



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear APIS Members:

What a year 2023 was! We held our first post-pandemic conference, and celebrated our amazing community and honorees. We also rolled out the APIS In House Initiative to build a support system and community for APIS's robust in house membership. We are thankful for all the support for the 25th Annual Conference and the APIS In House Initiative!



APIS is building on the momentum of last year, and is looking forward to another great year. The conference is scheduled to begin on Friday, April 12, with the Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Saturday evening, April 13. We have an awesome weekend planned and it will be an event you won't want to miss! Registration is now open on the APIS website!

We are honored by the outpouring of support and excitement for the upcoming conference. There is still time to support APIS through speaker submissions, sponsorships, and award nominations. Please see our newsletter page on Call for Speakers, Call for Sponsors, and Call for Award Nominations for more details. APIS is honored to serve this community and we are looking forward to seeing you in April!

Sincerely,  
Saba Syed  
APIS Chair

## 2023 - 2024 OFFICERS

Chair	Saba Syed
Chair Elect	Sang M. Shin
Vice Chair	Joshua Lee
Treasurer	Madhvi Patel
Secretary	Hanna Kim

[www.TexasAPIS.org](http://www.TexasAPIS.org)

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**APIS 26th Annual Conference**

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APIS is thrilled to host its 26th annual conference! The only statewide conference for all Asian and South Asian attorneys across Texas is almost here! Come join us for a weekend of informative and interesting CLE, awesome networking mixers, complimentary lunches and breakfast, and, of course, the APIS Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening, April 13.

Conference Registration Includes Full Access to Conference. You can register for the conference at <https://TXAPISConference2024.eventbrite.com/>!

**Hotel Information.** After completing the conference registration, EventBrite will automatically e-mail you a link to the hotel registration page with the room block information for APIS conference attendees. Discounted room block is available on first come first serve basis! Discounted room rate is \$285.00 per night.

**Call for Speakers.** Do you want to speak about your area of legal expertise or important legal matters regarding the APA community? APIS wants to hear from you! Contact Sang Shin at [sshin@jw.com](mailto:sshin@jw.com) and submit your suggested topic or visit our website at <https://www.texasapis.org/conference/call-for-speakers/> for more details!

**Award Nominations.** APIS will present the annual awards at the conference, recognizing achievements of our members and our section by awarding a Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award, an Affiliate of the Year Award, a Champion of Diversity Award, an Outstanding Mentor Award, Best Under 40 Award(s), and the annual Justice David Wellington Chew Award recognizing an exceptional individual who has significantly contributed to our communities. Visit <https://www.texasapis.org/awardnominations/> for more details! Nomination must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 16, 2024.

## 2024 Sponsorship Opportunities

Dear Friends and Supports of APIS, On behalf of the Asian Pacific Interest Section (APIS) of the State Bar of Texas, we invite you to sponsor our 26th Annual APIS Conference, which will take place April 12-14, 2024 in Austin, Texas, at the Hilton Austin. As in past years, the 26th Annual APIS Conference will focus on substantive legal updates as well as leadership development. There will be numerous networking opportunities with attorneys and judges from throughout Texas. APIS also works to increase speaking opportunities to interested attorneys.

Additionally, we will present our annual awards at the conference, recognizing achievements of our members and our section by awarding a Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award, an Affiliate of the Year Award, a Champion of Diversity Award, an Outstanding Mentor Award, Best Under 40 Award(s), and the annual Justice David Wellington Chew Award recognizing an exceptional individual who has significantly contributed to our communities.

As a sponsor, you will be prominently recognized in multiple ways, including recognition in the Texas Bar Journal, the APIS list serve, the APIS website and social media platforms, and the Conference electronic brochure. Additionally, your company's logo will be displayed on slide shows, display boards, and marketing materials throughout the conference, including at the Annual In-House Counsel Panel and at the APIS Reception. Our different sponsorship levels provide a variety of marketing and business development benefits for your organization. We are also in the process of organizing the panels for the CLE program and would be happy to consider speaking opportunities for you or someone in your organization. Your contribution will help APIS develop diverse legal leaders across Texas.

