
From: National Filipino American Lawyers Association <info@nfala.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2024 8:09 PM
Subject: NFALA News | January 2024



Dear NFALA Family.

Happy New Year! I am are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to each of you as members of the NFALA community.

One of NFALA's goals this year is to continue foster this vibrant community where knowledge is shared, connections are formed, and collective achievements are celebrated. Whether you are a seasoned legal veteran or just starting your journey, NFALA is designed to support and elevate your professional endeavors.

As members of our organization, you will have access to:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Take advantage of our diverse membership to expand your professional network. Attend our events, engage in our forums, and connect with like-minded individuals passionate about the legal field.
- **Educational Resources:** Stay ahead in your legal practice with exclusive access to our rich repository of legal resources, including articles, webinars, and expert insights. Continuous learning is a cornerstone of success, and we're here to provide the tools you need.
- **Member-Only Events:** Join us for exciting member-exclusive events designed to facilitate meaningful connections, knowledge exchange, and collaborative

opportunities. These gatherings are perfect for building lasting relationships within the legal community.

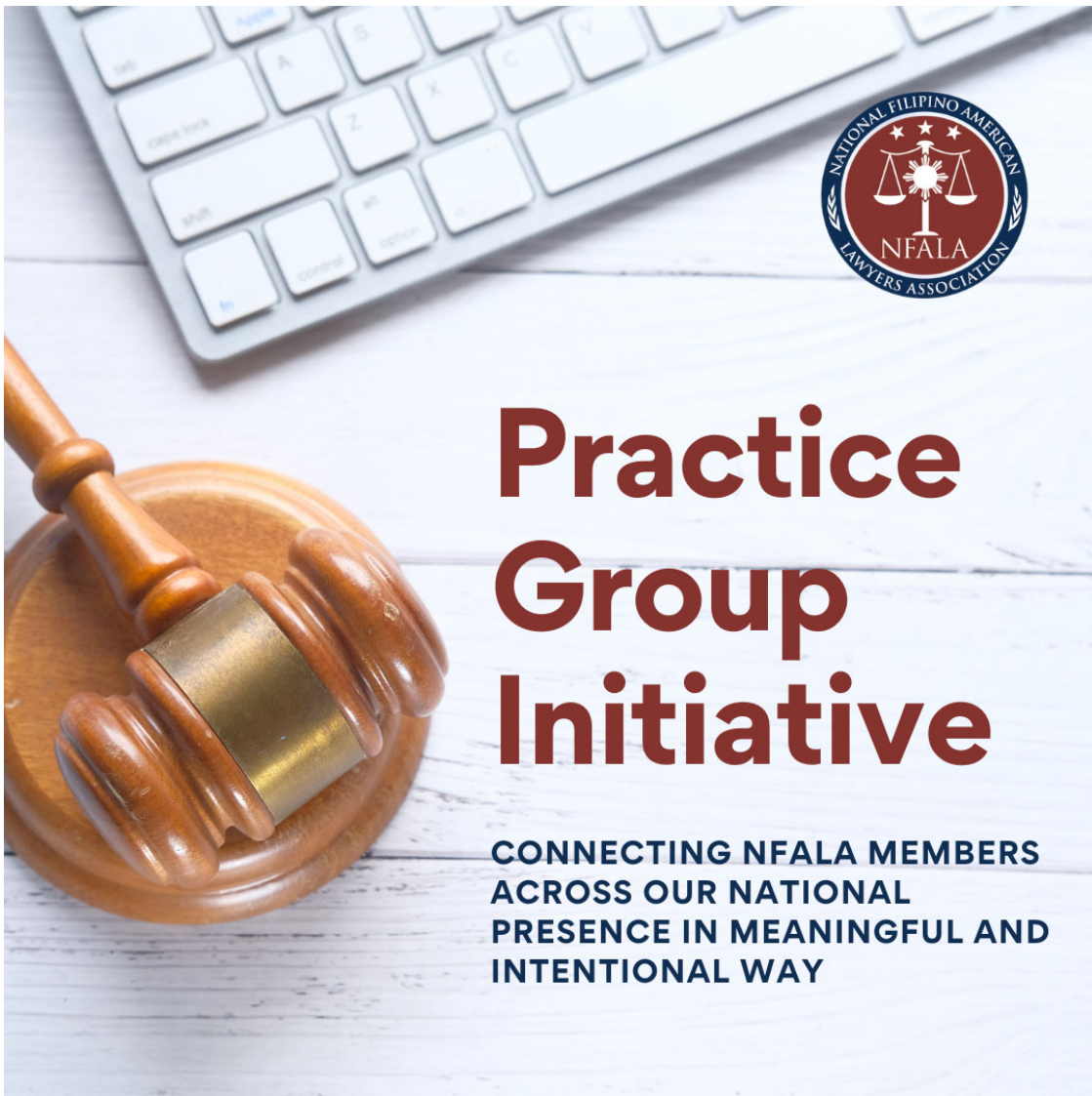
- **Professional Development:** Elevate your skills and expertise through our tailored professional development programs. From workshops to mentorship initiatives, we're dedicated to supporting your growth throughout your legal career.
- **Recognition and Awards:** Celebrate your achievements with us! We take pride in acknowledging the accomplishments of our members and showcasing their contributions to the legal profession.

