

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.



DECHERT LLP



Gorav Jindal, Partner

OUR MOST CRITICAL ISSUE

Regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, or religion, Asian Americans are often lumped together as a group. I hope to see a day when people can respect and embrace our differences, and see them as assets to our society. We have come a long way in the past 20 to 30 years, particularly as modes of communication have shrunk the world, but we can do better.

LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

It's important to be true to yourself. It takes courage, to be sure, but your unique thoughts and perspectives have value. Do what you think is right; people may disagree with you, but they'll respect you for sharing your voice.

MY CAREER ADVICE

In today's world of constant communications, the lines between work and life are often blurred. So more than ever, it's important to enjoy what you do. It will sustain you for the long haul. I've found that passion is hard to fake, but enthusiasm is contagious.

Dechert LLP has elevated four new partners of diverse heritage, including two of Asian/Pacific heritage, to its 11-member class of 2014. The diversity mission at Dechert includes a pledge to maintain an inclusive environment that cultivates and values different backgrounds and perspectives in order to better serve the firm's employees, clients, and communities.

Tony Y. Chan, Partner

MY GREATEST STRENGTH

Persistence is underrated—sometimes the key to accomplishing your objectives, and those of your clients, is just sticking to it through setbacks and adversity.

OUR MOST CRITICAL ISSUE

One concern of growing importance is ensuring that the APA community is appropriately represented in the legislative/political process, including through the election of members of the community to political office.

MY FAVORITE QUOTE

My high school track coach, Clane Duplechin, used to motivate us with this quote from Seneca: *"Luck is when preparation meets opportunity."*

Our team consistently competed in, and won, state championships—not because we were the fastest or strongest team out there, but because we prepared to meet opportunity at every event. The idea of creating your own luck through hard work and preparation, and being in a position to seize the opportunities that present themselves, is one that has stayed with me and continues to resonate with me as I've grown older.