Our sponsorship levels can be found on the enclosed Sponsorship Form, which is due by February 12, 2024. Please send your company's completed Sponsorship Form and payment to:

Rhonda Bridges  
State Bar of Texas Accounting  
P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas  
78711-2487 Rhonda.Bridges@TexasBar.com  
Re: Asian Pacific Interest Section

Please submit your organization's logo and/or advertisement in high-resolution electronic format to Hanna Kim, hnkim@smu.edu (Subject Line: "APIS Logo/Advertisement") by February 12, 2024, to ensure inclusion in all advertising materials. We hope that you will participate as a sponsor this year, and in doing so, make an important investment in the future of the APA legal community. We invite you to visit the APIS website for more information about our organization. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, and we look very forward to seeing you in Austin!

*To officially sponsor, please email [jlee@armstronglee.com](mailto:jlee@armstronglee.com).*

## 2024 Sponsorship Opportunities Cont'd

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**ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION  
OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

26th ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
AUSTIN, TX

**SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

	\$10,000 Presenting Sponsor (Dinner Reception)	\$7,500 Presenting Sponsor (Keynote Luncheon)	\$5,500 Networking Mixer Sponsor (Day 1)	\$5,500 Pre-Dinner Reception Mixer Sponsor (Day 2)	\$5,000 Platinum Sponsor	\$3,000 Gold Sponsor	\$1,500 Silver Sponsor	\$500 Bronze Sponsor	\$300 Friend of APIS (Individuals Only)
Full Access Conference Passes (Includes CLE, Dinner Reception & Keynote Luncheon)	16	12	8	8	8	6	2	1	1
Reserved VIP Table at Dinner Reception & Keynote Luncheon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--	--	--
Logo and/or Name on official Step & Repeat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--	--	--
Ad Space in Conference Program	Full Page	Full Page	Full Page	Full Page	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page		
Publicity & Signage at the Conference	Prominent	Prominent	Prominent	Prominent	Prominent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Official Display Table at Conference	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--	--
Recognition as a sponsor in the <i>Texas Bar Journal</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recognition as a Year-Round sponsor of APIS in APIS Newsletter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recognition on the APIS website	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Special Recognition	Limited to 1 sponsor; Naming Rights for the Awards Dinner Reception	Limited to 1 sponsor; Naming Rights for the Keynote Luncheon	Limited to 1 sponsor; Naming Rights for the Networking Mixer and Happy Hour (Day 1)	Limited to 1 sponsor; Naming Rights for the Pre- Reception Mixer and Happy Hour (Day 2)	--	--	--	--	--

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**ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION  
OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

26th ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
AUSTIN, TX

**SPONSORSHIP FORM**

**Sponsorship Level Selection (please check one)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Presenting Sponsor (Dinner Reception)</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Presenting Sponsor (Keynote Luncheon)</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Platinum Sponsor</b>                           | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Sponsor</b>                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Silver Sponsor</b>                             | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bronze Sponsor</b>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Friend of APIS (Individual)</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Networking Mixer Sponsor (Day 1)</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pre-Dinner Reception Mixer Sponsor (Day 2)</b> |   |

**A la Carte Acknowledgement Ads in Conference Program (please check one)**

- ☐ **Full Page Advertisement - \$2,000** (included with Presenting, Mixer, and Platinum sponsorships)
- ☐ **Half-Page - \$1,000** (included with Gold sponsorship)
- ☐ **Quarter Page Advertisement - \$500** (included with Silver sponsorship)

Law Firm/Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Asian Pacific Interest Section, State Bar of Texas."

Remit Sponsorship Form and Payment to: Rhonda Bridges, State Bar of Texas Accounting, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711-2487 via U.S. Mail; or [Rhonda.Bridges@TEXASBAR.COM](mailto:Rhonda.Bridges@TEXASBAR.COM) via email.

Remit Logo/Advertisement to: Hanna Kim, [hkim@smu.edu](mailto:hkim@smu.edu) (Subject Line: "APIS Logo/Advertisement")  
Sponsorship Deadline: February 12, 2024

For additional information, visit [www.texasapis.org](http://www.texasapis.org) or contact:

Saba Syed, [ssyed@bellnunnally.com](mailto:ssyed@bellnunnally.com) or Joshua Lee, [jlee@armstronglee.com](mailto:jlee@armstronglee.com)

To officially sponsor, please email [jlee@armstronglee.com](mailto:jlee@armstronglee.com).

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**2023-2024 APIS Officers**

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**Chair – Saba Syed**

A skilled litigator, Saba routinely represents companies and high-net-worth individuals in complex commercial litigation covering a variety of areas, including securities, business torts, partnership disputes and real estate litigation. She has represented companies in industries ranging from energy and manufacturers to landlords and investors. Saba is experienced in a variety of arbitration venues, and has represented consumers and financial advisors in financial disputes. She also works with clients in the live events and hospitality industries, providing industry-specific legal counsel.

