

32ND ANNIVERSARY



**AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET
MAY 5, 2023**



STATE AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
Benefits Consulting Group

is proud to support the
Society of Asian Federal Officers
On their 32nd Anniversary Awards
and Scholarship Banquet

45 Mountain Boulevard, Building D
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Tel: 908.756.3324

Fax: 908.756.7118

The Society of Asian Federal Officers
32nd Anniversary Awards and Scholarship Banquet Program

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Cocktail Hour

7:00 - Opening Remarks and Moment of Silence

Color Guard and National Anthem

Lion Dance

President's Address - *SOAFO President*

Civilians of the Year - *Charles Lai, Jack Tchen*

First Three Dishes Served

In Recognition - *James Tu, Victor Pei*

Second Three Dishes Served

Past President Award - *Kenneth Siu*

Third 2 Dishes Served

Prosecutor of the Year - *AUSA Won Shin*

Scholarship Awards - *Sophia Del Giudice*
- *Taryn Ecker*
- *Jonathan Tang*

Final Dishes Served

Raffle Drawings

Presidents Message

Korean: (호랑이는 죽으면 가죽을 남기고, 사람은 죽으면 이름을 남긴다)

"When tigers die, they leave leather behind. When people die, they leave their names behind."

Japanese: (継続は力なり) "Perseverance is strength."

Filipino: (Madali maging tao, mahirap magpakatao) "It is easy to be human. It is hard to be humane."

Vietnamese: (Ăn quả nhớ kẻ trồng cây) "When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree."

Indian: (Andhon main kana raja (Hindi)) "In the land of the the blind, a one-eyed man is the king."

Chinese: (授人以魚不如授人以漁(授人以鱼不如授人以渔)) "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

I hope these quotes provoke introspection. I challenge each of you in attendance to make a difference for the next generation. Be it as simple as being a good role model for your children, or being a good role model for the society at large. I challenge you to learn and embrace your heritage and pass that pride onto the next generation. If we don't, history and traditions will be lost; no more Lunar New Year, no more St. Patrick's Day, no more Dia de Todos los Santos...

The Society was formed in December of 1990 by a group of visionary federal agents who saw a need for Asians to have a fraternal organization to call their own; a place from which to draw strength, guidance, mentorship, and friendship. The month of May has been designated Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, to celebrate and honor the accomplishments, and the contributions of this community, to this nation. As the current steward of this society, I hope to guide her towards ever greater achievements; your participation here today is a testament to what can be achieved when the many come together for a common purpose. I am reminded of the sagacious quote of our 35th president in his inaugural address, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Simple, yet so powerful. The whole is greater than the individual, but it is the individuals who make up the whole. If we all do our part to make this world, this nation, this society, greater, then as a whole, we cannot fail.

SOAFO recognizes that our children are the future, and are proud to offer them scholarships through the Douglas Loo Memorial Education Fund. Your continuing support of our scholarship dinner helps to ensure future scholarships to deserving children of our members.

In closing, I would like to impart this simple thought, "To make the world a better place, all we need are two things - common sense and common courtesy". Common sense to know what the right thing to do is, and common courtesy to do it. To our supporters, thank you. To my brothers and sisters in arms, Stay Safe.

Warmest regards,

Yui Chow
President



The Douglas Loo Memorial Education Fund



Special Agent Douglas Loo dedicated over 27 years of service to our country in the U.S. Army, Internal Revenue Service, and with the U.S. Customs Service. In December of 2000, he retired from Customs after a distinguished career in federal law enforcement.

In 1990, Doug was one of the founding fathers of the Society of Asian Federal Officers (SOAFO). He was always supportive and an active member of the organization. Doug will always be remembered as a vibrant and dedicated man who put forth his personal time to promote the Society in the most positive light. Everyone admired Doug's energetic ability to attend the needs of both his family and the Society.

Doug is survived by his wife Ellen and three children Craig, Jeffrey, and Danielle.

In honor of Doug's dedication and devotion to the Society, SOAFO's Foundation Scholarship program was subsequently renamed the Douglas Loo Memorial Education Scholarship Fund.

2023 Scholarship Recipients

Sophia Del Giudice	-	\$1,000
Taryn Ecker	-	\$1,000
Jonathan Tang	-	\$1,000



The Society's Executive Board wishes to congratulate and recognize all the honorees and Scholarship Award recipients. The Society is proud of your accomplishments. Your hard work exemplifies the best of our community.

Prosecutor of the Year

Won Shin

Chief of Appeals

U.S. Attorney's Office

Southern District of New York

Civilians of the Year

Charles Lai

Jack Tchen

Founders of the Museum of Chinese
In America (MOCA)

In Recognition

James Tu

Victor Pei

Douglas Loo Memorial Education Scholarship Recipients

Sophia Del Giudice

Taryn Ecker

Jonathan Tang



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

May 5, 2023

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the Society of Asian Federal Officers (SOAFO)'s 32nd annual awards and scholarship banquet.

