

# BREAKING NEW GROUND

## *Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month*

*In today's business world, professionals of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage have a significant—and growing—role to play. The fastest growing minority group in America, and the most diverse, approximately 6 percent of the US population is of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. Unfortunately, attaining a similar level of representation in corporate leadership is still a struggle for these communities. According to a 2010 report by Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. [LEAP], APIs now hold roughly 1.5 percent of all Fortune 500 board memberships; about the same percentage hold executive positions in those organizations.*

*Each year during Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we take the opportunity to celebrate professionals who are making their mark—and a difference—in organizations across the nation. The leaders we celebrate in this issue are truly breaking new ground, and we're proud to share their stories.*

*See how they are shaping the future; read their full interviews online at [diversityjournal.com/aphm2014](http://diversityjournal.com/aphm2014)*



ROBINS, KAPLAN,  
MILLER & CIRESI L.L.P.



**Munir R. Meghjee, Partner**

### **MY GREATEST STRENGTH**

I have worked very hard to develop the skill of taking the complex issues faced by clients and developing solutions and pathways that help my clients meet their business objectives.

### **WHO INSPIRES ME**

Judge Ann Claire Williams, now on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, has been my greatest inspiration in the practice of law. I was fortunate enough to meet Judge Williams when I was a teenager in the early 1980s. She inspired me to consider the practice of law, and has served as an important mentor throughout my career.

### **THE MODEL MINORITY MYTH**

A significant issue I have with the “model minority” myth—among many issues with this stereotype—is that any generalization about the Asian/Pacific-American community ignores the vast cultural and experiential diversity within the community. A stereotype based on this myth makes it easy to discount the different real and pressing issues faced by members of the Asian/Pacific-American community.