Next Steps:

- **Renew Your Membership:** Sign up or renew your membership today by visiting our website [here](#)
- **Explore our Website:** Navigate through our user-friendly website to discover the array of resources and benefits available to you. Visit nfala.com today!
- **Connect on Social Media:** Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#) to stay updated on the latest news, events, and opportunities. Engage with fellow members and share your insights with our vibrant online community.

We are excited to embark on this journey with you and look forward to the valuable contributions you will bring to our community.

Sincerely,
Natalie Garcia Lashinsky
Vice-President of Communications
communications@nfala.com



NFALA's Practice Group Initiative (PGI)

This year, NFALA is launching the Practice Group Initiative (PGI)! PGI is an effort to help our members connect and get organized based on their practice areas. We believe this will create avenues for members to engage with each other from across the nation in new and meaningful ways. PGI will provide NFALA members opportunities for professional networking, CLE sessions, and practice group meetings where we can learn from one another.

To get started, we need those who are interested to fill out this survey <http://tinyurl.com/NFALAPGI>. It will only take 3 minutes of your time, but potentially unlock limitless value for you as an NFALA member! Please complete this short survey by the end of Friday, January 19th, 2024.

If you have any questions, or would like to be more deeply involved with this initiative, please contact [Dennis Pangindian](#)

Complete the PGI Survey Today



NFALA's Government & Public Sector Network presents

"The Role of Non-Profit and Government Attorneys in Advancing Social Justice"



This virtual panel will explore how attorneys in non-profit organizations and government agencies collaborate to address social justice issues, including civil rights, access to justice, and equity.

January 17, 2024 | 5-6 pm PST



Michael Aguhar
Crossroads Fund

Rose Cuison-Villazor
Rutgers Law School

Carolyn Cole
Washington State Administrative
Office of the Courts

Kevin Benedicto
San Francisco Police Commission

To Register, visit <https://bit.ly/GPSpanel>
For more information, contact NFALA GPS Co-Chairs Abigail Rivamonte Mesa (rivamonte@gmail.com)
or Raymond Rollan (raymond.r.rollan@gmail.com)

NFALA's Government & Public Sector Network presents "The Role of Non-Profit and Government Attorneys in Advancing Social Justice" on January 17, 2024 from 5-6 pm PST

This virtual panel will explore how attorneys in non-profit organizations and government agencies collaborate to address social justice issues, including civil rights, access to justice, and equity.

Panelists Include:

- Michael Aguhar, Program Director at the Crossroads Fund
- Kevin Benedicto, San Francisco Police Commission
- Carolyn Cole, Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts
- Rose Cuison-Villazor, Rutgers University

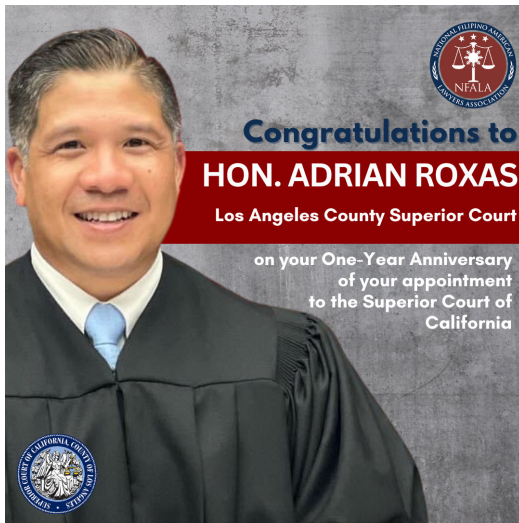
To Register, visit <https://bit.ly/GPSpanel>

In addition to registering here, to help our panelists provide content for the anticipated audience, please complete the survey located [here](#) or by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/NFALAGPS011724>

For more information, contact NFALA GPS Co-Chairs [Abigail Rivamonte Mesa](#) or [Raymond Rollan](#)

Register Today!

