

2019

*South Asian Bar Association
of San Diego*

*Annual Dinner and
Award Ceremony*



SABASD

SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
OF SAN DIEGO



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The South Asian Bar Association of San Diego (SABA-SD) is a voluntary bar association dedicated to the advancement and development of attorneys and law students interested in issues affecting the South Asian community.

SABA-SD not only provides benefits to its members, comprised of law students and attorneys, but also the community at large through the following:

- Professional development activities;
- Community outreach and education programs;
- Community legal services efforts; and
- Networking and referral opportunities.

OUR MISSION

- Serve as the regional voice for the concerns and opinions of South Asians in the community generally, and in the legal profession in particular;
- Provide a forum for professional networking and development, legal scholarship and education, and advocacy and community involvement;
- Promote the advancement of attorneys and law students of South Asian heritage;
- Support the provision of legal services to the South Asian community; and
- Work with other bar associations, governmental agencies and community groups to achieve greater involvement in and understanding of the American legal system by the South Asian community.

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2019 ANNUAL DINNER PROGRAM

REGISTRATION & COCKTAIL RECEPTION

WELCOME REMARKS

PRESIDENT VAANI CHAWLA

ENTERTAINMENT

AASHISH GARG SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

ENTERTAINMENT

2019 MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON. GURBIR S. GREWAL

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



GURBIR GREWAL, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

The Honorable Gurbir S. Grewal is a historic figure in the South Asian American legal community. He is the first South Asian American to serve as Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, and he is the first South Asian Sikh American in United States history to become the senior-most attorney in state government.

Since assuming office in January 2018, Attorney General Grewal has focused his attention on protecting the interests of New Jersey residents by expanding affirmative litigation, strengthening police-community relations, reducing violent crime and fighting the opioid epidemic.

Before becoming New Jersey Attorney General, Mr. Grewal served as Prosecutor for Bergen County, the most populous county in New Jersey. As Bergen County Prosecutor, Mr. Grewal developed and implemented several creative approaches designed to tackle the heroin and opioid crisis, including “Operation Helping Hand,” a program that offers low-level drug offenders treatment options upon arrest. He also established a Community Affairs Unit, which is dedicated to assisting local departments improve police/community relations.

From 2010 to 2016, Mr. Grewal worked as an Assistant United States Attorney (“AUSA”) for the District of New Jersey, where he served as Chief of the Economic Crimes Unit from 2014 to 2016. He oversaw the investigation and prosecution of all major white collar and cybercrime, and he was the lead prosecutor of the largest known data breach prosecution in which the conspirators participated in a worldwide scheme that targeted major corporate networks and stole more than 160 million credit card numbers. He was also the lead prosecutor of a \$200 million Ponzi scheme. Before becoming a federal prosecutor in New Jersey, Grewal also served as an AUSA for the Eastern District of New York from 2004 to 2007, where he was ultimately assigned to the Business and Securities Fraud Unit. At the Eastern District of New York, he investigated and prosecuted a wide range of narcotics offenses, white collar crimes, and terrorism cases.

In addition to his work as a federal prosecutor, Grewal has also worked in private practice, in Washington D.C. and New York. He counseled clients on a range of matters including securities, trademark, antitrust and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act issues; represented individuals and companies in government investigations and criminal proceedings; conducted internal investigations for public corporations; and conducted civil trials.

Attorney General Grewal graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1995. He obtained his law degree from the College of William & Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law in 1999.

ARTICLE III JUDICIAL NOMINEE



SHIREEN MATTHEWS

The South Asian Bar Association of San Diego is proud to announce that the White House has nominated Shireen Matthews for the position of Federal District Court Judge. Ms. Matthews' nomination sets a historic milestone for the South Asian legal community. If confirmed, Ms. Matthews will be the first South Asian American to serve as an

Article III federal judge in the Southern District of California.

Ms. Matthews earned her B.A., magna cum laude, from Georgetown University and her J.D., cum laude, from Duke University School of Law. Upon graduation from law school, Ms. Matthews served as a law clerk for Judge Irma E. Gonzalez of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. She later served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California. Ms. Matthews is currently a partner at Jones Day.

In addition to her stellar academic and professional achievements, Ms. Matthews has devoted considerable time to her community. Ms. Matthews has served as a lawyer representative for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. She provides pro bono legal assistance to veterans, and she has served as President of the South Asian Bar Association of San Diego.

Ms. Matthews is a well-recognized pillar of the San Diego legal community, and she is known for promoting diversity in the legal profession. The South Asian Bar Association of San Diego enthusiastically endorses Ms. Matthews' nomination to the federal bench, and we look forward to her confirmation by the Senate. Ms. Matthews' nomination is a historic moment for our community.

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE

CJ MODY

SABA-San Diego salutes CJ Mody for his courage to run for an open seat on the San Diego County Superior Court. CJ has been a deputy district attorney for 17 years, has worked as a teacher with the San Diego Juvenile Court and Community Schools, and has been an advocate against child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse. If elected, CJ would become the first South Asian American to become a Superior Court Judge in San Diego County.



