

O Sun God, Savitar!
Thou dazzling fount of life-persuasive light!
Sublimest mystery speeding from afar!
Swift became that burst too potent on the sight!
This radiant type of strength and youth!
Glowing eternally!

He alone shines!
All luminaries get illuminated by His Illumination!
The whole Universe is enlightened by His light!
- Kathopanisad



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VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

మన సంస్కృతి

Mana Sanskriti (Our Culture)

Chief Editor: Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu, Esq.

May the golden-eyed Savitar come hither!
Shining forth he rises from the lap of the dawn!
Praised by singers, my God Savitar!
Stepped forth and never missed his place!
He steps forth the splendor of the sky the wide!
Seeing, far-shining, the shining wanderer!
- Rig Veda, iii, 65

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Issue: 237

Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu¹

ASIAN AMERICAN LAWYERS VS. INDIAN AMERICAN LAWYERS



100 Million Years Ago

Long ago, 13-year-old Hong Yen Chang came to the US to be groomed as a diplomat. He earned degrees from Yale University and Columbia University's law school and passed the bar exam to be admitted to the New York bar in 1888, and became the first Asian American lawyer in the US. However, when Chang applied for a California law license in 1892, the state's Supreme Court denied his application citing bar association rules, which precluded noncitizens from joining and Chang was excluded from naturalization to become a citizen because of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the first significant law restricting immigration into the United States with an absolute 10-year moratorium on Chinese labor immigration. After the bar rejected him, Chang became a successful banker and diplomat and eventually retired in Berkeley. More than a century later, Chang's descendants petitioned for their relative to be granted posthumous bar admission and brought the case before the California Supreme Court. In 2015, the California Supreme Court reversed its ruling of 1892. "Even if we cannot undo history, we can acknowledge it and, in doing so, accord a full measure of recognition to Chang's path-breaking efforts to become the first lawyer of Chinese descent in the United States," the judges wrote in their decision².

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, for the first time, proscribed entry of an ethnic working group on the premise the criminal aliens endangered Americans. When the exclusion act expired in 1892, Congress extended it for 10 years in the form of the Geary Act and was made permanent in 1902, adding restrictions by requiring each Asian alien resident to register and obtain a certificate of residence, without which the Asian alien faced deportation. The Geary Act aka **the national origin system**, with various modifications, lasted until Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1965, effective July 1, 1968, imposing a limit of 170,000 immigrants from outside the Western Hemisphere to enter the United States, with a maximum of 20,000 from any one country.

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Today, about 20 million Asian Americans trace their roots to more than 20 countries in East Asia and Indian Continent (Southeast Asia and the Indian SubContinent), each with unique histories, cultures, languages and other characteristics. While the number of Asian American and Indian American lawyers and law students increased greatly in recent decades, there are still only a few Asian American and Indian American lawyers in top positions in the legal field³.

- [Chinese 4,948,000](#)
- [Indian 3,982,000](#)
- [Filipino 3,899,000](#)
- [Vietnamese 1,980,000](#)
- [Korean 1,822,000](#)
- [Japanese 1,411,000](#)
- [Pakistani 519,000](#)
- [Cambodian 330,000](#)
- [Hmong 299,000](#)
- [Thai 295,000](#)
- [Laotian 271,000](#)
- [Bangladeshi 188,000](#)
- [Burmese 168,000](#)
- [Nepalese 140,000](#)
- [Indonesian 113,000](#)
- [Sri Lanakan 60,000](#)
- [Malaysian 30,000](#)
- [Bhutanese 24,000](#)



- [Mongolian 21,000](#)

Demographic Characteristics of Indian American Population, 2015

According to a study, 10 percent of graduates at the top-30 law schools were Asian Americans in 2015, comprising about 6 % of federal law clerks, 4 % of state law clerks, 5 % of lawyers, and 7 % of law students, but only 3 % of federal judges and US Attorneys last year were Asian-American. Asian Americans are regarded as having the hard skills required for lawyerly competence, they are regarded as lacking many important soft skills, according to the study, it is notable that few Asian Americans appear motivated to pursue law in order to gain a pathway into government or politics⁴.