In addition to her service to the Asian Pacific Interest Section for the State Bar of Texas, Saba has been recognized for her contributions to the Dallas legal community. Saba was recently named on the *Dallas Business Journal* “40 Under 40” List for 2023, the Super Lawyers “Up-and-Coming 100: Texas Rising Stars” List and “Up-and-Coming 50 Women: Texas Rising Stars” List for 2023, and was also awarded the Dallas Bar Association’s “Outstanding Minority Attorney Award” in 2019. Saba is a Barrister for the Higginbotham Inn of Court, and is also a proud member of the Podium.

**Chair-Elect – Sang Shin**

Sang Shin is an experienced immigration attorney with a demonstrated history of successfully representing clients in their immigration matters.



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**2023-2024 APIS Officers cont'd**

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He has experience representing companies and employers of all sizes, across industries (small, mid-size, and multi-national corporations), in their employment-based immigration matters. He also provides advice to his clients on strategies to ensure that they effectively implement a compliant immigration program that withstands the highest level of scrutiny during government audits.

Sang possesses in-depth experience working with new and emerging start-up companies, international companies investing in the U.S. for the first time, and individual investors to handle immigration-related issues at all stages of their business' life cycle. Sang works with his corporate and individual clients to guide them through the complex investment process, to ensure the immigration process is efficient for their business and meets their personal needs. With a service-oriented and holistic approach, Sang acts not only as an immigration attorney, but also as a true business partner, working toward his clients' overall success.

**Vice Chair – Joshua Lee**

Josh Lee is trial lawyer who represents plaintiffs in personal injury and wrongful death cases. He lives in Houston with his wife Julie and two children. Josh is one of the founding partners of Armstrong Lee & Baker LLP. He handles injury cases of all types, including oilfield, offshore, and industrial accidents, product defect claims, motor vehicle accidents, construction and workplace injuries, and premises liability claims.

Before starting his firm, Josh was a trial attorney at Beck Redden LLP in Houston where he worked on complex commercial disputes on both sides of the docket. He started his career at the New York office of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in the Criminal Defense and Investigations Group. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Asian American Bar Association of Houston and on the Board of Trustees of the Asian American Bar Foundation of Houston. He is an active member of the Houston Bar Association, Houston Trial Lawyers Association, and Texas Trial Lawyers Association. Josh earned his Juris Doctor from NYU Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric & Writing from the University of

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**2023-2024 APIS Officers cont'd**

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**Treasurer – Madhvi Patel**

Madhvi Patel is a Senior Legal Counsel, Commercial Transactions and Real Estate at Equinix, a global datacenter REIT. Prior to joining Equinix, Madhvi practiced at various law firms in the Dallas area and represented owners, developers, investors, landlords, tenants, purchasers, and sellers in each facet of commercial real estate transactions, with an emphasis on development and commercial leasing transactions, acquisitions and dispositions. Madhvi received a BS in Business Administration and a BA in French from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a JD from the North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Madhvi's professional affiliations include APIS, the Podium, the Dallas Bar Association, the Dallas Asian American Bar Association, the Dallas Women Lawyers Association, and the South Asian Bar Association of DFW, where she was on the board as Vice President. Additionally, Madhvi serves as a mentor to young attorneys and law students through the DBA/DAYL STEER Program, DAYL/DWLA Women's Mentoring Circles, and the DBA Minority Participation Committee. Additionally, Madhvi has been an active member of CREW Fort Worth since late 2020, where she is currently serving on the board as Treasurer, and was named the CREW Fort Worth Carla Higgins Future Leader of the Year for 2021. Outside of Madhvi's professional affiliations, Madhvi is a level two brown belt in MMA, enjoys traveling, undertaking home renovation projects, and exploring new restaurants with her husband and two boys.