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ANEESH MEHTA

Aneesh Mehta is an attorney supporting the Microsoft Devices team and currently serves as President of the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) of North America. Prior to joining Microsoft, Aneesh practiced at a boutique IP firm in Philadelphia. Before taking a detour towards the law, Aneesh was an electrical engineer working on communication systems. Aneesh graduated from the University of Florida with BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering, a JD from Rutgers School of Law, and an LLM in Trial Advocacy from Temple University.

Despite 15 years away, Aneesh considers himself a recovering Floridian enjoying life in the Pacific Northwest with his wife and two kids (ages 3 and 5). Outside of work, he is a true crime podcast enthusiast, and an unwavering fan of the Florida Gators.



SABA-SD'S 2019 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

SANJEEV DAVE

Sanjeev Dave has been a dedicated member of SABA-SD for 10 years. Sanjeev has been a member of the board nearly every year since 2009. He served as Secretary in 2014, 2016, and 2017, and Sanjeev was Vice President in 2015. Whether or not Sanjeev was on the board in any given year, he regularly served as an active member of various SABA-SD committees including scholarships, endorsements and communications. Because of his years of service to SABA, Sanjeev has a wealth of knowledge about the history and past practices of SABA-SD leadership and the organization as a whole. Avoiding the limelight and refusing to take credit, Sanjeev quietly provided numerous SABA presidents and boards with much needed advice through challenging times. SABA-SD's 2019 Board acknowledges Sanjeev's behind the scenes effort and years of dedication by recognizing him as Member of the Year.



Sanjeev is currently a Staff Attorney at Robbins, LLP working on e-discovery projects. Prior to Robbins, LLP, Sanjeev has worked for other law firms, in San Diego and Orange County, including Casey Gerry. Before practicing as an attorney, Sanjeev worked as an insurance claims specialist on litigated property and casualty claims. Sanjeev is a graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law.

2019 AASHISH GARG SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Aashish Garg served on SABA-San Diego's 2010-2011 Board of Directors. Aashish graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2001 with a Bachelor's in Science and Engineering. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law in 2006. Aashish worked as an Associate Patent Counsel at Qualcomm, Inc., practicing in the area of intellectual property. Aashish passed away in Houston, Texas on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. His wife, Neha Jain Garg, many loving family members and friends, including members of SABA-San Diego cherish his memory. Each year, on behalf of Aashish and his family, SABA-San Diego awards a scholarship in his honor to a deserving law student.

**SABA-San Diego thanks Jones Day
for sponsoring the 2019 scholarship award.**

2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



SACHIN BHATMULEY

Sachin Bhatmuley is a third-year law student at the University of San Diego School of Law. Prior to law school, Sachin worked at Qualcomm where, among other things, he pitched, established, and ran a technology incubator in India. Upon graduation, Sachin is keen to pursue his legal career in the areas of Intellectual Property and Technology Law. Sachin is passionate about helping emerging market innovators protect and monetize their intellectual property. Sachin has traveled extensively in Africa, India, and Southeast Asia helping various technology companies. Sachin holds an MBA from San Diego State University where he graduated at the top of his class, and an MS in Electrical Engineering from Cleveland State University.

SABA-SD'S 2019 BOARD MEMBERS



VAANI CHAWLA PRESIDENT

Vaani Chawla is the founder and shareholder of Chawla Law Group, APC., an immigration law firm committed to working with business clients, individuals, and investors. Since 1994, Ms. Chawla has represented corporations and individuals in a wide range of immigration matters including petitions for investors, high tech and biotech professionals, multinational executives, outstanding researchers, individuals with extraordinary abilities, and national interest waivers. Ms. Chawla also works with individuals on family-based matters including good-faith waivers for divorced couples or battered spouses. The daughter of immigrants, Ms. Chawla always felt a kinship with immigrant families and their strong work ethic. She volunteered for many years with the California Western School of Law's Community Law Project. She has been involved with South Asian community organizations in San Diego, including The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE) and the Sikh Foundation San Diego. Ms. Chawla is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and a member of Lawyer's Club. She was co-chair of Lawyer's Club's Equality & Action Committee in 2017 and 2018. She has been a member of the board of the South Asian Bar Association of San Diego since 2016.

TARINA MAND VICE PRESIDENT

Tarina Mand is an associate in the San Diego office of Klinedinst PC. Ms. Mand works with the firm's complex tort and professional liability clients, focusing primarily on legal malpractice defense.

Ms. Mand has second-chaired trials, cross-examined several witnesses, and successfully written and argued various substantive law and motion matters. Prior to joining Klinedinst, her practice entailed criminal and plaintiff mass tort litigation.