	All Asians In the U.S.	All U.S. born	Foreign born
MEDIAN AGE (in years)	34	32	39
AGE			
Younger than 5	7	8	23
5-17	18	17	42
18-29	19	18	19
30-39	16	22	9
40-49	15	14	3
50-64	16	13	2
65+	10	8	1
NATIVITY			
U.S. born	41	31	-
Foreign born	59	69	-
YEARS IN U.S. (among foreign born)			
0-5 years	20	-	26
6-10 years	14	-	17
11-15 years	13	-	16
16-20 years	11	-	12
21+ years	42	-	29
CITIZENSHIP (among foreign born)			
U.S. citizen	58	-	50
Not a U.S. citizen	42	-	50
MARITAL STATUS (18 and older)			
Married	59	71	32
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	12	7	5
Never married	30	22	63
FERTILITY (among women ages 15 to 44)			
Women who have given birth in the past 12 months	6	7	4
HOUSEHOLD TYPE, BY PERSONS			
Married-couple household	71	82	83
Other family household	17	8	9
Non-family household	12	10	8
IN A MULTIGENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLD			
Multigenerational household	26	23	19

Note: Family households are those with a household head and one or more persons living in the household who are related to the household head by birth, marriage or adoption. Households with a household head and an unmarried partner are only considered family households if there are other persons in the household who are related to the household head by birth, marriage or adoption. Multigenerational households are households with two or more adult generations or one that includes grandparents and grandchildren. Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Figures for Indians and all Asians based on mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin. See methodology for more detail. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2013-2015 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय । मृत्योर्मा अमृतं गमय । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥ Vepachedu Educational Foundation, Inc.

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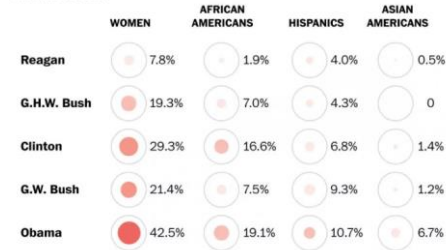
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Indian Americans were more likely to be enrolled in law school to work in government or politics than Asian Americans. Indian Americans arrived more recently in the United States, mostly in the last about 2.5 decades, after India implemented bold economic reforms at end of the last millennium, although Indian American history dates back to the British times in the US when Sikhs and Punjabis arrived here⁵. Obviously, prior experience with democracy and high English proficiency is expected to translate into greater political participation.

Judge Sanjay Tailor is the first Indian American man in Illinois, the first Asian American man in Illinois, and the second Indian American in Illinois to be appointed Associate Judge in Cook County (April 22, 2003)⁶. He joins Honorable Rena Van Tine (the first Indian American woman judge in Illinois), Honorable Sandra Otaka (the first Asian American to be elected to the judiciary in Cook County), and Honorable Lynne Kawamoto (the first Asian American to be appointed to the bench in Cook County) in serving the People of the State of Illinois.



Source: Elliot Slotnick, Sheldon Goldman and Sara Schiavoni/Journal of Law and Courts WEIYI GAI/THE WASHINGTON POST

During the first six years of his presidency, Obama appointed 20 Asian Americans, first female Native American, and 11 openly gay judges to various tiers of federal court. Amul Thapar became the second Indian American judge of an appeals court with the United States senate confirming his appointment to the Cincinnati-based Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Trump Administration

Manisha Singh, a lawyer, was named the assistant secretary of state for economic and business affairs. She had served in this bureau earlier as a deputy to the then assistant secretary Dan Sullivan, who is now a US senator from Alaska. Other Indian Americans in Trump's administration include Raj Shah Seema Verma, Ajit Pai, Vishal J Amin, and Neomi Rao, in the White House.



Asian Americans

1. [Albert Shen](#), National Deputy Director, Minority Business Development Agency
2. [Alissa Ko](#), Associate Director, White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs
3. [Camille Calimlim Touton](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior
4. [Chris Lu](#), Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor

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- [David S. Kim](#), Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation
- [David W. Yang](#), Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict & Humanitarian Assistance; USAID
- [Doua Thor](#), Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Department of Education
- [Eduardo Alfonso Angeles](#), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Associate Administrator for Airports
- [Erika Lizabeth Moritsugu](#), Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- [Esther Kia'aina](#), Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, U.S. Department of the Interior
- [Harriet Tregoning](#), Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- [Heather Fong](#), Assistant Secretary, Office for State and Local Law Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- [Jane Chu](#), Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts
- [Janet Nuzum](#), Senior Advisor and Director of Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- [Jennifer Park Stout](#), Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
- [Jenny R. Yang](#), Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- [Jetta Wong](#), Director, Department of Energy's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT)
- [Juliet Choi](#), Chief of Staff, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- [Karen K. Narasaki](#), Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
- [Susumu Ken Yamashita](#), Associate Director, Office of Global Operations, Peace Corps
- [Michael Brush](#), Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Advance and Operations, White House
- [Michelle K. Lee](#), Under Secretary for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce
- [Mina Hsiang](#), Healthcare Director, U.S. Digital Service, White House
- [Nani Coloretti](#), Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- [Portia Wu](#), Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor
- [Stacy Koo](#), Special Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff for Presidential Personnel, White House
- [Tina Tchen](#), Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff to the First Lady, and Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls

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Indian Americans

1. [Paul Monteiro](#) (Portugese Indian American), Director, Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice
2. [Jasjit Singh](#), Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Justice
3. [Gaurab Bansal](#), Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Cabinet Secretary, White House
4. [Daleep Singh](#), Acting Assistant Secretary of Treasury, U.S. Department of the Treasury
5. [Kiran Ahuja](#), Chief of Staff, U.S. Office of Personnel Management
6. [Susumu Ken Yamashita](#), Associate Director, Office of Global Operations, Peace Corps
7. [Maju Varghese](#), Assistant to the President for Management and Administration, White House
8. [Manar Waheed](#) (Pakistani American), Deputy Policy Director for Immigration, White House Domestic Policy Council
9. [Nisha Biswal](#), Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State
10. [Parita Shah](#), Chief of Staff, Millennium Challenge Corporation
11. [Priya Aiyar](#), Acting General Counsel, U.S. Department of the Treasury
12. [Rakesh Kilaru](#), Special Assistant to the President and Associate Counsel, Office of the White House Counsel
13. [Rishi Sahgal](#), Counselor, U.S. Department of Energy
14. [Rohan Patel](#), Special Assistant to the President, White House
15. [Ruchi Jain](#), Special Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel, White House
16. [Tarak Shah](#), Chief of Staff, Department of Energy's Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Energy
17. [Vinai K. Thummalapally](#), Executive Director of SelectUSA, U.S. Department of Commerce
18. [Vanita Gupta](#), Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
19. [Dr. Vivek Murthy](#), Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Other Indian Americans (aka South Asian Americans)

1. [Dr. Tung Thanh Nguyen](#) (Vietnamese American), Chair, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, U.S. Department of Education
2. [Eric Nguyen](#) (Vietnamese American), Special Assistant to the President and Associate Counsel, Office of the White House Counsel
3. [Mathy Stanislaus](#) (Sri Lankan American), Assistant Administrator, USEPA Office of Land and Emergency Management
4. [Omar Daniel Khan](#) (Pakistani American), Assistant U.S Trade Representative, Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement

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¹Dr. Rao Vepachedu is the founder and president of Vepachedu Educational Foundation Inc., a 501(c) (3) educational foundation, and the Law Offices of Dr. Vepachedu and co-founder of Exciva. For more information visit: www.linkedin.com/in/vepachedu; <http://www.avvo.com/attorneys/60201-il-sreenivasarao-vepachedu-764535.html>, and <http://www.crm-ip.com/vepachedu.html>. Contact: svepachedu@yahoo.com.

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² Chinese immigrant, denied law license in 1890, gets one posthumously <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-chinese-lawyer-20150316-story.html>

³ What's Keeping Asian-American Lawyers From Ascending The Legal Ranks? <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/07/31/538299755/whats-keeping-asian-american-lawyers-from-ascending-the-legal-ranks>

⁴ State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Series A Multifaceted Portrait of a Growing Population <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AAPIData-CAP-report.pdf>

⁵ Emigration during Colonial Rule <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-immigration-and-diaspora-relations-india#1>

⁶ Sanjay Tailor appointed Associate Judge in Cook County [http://www.nriinternet.com/NRIappointments/USA/Non Political/A Z/T/Sanjay Tailor/index.htm](http://www.nriinternet.com/NRIappointments/USA/Non%20Political/A%20Z/T/Sanjay%20Tailor/index.htm)
 For more details and notes with Internet links, visit Asian American Lawyers v Indian American Lawyers <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/asian-american-lawyers-v-indian-rao-vepachedu-jd-phd-llm/?trackingId=Al2d%2FWsqmXRzSGSZ%2FUMIXQ%3D%3D>

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⁷ In addition to the primary sources cited above, additional references include:

New York Times, Washington Post, Mercury News, Bayarea.com, Deccan Chronicle, the Hindu, Hindustan Times, Times of India, AP, Reuters, AFP, The Guardian, Pravda, Spiegel, Connexion, etc.

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“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, Where knowledge is free, Where the world has not been broken up into fragments, By narrow domestic walls.” -- Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), Gitanjali, 1912.

One World One Family

AUM! SWASTI!

Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!
(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to

immortality, and peace!)

SWASTI! AUM!

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