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**2023-2024 APIS Officers cont'd**

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**Secretary – Hanna Kim**

Hanna is Legal Counsel for Samsung C&T America, Inc., where she works exclusively on Samsung's U.S. solar development. Prior to joining Samsung, Hanna was a litigation associate at Zelle LLP. In addition to her involvement in APIS, Hanna serves as the treasurer on the Dallas Asian American Bar Association, coached the Thomas Tang National Moot Court Competition at SMU Dedman School of Law, an advocacy program sponsored by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Foundation, and served on Zelle's Diversity, Equity & Including Subcommittee on Hiring and Dallas Recruiting Committee. Hanna is also a founding member and current VP of Finance of The Podium, a non-profit organization dedicated to amplifying the visibility and voices of Asian women lawyers in the Dallas Fort-Worth area.

Prior to law school, Hanna received a Fulbright Scholarship to work in South Korea. Hanna has been recognized by Best Lawyers Ones to Watch 2023-2024 and Super Lawyers Ones to Watch in 2023. She received the APIS Best Lawyers Under 40 Award in 2023 and Texas Minority Council Program 2023 Rising Star Award.

**Immediate Past Chair – Phil Kim**

Phil Kim is a partner in the Corporate and Securities Practice Group and Healthcare Team in the firm's Dallas office.

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**2023-2024 APIS Officers cont'd**

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Phil advises various types of healthcare providers in connection with transactional and regulatory matters. He counsels healthcare systems, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, physician groups (including non-profit health organizations, or NPHOs), home health providers, and other healthcare companies on the buy- and sell-side of mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and operational matters, which include regulatory, licensure, contractual, and administrative issues.

Phil has a particular interest in digital health. He has assisted a number of multinational technology companies entering the digital health space with various service and collaboration agreements for their wearable technology. He also assists public medical device, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical companies, as well as the investment banks that serve as underwriters involved in the public securities offerings for such healthcare companies.

## APIS In-House Initiative



ASIAN PACIFIC  
INTEREST SECTION  
**IN-HOUSE  
INITIATIVE WEBINAR**



**SHRUTI KRISHNAN**  
PELOTON INTERACTIVE  
MODERATOR

**ASHLEY YEN**  
METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEM  
PANELIST

**RENWEI CHUNG**  
SEMPRE HEALTH  
PANELIST

**SEEMA PURI-PATEL**  
ZIONS BANCORPORATION  
PANELIST

**07  
Nov.,  
2023**  
**12pm to  
1:30pm**



Register using the link provided or QR Code!

APIS hosted its first In House Initiative program last winter. The APIS In-House Initiative was created to better support and build our APA in-house community.

On November 7, 2023, we had the privilege to host a webinar series focused on internal growth and leveraging relationships within one's organization, which was moderated by Shruti Krishnan (Peloton Interactive) with panelists, Ashley Yen (Methodist Health System), Renwei Chung (Sempere Health), and Seema Puri-Patel (Zions Bancorporation).

If you are an in-house attorney or want to be involved in such programming, join the Corporate Counsel Section of the State Bar of Texas, which is chaired by its first APA chair Toni Nguyen! More information on how to join the Corporate Counsel Section of the State Bar of Texas can be found at <https://www.texascorporatcounsel.com/>.

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Upcoming Events

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**SABA**  
HOUSTON

cordially invites you to its annual

# CHARITY GALA AND SILENT AUCTION

A HOMAGE AND LOVE LETTER TO ANCIENT SOUTH ASIA

Saturday, May 4, 2024

THE CORINTHIAN

202 Fannin Street

Houston, Texas

77002

6:00-10:00 PM

Traditional cultural attire preferred or black tie optional

For table sales, email Sophia George at

[Sophia.George@huschblackwell.com](mailto:Sophia.George@huschblackwell.com)

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*To submit local bar association events, please email [sshin@jw.com](mailto:sshin@jw.com)*

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## Upcoming Events



AZA

# HAPPY HOUR AND CLE PATHWAYS TO IN-HOUSE COUNSEL



March 5, 2024



AZA Law Firm  
1221 McKinney St. Suite  
2500



5:00 - 6:00: HAPPY HOUR  
6:00-7:00: CLE

**Raj Duvvuri**

Investment Manager and Legal Counsel  
Omni Bridgeway

**Fermeen Fazal**

Senior Counsel  
Chevron

**Humza Salim**

General Counsel  
CLS Health

REGISTER NOW AT :  
[www.houstonsaba.com](http://www.houstonsaba.com)

To submit local bar association events, please email [sshin@jw.com](mailto:sshin@jw.com)



Upcoming Events



**Lunar New Year  
Dim Sum**

**Saturday, February 17, 11am**  
**Fung's Kitchen**  
7320 Southwest Fwy  
Houston, TX 77074

**\$15 AABA Members • \$15 Spouse  
\$5 Children • \$25 Non-members**

To submit local bar association events, please email [sshin@jw.com](mailto:sshin@jw.com)



