

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



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.