Ms. Mand has an affinity for public service and helping others in the community. She is the co-chair of the Women's Advocacy Committee for Lawyers Club, an organization committed to advancing the status of women in the law and society. She is the Vice President of the South Asian Bar Association, an organization committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. In her free time, she provides pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations.

Ms. Mand earned her Juris Doctor Degree from the California Western School of Law where she received the Distinguished Student Award in 2016. She was an active member of the Moot Court Honors Board. She won first place at the intra-school Gafford trial competition and first place at the regional inter-school trial team competition for the American Association of Justice.

Ms. Mand earned her Bachelor of Arts in Literature from the University of California San Diego.

SABA-SD'S 2019 BOARD MEMBERS

AVNEET SIDHU SECRETARY

Avneet Sidhu advises private and public clients on real property acquisition, sale and leasing; land use entitlement and development; and compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Avneet is currently a Lecturer in the Fowler College of Business at San Diego State University where she teaches business law. Prior to joining the law firm Grid Legal, Avneet was with Lounsbery Ferguson Altona & Peak, LLP where she acted as Deputy City Attorney for San Marcos and Lemon Grove. Avneet is a past-President of the Rotary Club of Carlsbad and is the Vice-Chair of the San Diego County Bar Association's Environmental and Land Use Section and a member of its Real Estate and Business Law Section. Avneet is also a member of the California Lawyers Association's Environmental and Public Law Sections and the Association of Environmental Professionals.



KRIS MUKHERJI BOARD MEMBER

Kris Mukherji grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and moved to San Diego in 2000 to attend the University of California. AT UCSD, he majored in Communications, with a minor in Prelaw/Law and Society. In 2008, Kris was admitted to Thomas Jefferson School of Law as a part time student while continuing to work full time. During law school, he competed on the Thomas Jefferson School of Law-Trial Litigation/Mock Trial team and interned for different firms and organization, including the San Diego District Attorney, where he worked in the Economic Crimes, Superior Court and Narcotics Divisions.



Immediately after being admitted to the Bar, Kris started his law practice: Law Office of Kris Mukherji, which focuses primarily on Business, Estate Planning and Litigation. In 2015, Kris was voted as one of the Top Attorneys for 2015 by the San Diego Daily Transcript. He served as vice president of SABA San Diego in 2016 and as president in 2017.

SABA-SD'S 2019 BOARD MEMBERS

PRATIK SHAH BOARD MEMBER

Pratik Shah is a partner at D'Egidio Shah & Townsend, APC (DST Law), a consumer advocate law firm focusing on personal injury and bad faith insurance. Mr. Shah is committed to representing individuals against billion-dollar corporations and fighting for their rights under the law. Mr. Shah served SABA San Diego as president in 2018 and as vice president in 2017. When he is not litigating, Mr. Shah spends his time playing basketball with his two sons Krish and Arjun.



AMAN BADYAL BOARD MEMBER

Aman Badyal is a shareholder at Weintraub Tobin. He provides sophisticated tax advice in connection with various business transactions, including loan workouts, executive compensation, mergers, acquisitions, reorganizations, cross-border transactions, international investment, and real estate development and investment projects. Aman is currently advising numerous clients in connection with the formation and structuring of Qualified Opportunity Zone Funds and investment in Qualified Opportunity Zone Property. With a background ranging from prestigious boutiques to large national and international firms, Aman has represented ultra-high net worth individuals, global conglomerates, early-stage start-ups, and clients with businesses and interests of all sizes. Aman has also taught Taxation of Business Organizations as an Adjunct Professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

SABA-SD'S 2019 BOARD MEMBERS

DEEPALIE MILIE JOSHI, ESQ. BOARD MEMBER

Deepalie Milie Joshi's primary area of practice is in insolvency law for consumers and businesses – bankruptcies, restructuring, collections, stay relief, adversary proceedings, voidable transactions, and fraudulent actions involving real estate or credit. Ms. Joshi opened her own practice in 2011, and has established herself as a prominent figure in the local bankruptcy community. In addition to serving on the board of directors for SABA-SD, Ms. Joshi also serves as a board member and Vice President of the San Diego Bankruptcy Forum and as an involved member of the California Bankruptcy Forum.



SABA-SD PROUDLY ANNOUNCES OUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

- President: Tarina Mand
- Vice President: Gayani Weerasinghe
- Secretary: Avneet Sidhu
- Treasurer: Namitha Thakker
- Board Member: Aman Badyal
- Board Member: Komal Jain

***Congratulations to all of
you, and we wish you a
successful year ahead!***

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IS PROUD
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IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO ADVOCATING DIVERSITY IN THE SAN DIEGO LEGAL
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Congratulations!

To the 2019-2020
Officers & Board Members
of the South Asian Bar
Association of San Diego.

The Korean American
Bar Association of San Diego
looks forward to continuing our
partnership in the new year.

www.kabsd.org

*THLA is a
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&
the SABA 2019 Annual Dinner*



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2019-2020 Board of Directors!*



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