

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

## **Profiles in Diversity Journal® Announces its 2024 Asian Leadership Award Winners**

[CLEVELAND, OH–April 15, 2024] *Profiles in Diversity Journal*® is pleased to announce the 18 outstanding winners of the magazine’s fourth annual Asian Leadership Awards. These leaders have been standouts in creating a legacy of being caring, thoughtful in their guidance of teams and young staff. They have earned respect for influencing peers, mentoring new leaders and engaging in their communities. The following leaders listed in this quarter’s *Profiles in Diversity Journal*® have excelled in doing this and more.

“We are proud to honor these impressive and diverse Asian leaders,” said *Profiles in Diversity Journal*® publisher James Rector. “It’s also exciting to recognize the companies and organizations that support and promote their success. We look forward to showcasing these Asian leaders who are working hard on behalf of their clients, colleagues, and communities.”

Here are some fine examples: Geetha Adinata excels in leadership at FordHarrison's Business Immigration practice group. Geetha's innovative thinking attracts clients across diverse sectors like start-ups, airlines, and technology. She aids companies in structuring for visa eligibility, addressing labor shortages, and navigating immigration challenges in mergers and acquisitions.

Ray Guanlao is a strong example of a servant leader. While his proven record for producing strong business results speaks for itself, he stands out for his ability to mentor and lead. Ray believes in an open culture that encourages team members to engage in decision-making by sharing perspectives and opinions. Further, he believes in creating new opportunities as much as possible. From mentoring colleagues to supporting company-wide initiatives on diversity and inclusion, he has a natural understanding of the importance of career growth and ensures inclusion is at the center of his daily role.

To Nora Passamaneck, diversity and inclusion are moral imperatives and the practical benefit of strengthening the quality of the legal field is simply a bonus. Through her leadership as chair of WilmerHale’s Western Region Diversity Committee and as an active member on the Denver hiring committee. Nora has played an integral role in the firm’s evaluation of its hiring and retention processes, including how it identifies and recruits summer associates, the roles mentorship plays in retaining lawyers and staff, and how to foster a sense of community across offices. The result of her work is a more diverse and inclusive work environment that encourages both office and firm-wide conversations about diversity and inclusion.

These Award-winning law partners, educators and division chiefs featured in this quarter’s *Profiles in Diversity Journal*® tell their own stories about their careers, their embrace of diversity and their support of the next generation of leaders.

Here are the names and job titles of the 18 awardees who are this year's recipients of the 2024 Asian Leadership Award. Make sure that you read all about them in our upcoming issue.

## The 2024 Asian Leadership Award Recipients

<b>Company / Organization</b>	<b>Award Recipient</b>	<b>Title</b>
Akin	<b>Kapil Pandit</b>	Partner
Akin	<b>Thomas Yang</b>	Partner
Axinn, Veltrop, & Harkrider	<b>Kail J. Jethmalani</b>	Partner
Better Business Bureau	<b>Faustine Chan</b>	Community and Business Programs Director
Dechert LLP	<b>Darshak S Dholakia</b>	Partner
Fannie Mae	<b>Linda Tai</b>	Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer
Freddie Mac	<b>Ameez Nanjee</b>	Treasurer and Vice President of Asset & Liability Management
Freddie Mac	<b>Judy Huie</b>	Vice President of Diversity Equity and Inclusion
FordHarrison LLP	<b>Geetha Adinata</b>	Partner
Knobbe Martens	<b>Rosaleen Chou</b>	Partner
New York Life	<b>Dave Jachym</b>	Vice President, Head of Experience Strategy for NYL Foundational Business
Norton Rose Fulbright	<b>Helen B. Kim</b>	Partner
Robins Kaplan LLP	<b>Li Zhu</b>	Partner
Sanford Heisler Sharp	<b>Qiaojing Ella Zheng</b>	Managing Partner, Palo Alto and San Francisco
Union Pacific Railroad	<b>Naomi Deines</b>	Assistant Vice President of Crew Management
Webster Bank	<b>Ray Guanlao</b>	Group Head & Senior Managing Director, National Property Management, HOA & 1031 Specialty Banking
Webster Bank	<b>Sumakshi Vali</b>	Senior Managing Director, Market President
WilmerHale	<b>Nora Passamaneck</b>	Partner

### **About Profiles in Diversity Journal**

Now in its 26th year of publication, *Profiles in Diversity Journal*<sup>®</sup> is a quarterly B2B magazine that focuses on diversity, inclusion, and equity in business, government, nonprofit, higher education, and military settings. The *Journal* presents interviews, profiles, articles, case studies, and awards that highlight mission-driven leadership, best practices, workforce strategies, innovative ideas, and important individual contributions within the realm of diversity and inclusion.

Since 1999, *Profiles in Diversity Journal*<sup>®</sup> has recognized the individuals, teams, and organizations that create, develop, and promote strategies and initiatives that support diversity, inclusion, and equity in the workplace and the larger community.