NFALA Judicial Announcements





NFALA on the Move



NFALA ON THE MOVE



**DENNIS
PANGINDIAN**

Dennis recently joined Epstein Becker & Green in their NYC office as Senior Counsel. His practice consists of assisting health care and life sciences clients with fraud and abuse matters, off-label investigations, regulatory compliance, health care disputes, and government investigations.



**JENNY
PELAEZ**

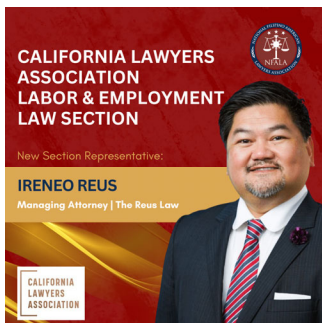
Jenny was recently elevated to partner at King & Spalding in their Los Angeles office. She focuses her practice on complex commercial and class action litigation at the trial and appellate levels, and has extensive experience in claims under antitrust, securities and consumer protection laws, as well as a variety of contract and tort claims.



**JOHN
DE LA MERCED**

John was recently elevated to partner at Stubbs Alderton in their Los Angeles office. He represents clients in a broad range of business, intellectual property, and real estate disputes in federal court, state court, and arbitration.

NFALA Celebrates Our Members



MINORITY CORPORATE COUNSEL ASSOCIATION 2023 RAINMAKERS

Congratulations to:

JOSEPH CENTENO
Shareholder | Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC




2024 SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT-ELECT

Congratulations to:

MICHELLE GASTIL
Sr. Counsel | Dept. of Toxic Substances Control




2024 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD AS A PIONEER IN THE LAW BY SAN DIEGO MAGAZINE

Congratulations to:

JONAH TOLENO
Of Counsel | Garcia Hong Law, PC




ORANGE COUNTY COALITION FOR DIVERSITY IN THE LAW'S 2023 SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to:



CHRISTINA ZABAT-FRAN
General Counsel | The Lanvin Group




NOMINEE FOR THE US ATTORNEY FOR GUAM AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Congratulations to:

HON. JOHNNY GOGO
Santa Clara County Superior Court

NEW JERSEY LAW JOURNAL 2023 DIVERSE ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR HONOREE

Congratulations to:

VINCENT ROLDAN
Partner | Mandelbaum Barrett PC




FILIPINO MIGRANT CENTER 2023 JUSTICE AWARD

Congratulations to:

SANDY ROXAS
Founding Partner | Roxas Law




2023 LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL'S LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: THRIVING IN THEIR 40S

Congratulations to:

ERNIE OCAMPO
Office Managing Partner
Reed Smith




CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S 2024 JUSTICE JAMES MARCHIANO'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to:

MIKA DOMINGO
Managing Attorney | M.S. Domingo Law Group



NFALA In The News

In The News



TFC News
@TFCNewsNow



A Filipino-American lawyer makes history in Georgia after he was named Brookhaven's first FilAm municipal court chief judge.

Get to know Bryan Ramos in this report by @LennThornhill. #TFCNews

WATCH: youtu.be/viDHW_6rDMk



NFALA IN THE NEWS

**NFALA President-Elect Bryan C. Ramos
Recently Interviewed by TFC-News On His
Historic Appointment As Chief Court Judge
to the Brookhaven Municipal Court**

WATCH: [YOUTU.BE/VIDHW_6RDMK](https://youtu.be/viDHW_6rDMk)

NFALA Congratulates Our Affiliates

Congratulations to



FILIPINO-AMERICAN LAWYERS OF ORANGE COUNTY





**Awarded
2023 Fil-Am
Chamber of
Commerce of
Orange
County's
Advocate of
the Year**

RECAP: NFALA Celebrated Philippine Parents Day in December!

