, she was a financial consultant, working primarily with employees of colleges, universities and research institutions.

She is currently President of Thurgood Marshall Bar Association and a member of the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) Racial Justice Task Force. Hollie served as Co-Chair and Treasurer for Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law and the Diversity & Inclusion Chair of the OCBA Young Lawyers Division and is a 2021 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Pathfinder.



BROOKE WEITZMAN

CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTING ATTORNEY OF THE ELDR CENTER

Brooke is the Co-Founder and Directing Attorney of the ELDR Center. In that role she leads the impact litigation focused on access to housing and criminalization of poverty at the ELDR Center.

Before founding the ELDR Center, Brooke provided legal services to veterans as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow. She worked to ensure access to justice; prevent homelessness; increase employment; and more to protect the rights of our veterans.



JIAXIAO ZHANG
ASSOCIATE AT McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Jiaxiao Zhang focuses her practice on intellectual property litigation matters, and has substantial experience in federal district court actions, at the Federal and Ninth Circuits, and in proceedings before the US Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) of the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She is also an experienced patent attorney and former patent examiner.

Jiaxiao remains committed to pro bono practice, has been a Board Member and former President of the Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law, and Treasurer for the Howard T. Markey IP American Inn of Court for several years. She is very active with the Public Law Center Advocates and various diverse bar organizations.



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Nominators say: “**Crowell & Moring’s** Orange County office opened in 1991 and represents national and international clients in litigation and arbitration, regulatory, and transactional matters. They have been a strong member of the Orange County legal community for thirty years and the office leads by example as they work to promote diversity in the legal field. These efforts are routinely recognized by the Orange County legal community. Their Orange County lawyers have held prominent positions as president of the Public Law Center, board member of Thurgood Marshall Bar Association, president of the Association of Business Trial Attorneys of Orange County and the Orange County Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, co-chair of the Orange County Bar Association’s Diversity Committee, board member and a founding member of the Orange County Lavender Bar Association, and more.”



EVERETT DOREY_{LLP}

Nominators say: “**Everett Dorey** is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. The firm fosters a work environment that is committed to supporting its employees' various cultural, religious, and social backgrounds. Moreover, beyond the workplace, **Everett Dorey** seeks to develop better ideas and programs to help support and solve the complex cultural and diversity issues facing our nation today. For example, **Everett Dorey** has implemented a Supplier Diversity Program to promote and encourages the use of supplier businesses that are historically underutilized, including businesses that are minority owned, women owned, veteran owned, and LGBTQ owned.”





Nominators say: “**JAMS** embraces diversity, equity and inclusion simply because they know it makes them better. As the leading ADR provider in the industry, they understand the success of the business relies heavily on the quality of their people, so **JAMS** looks to attract, train, develop and retain the most competent, productive professional employees. Over half of **JAMS** senior executives, five out of 12, are women, with Kimberly Taylor recently being named President in March 2021. Although diversity starts with the senior management team, it is reflected throughout its entire workforce. **JAMS** also dedicates a component of their national and regional marketing budgets to support and partner with various affinity bar associations.”



LATHAM & WATKINS^{LLP}

Nominators say: “**Latham’s** commitment to DEI is realized through innovative and ground-breaking programs that strengthen DEI in critical ways. These include a Diversity Leadership Committee (DLC), Women Enriching Business (WEB) Committee, global affinity groups, (in Orange County, more than 90 lawyers and staff participate in these groups), Multicultural Promotion & Attainment Coalition (MPAC), and more. **Latham** is also focused on giving back to our communities, particularly on issues that most impact diverse communities. Among the recent representations was the firm’s work to secure a settlement for Orange County’s homeless population. **Latham** has received numerous awards for its DEI efforts.”





LAWWORKS

Nominators say: “**LawWorks** provides shared workspaces and business services for lawyers and legal professionals. Founded in 2019 in Irvine, California, **LawWorks** is more than office space – it’s a community for lawyers to build their network, meet with clients, learn more about the law from industry influencers, collaborate with colleagues, and grow their business with purpose. **LawWorks** is a proud member of Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law and has hosted and participated in numerous events and initiatives for DEI throughout the Orange County community.”





Nominators say: “**McDermott’s** developed comprehensive policies and programming that enable them to attract, nurture, retain and promote top talent from a wide range of backgrounds. As a result of their efforts, they have become a recognized leader in workplace diversity. They launched **McDermott Rise** to combat inequality and promote fairness while helping bridge the gap for Black founders and founders of color. Through this program, they provide a set of free legal and business services to 20 Black founders and other entrepreneurs of color, to help them launch and scale their endeavors with every expectation of success.”





Nominators say: “The **Orange County Bar Association (OCBA)** makes significant impacts on our community through its Diversity Committee and Racial Justice Task Force. Their collaboration with their affiliate bars, such as the Orange County Women Lawyers Association, Thurgood Marshall Bar Association, Orange County Lavender Bar Association, etc., and with Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law, gives diverse attorneys great learning, networking, and spotlight opportunities that make our community better. The affiliate bars themselves provide numerous services throughout the community to both attorneys and the general public. We appreciate that the **OCBA** provides resources and attention for increased DEI in the entire Orange County legal community.”





Nominators say: “**Orrick’s** long-standing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is exemplified by the incredible efforts of the members our Orange County Office’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (OCDC). Particularly during this past year of the COVID-19 pandemic as the country has grappled with the reality of systemic racism, OCDC has been a leader both locally and across the firm’s global platform in our ongoing journey to be the most diverse, equitable and inclusive law firm. At **Orrick**, they believe diversity, equity and inclusion are not only moral imperatives but also essential to the sustainability of their firm and our profession. They measure their success through the diversity of their leadership team, their partnership, their associates, their client teams and our summer associate classes. Their approach has enabled significant progress, but they continue to seek innovative ways to accelerate progress and enhance DEI in the firm and profession, with clients and in our communities.”



The logo for Rutan & Tucker, LLP is displayed within a white rectangular frame. It features the word "RUTAN" in large, white, serif capital letters on a blue background. Below it, a thin horizontal line separates the name from "RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP" in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters.

RUTAN

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

Nominators say: “As the largest, full-service law firm based in Orange County, California, **Rutan & Tucker** plays an active role as the County develops into a world-class metropolitan area reflecting the richness of California’s cultural diversity. They strive to achieve the same result within the firm, by acknowledging the many benefits of diversity for the firm, its clients, and our community. Diversity at **Rutan & Tucker** means a guarantee of equal opportunity in hiring, career development, compensation and promotion. As well as being a long-standing supporter of Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law and groups such as the California Minority Council Program, last year **Rutan & Tucker** established a \$100,000 endowed Diversity and Inclusion scholarship with University of California, Irvine School of Law to fund second-year law students who demonstrate a financial need and to expand diversity of the legal community by supporting students demonstrating a commitment to promoting social and economic diversity.”



Snell & Wilmer

Committed to being your perfect fit.®

Nominators say: “At all levels, **Snell & Wilmer** is focused, engaged and invested in fostering “One Community, Identity of Many.” They believe that a diverse workforce—whether defined by gender, ethnicity, ability or experiences—is essential in our ability to serve their clients, the firm and our community. **Snell & Wilmer** has done an excellent job attracting and retaining diverse lawyers. Over the past year, they began a series of diversity talks with diverse educators, lawyers, activists, etc. from all over. They also started a program within the firm specifically for first generation lawyers. They've done an excellent job and as a diverse employee, I feel recognized and taken care of.”