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## Upcoming Events

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Congratulations to Toni Nguyen, Chair for the Corporate Counsel Section for the State Bar of Texas, for reaching over 5,000 members! Information on the upcoming Corporate Counsel Section Power Hour is below



THE NEW LANDSCAPE OF THE ROLE OF SPONSORSHIPS IN THE BUSINESS OF SPORTS  
*Maurice Suh & Zathrina Perez*

**February 13**  
**12:00 - 1:00PM CST**

Corporate Counsel  
**POWER HOUR**

GIBSON DUNN

TexasCorporateCounsel.com

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To submit local bar association events, please email [sshin@jw.com](mailto:sshin@jw.com)

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**Contact Information for Local Bar Associations**

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**Austin Asian American Bar Association**

<https://www.austinaaba.org/>

**Dallas Asian American Bar Association**

<https://www.daaba.org/>

**South Asian Bar Association of Austin**

<https://www.saba-austin.org/>

**South Asian Bar Association Dallas**

<https://www.facebook.com/SABADFW/>

<https://www.sabanorthamerica.com/group/dallas>

**Asian American Bar Association of Houston**

<https://aabahouston.com/>

**South Asian Bar Association of Houston**

<https://www.houstonsaba.com/>

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To submit contact information for affiliates, please email [sshin@jw.com](mailto:sshin@jw.com)

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## Member News & Accomplishments

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**Dallas Asian American Bar Association** was recognized as the Affiliate of the Year by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. DAABA President Janet Landry Smith, Board member Jacob Mathew, and Past President Hope Shimabuku traveled to the Annual NAPABA Conference in Indianapolis to accept the award on behalf of DAA-BA.

**SABA Dallas** held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala on September 9, 2023 with keynote speaker, Punam Kaji.

**Asian American Bar Association**—Houston held their Annual Gala on September 22, 2023.

**Corporate Counsel Section for State Bar of Texas**—Congratulations to Toni Nguyen, Chair for the Corporate Counsel Section for the State Bar of Texas, for reaching over 5,000 members!

**Sakina Rasheed Foster**—Congratulations to Sakina Rasheed Foster for being named the 2023 Trailblazer of the Year by the Texas Minority Counsel Program. The TMCP Trailblazer of the Year Award honors an outside counsel who has effectuated the promotion of diversity within the legal profession through hiring, retention and mentoring of minority, women, and LGBTQ+ attorneys, partnering with minority, women, and LGBTQ+ owned law firms, and involvement with Bar and/or community activities designed to promote diversity within the legal profession. Ms. Foster is the Managing Partner for the Dallas Offices of Haynes Boone.

**Hanna Kim**—Congratulations to Hanna Kim on being named winner of the TMCP Rising Star Award by the Texas Minority Counsel Program. The TMCP Rising Star Award recognizes an attorney licensed 7 years or less who has made strides early in their practice to promote diversity within the legal profession. Hanna Kim is Legal Counsel at Samsung C&T America.

**Carolyn Lam**—Congratulations to Carolyn Lam for winning the 2023 DFW Corporate Counsel Award for Senior Counsel for a Small Legal Department. Ms. Lam is the Ecobat deputy general counsel and also serves as the world's largest battery recycler's chief compliance officer.

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**Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors!**

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# THANK YOU

**PLATINUM**

Sheppard Mullin  
Haynes Boone

**DIAMOND**

Jackson Walker  
Bell Nunnally  
Norton Rose Fulbright

**GOLD**

Kirkland & Ellis  
Vela Wood  
Asian American Bar Assn. - Houston  
Dallas Asian American Bar Assn.  
Platt Cheema Richmond  
Reid Collins & Tsai

**SILVER**

Fletcher Yoder  
Neelon International Law  
McGinnis Lochridge  
Texas Bar College  
Ogletree Deakins  
Husch Blackwell  
Austin Asian American Bar Association  
Locke Lord  
Holland & Knight  
DLA Piper  
Reeves Brightwell

**BRONZE**

Berg Plummer Johnson & Raval  
Terrazas, PLLC  
South Asian Bar Association - Austin  
Greenberg Traurig  
DiversePro  
South Asian Bar Association - Houston  
South Asian Bar Association - Dallas