NFALA celebrated and featured NFALA members' parents for the journey and sacrifices they have made on their website and social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you for submitting your family to share in their story.

NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

RAUL & GLORIA RAMOS
 Parents of NFALA President-Elect Bryan Ramos
 Chief Judge, City of Brookhaven, GA and Managing Partner, Ramos & Law, Atlanta, GA.



"I am proud of my parents because of their passion for family, their strength through everyday struggles, and their kindness they showed toward everyone they met."




NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

GREGORIO & MILAGROS TIONGSON
 Parents of NFALA Member Melani G. Tiongson
 ChangeLab Solutions, San Francisco, CA



"I am proud of my parents because they are smart, successful, kind, generous, and giving. They are my heroes and my inspiration to live authentically and be kind to others."

NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

LORETO & MYRNA GARCIA
 Parents of NFALA President Lorna Garcia de Guzman
 Garcia & Sahni LLP, San Jose, CA



"I am proud of my parents because they worked hard to provide me with an education that allowed me to speak on behalf of others."

NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

EDWIN & VIOLETA OLIVERA
 Grandparents of NFALA Secretary Beth Olivera
 Cozen O'Connor LLP, Chicago, IL



"I am proud of my grandparents because they taught my sister and I the importance of working hard to accomplish our goals. They were both strong leaders and incredibly passionate people. My Grandfather was the founder and former publisher of Chicago's Philippine Times newspaper and an avid photographer. My Grandmother served as a nurse for over 60 years. I am inspired by them everyday."

NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

ALBERT & ELENITA PANGINDIAN
 Parents of NFALA Member Dennis Pangindian
 Epstein Becker and Green, New York, NY

"I am proud of my parents because they took the risk of uprooting their lives to move to America from Manila and working multiple jobs in the hopes of a better life for my brothers and I, all while providing us a happy home and demonstrating the importance of family."

NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

MANUEL S. GABA
 Father of NFALA Member Jeffrey N. Gaba
 GDCR Law, Atlanta, GA

"I am proud of my father because he bravely immigrated to the United States in 1957 due to a great shortage of physicians here in the United States. This was a time when there were very few foreign or doctors of color here and the profession was in chaos. He settled in Upstate NY and broke through this barrier by his kindness, compassion and humble caring of his patients. He treated his patients, nurses, and white physicians with respect and grace. In 1972, he took this one step further by moving his family from NY to rural Georgia because there were very few doctors outside of Atlanta. Once again he broke through the racially divided south and practiced medicine for an additional 35 years. As I reflect on this, I'm inspired and in awe of my father's courage, strength and character during these times of racial tension in America and to have left a legacy and mark on the American medical profession and his patients both in NY and Georgia."



NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

ELLEN VILORIA CELIS

Mother of NFALA Regional Governor Maria E. Celis
 JO Cosmetics Co., Ltd. and Neville Peterson LLP, Eastchester, NY

"I am proud of my mother because she immigrated to the United States as a young physician and succeeded in her medical field of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She supported her three children in every way possible. She raised her kids to be proud Filipino-Americans."



NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

FERNANDO & NENITA DELACRUZ

Mother of NFALA Member Michaela Delacruz
 Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP, San Diego, CA

"I am proud of my parents because they fearlessly left their homeland and risked everything to embark on a journey into the unknown so my sisters and I could pursue the American dream."



NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

LOIDA LUMBA GONZALES & JEFFREY GONZALES

Parents of Past NFALA President Jeri Gonzales
 Gonzales Gonzales & Gonzales Immigration Law Offices, Seattle, WA

"I am proud of my parents for their unwavering commitment to, and support of, my brother and me in pursuing our dreams and goals our whole life. Now as Filipino attorneys, my parents have also demonstrated their unwavering commitment to the Filipino legal community. My family's immigration law firm, Gonzales Gonzales & Gonzales Immigration Law Offices, will always be happy to help support NFALA, in part because of the belief my Dad has instilled in us that we should always help and support other Filipino attorneys and law students."



NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

ERNESTO & ANGELINA GARCIA

Parents of NFALA Members Valerie Garcia Hong and Natalie Garcia Lashinsky
 Garcia Hong Law, PC, San Diego, CA and Husch Blackwell LLP, Oakland, CA

"We are proud of our parents because growing up, our parents instilled in us the value of hard work, perseverance, and kindness. They never forced us into predetermined molds of success, but rather encouraged us to explore our passions and interests. Their belief in our potential became the wind beneath our wings, allowing us to fly."




NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

HELEN & RUPERT LANDICHO
 Parents of NFALA Member Robert Landicho
 Vinson & Elkins, LLP, Houston, TX



"I am proud of my parents because they both immigrated from Batangas in the hardest of family circumstances, and built their lives and the lives of their three children. We owe them everything."




NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

AIDA & WILFREDO RIVAMONTE
 Parents of NFALA Members Abigail Rivamonte Mesa and Ian Rivamonte
 CA State Legislature, San Francisco, CA and Superior Court of California, Monterey, CA

"We are proud of our mom and dad because they always prioritized our family and had the courage to leave everything behind and start a new life, overcoming countless challenges and hardships along the way. We love you mom and dad!!"

NFALA Celebrates National Philippine Parents' Day!

ROBERTO GARCIA START AND CATHLEAH PALMA START
 Parents of NFALA Member Christine Start
 Office of Attorney General Rob Bonta, California Department of Justice, Union City, CA

"I am proud of my parents because they embody what it means to be an interdependent and loving family, raising conscious children and grandchildren with tender kindness and boundless grace while they also role model joy, loyalty, fierce persistence and strong work ethic."

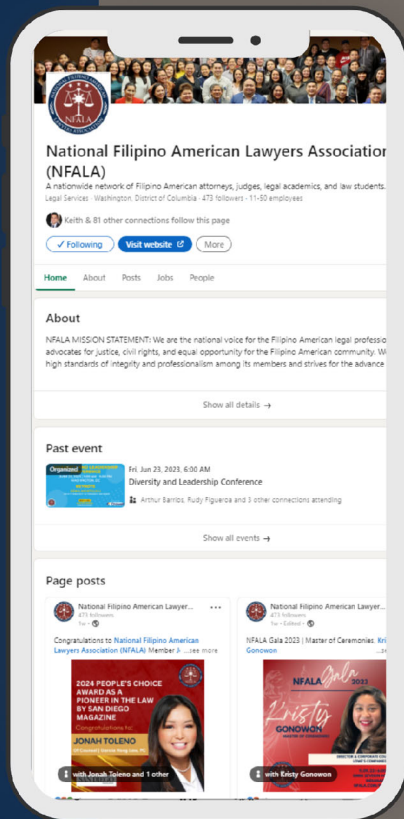
RECAP: NFALA's December 2023 Board Meeting

NFALA's Board of Directors gathered for its December 2023 Meeting where we discussed post-Gala feedback, upcoming programming plans and affiliate events! The Board will meet again on January 8, 2024.



Engage with NFALA on LinkedIn

Follow our Page:



Join our Groups:
NFALA
NFALA PARTNERS
NFALA IN-HOUSE





SHARE YOUR NEWS

2023-2024 NFALA Executive Board

Congratulations to NFALA's newly elected 2023-24 Executive Board! #nfalafamily

 Bryan Ramos President-Elect	 NFALA 2023-2024 Executive Board	 Peggy Li VP Programs & Operations
 Vanessa Candelaria VP of Membership	 Lorna Garcia de Guzman President	 Elizabeth Olivera Secretary
 Andrew Villacastin Treasurer	 Gage Javier Immediate Past President	 Natalie Garcia Lashinsky VP of Communications



Share your announcements, recent awards, judicial appointments, and upcoming events with the NFALA community!

To submit, visit <https://tinyurl.com/NFALANews>



Submit your news, announcements, awards, and events today!

Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors

National Filipino American Lawyers Association wishes to thank its sponsors for their continued generosity and support of NFALA and its mission to promote diversity, supporting the entrance and advancement of Filipino-Americans into and within the legal profession, and ensuring the issues important to Filipino-Americans are adequately addressed within the legal community and public at-large

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GARCIA SAHNI

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**NIXON
PEABODY**

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Bryan Ramos
President-Elect



NFALA
2023-2024
Executive Board



Peggy Li
VP Programs & Operations



Vanessa Candelaria
VP of Membership



Lorna Garcia de Guzman
President



Elizabeth Olivera
Secretary



Andrew Villacastin
Treasurer



Gage Javier
Immediate Past President



Natalie Garcia Lashinsky
VP of Communications

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