New York City rises on the foundation of the vital civil servants who power the five boroughs, support our diverse population, and forge our bright future. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the women and men of the New York City Police Department (NYPD), all of whom work tirelessly to protect 8.5 million people across the five boroughs. Founded in 1990, SOAFO has worked tirelessly for more than three decades to encourage its members in law enforcement to take on leadership positions, as well as inspire Asian Americans to pursue careers in the field. Through recruitment events, honoring career accomplishments, and awarding scholarships, SOAFO is a crucial ally in my Administration's mission to ensure that all people, regardless of background, feel respected, safe, and welcome in our city. I applaud SOAFO for all it does to ensure the quality of life for all who live and work here. Together, we will continue to build a better, brighter future for all New Yorkers.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to all of this year's honorees. I extend my best wishes for a joyous event and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Adams" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Adams
Mayor



Won S. Shin

Assistant U.S. Attorney

Prosecutor of the Year

Won S. Shin is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where he serves as Chief of Appeals of the Criminal Division. Won oversees briefing and argument in the Office's criminal appeals, and he has litigated important issues in a wide range of prosecutions, including in the areas of national security, public corruption, securities fraud, violent crime, and narcotics trafficking. He also assists the executive staff on matters of legal policy and advises other prosecutors on legal issues arising in their cases.

Won was previously a member of the Office's Complex Frauds and Cybercrime Unit, where he investigated and prosecuted cases involving bank fraud and bribery, tax evasion, healthcare fraud, theft of trade secrets, consumer fraud, network intrusions, cryptocurrency, and foreign bribery. Won received the FinCEN Director's Law Enforcement Award for Cyber Threats for successfully prosecuting individuals who operated an unlicensed Bitcoin exchange and bribed the head of a federal credit union for use as a captive financial institution.

Prior to joining the Office, Won was an Assistant Solicitor General in the New York Attorney General's Office, where he briefed and argued civil and regulatory appeals on behalf of the state, including constitutional challenges to state law, fraud and antitrust enforcement actions, challenges to agency determinations, and civil rights, employment, and tort suits. Before entering public service, Won was a litigation associate at two law firms in New York and Washington, DC. He began his legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Karen Nelson Moore of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Won is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He has taught legal writing at Harvard Law School and Columbia Law School, and he serves on the Board of Directors of the Asian American Bar Association of New York.



Charles Lai

clai1999@yahoo.com

Charles Lai is a leader with over 45-years of entrepreneurial, executive, planning and managerial experience in the public and non-profit sectors. Charlie has held leadership positions in a diverse range of arenas: the youth; the elderly; adult employment, training, and job placement programs; community planning and economic development; September 11 relief and recovery initiatives; the arts & culture; and governmental budgetary and policy work. He spent the past 4 years focused on navigating and addressing the myriad issues associated with the Borough-Based Jail that is directly adjacent to Chung Pak and their impacts to the entire Chinatown community.

Charlie is an innovator, strategic thinker, fundraiser, and interdisciplinary problem solver, but at his core, he is a risk-taker, community organizer and community organization builder. In 1980, he and Jack Tchen co-founded a nationally recognized Chinese American museum (the New York Chinatown History Project that became the Museum of Chinese in America - MOCA). Charlie led a powerful team to successfully implement its capital expansion from 4 classrooms in the old P.S. 23 building on Mulberry St. into its current location on Centre St. He has also worked with the Immigrant Social Services (ISS) leadership team to upgrade its 100+ year old building into a modern and accessible permanent home and community education facilities for Chinatown's immigrant families and their children on Henry St.

Charlie recently retired as the Executive Director of Chung Pak Local Development Corporation on Baxter St. This building complex houses 88 HUD-funded section 202 senior housing units; 4 non-profit organizations, including a daycare center and a health clinic; and 7 small businesses. Chung Pak works to enhance quality housing and services for its elderly tenants, strengthen the community's non-profit sector, and broaden its economic impact to the extended Chinatown area.

Throughout his career, Charlie has been consistent in his efforts to advance justice and equity, with a special emphasis on strengthening the assets and foundations of Chinese American community organizations and institutions.



Jack Tchen
brief biography

Jack (John Kuo Wei) Tchen is a historian, curator, dumpster diver, teacher, producer, and cultural organizer. Professor Tchen is the Inaugural [Clement A Price](#) Professor of Public History & Humanities at Rutgers University – Newark and the Director of the [Clement Price Institute](#) on Ethnicity, Culture & the Modern Experience, Rutgers – Newark. Decolonizing the histories of Newark, NYC, and our estuarial bioregion is his primary focus.

Tchen served as the senior historian for a New-York Historical Society exhibition on the impact of Chinese Exclusion Laws on the formation of the US (2014–15) and as senior advisor for Ric Burns and Lishin Yu's *American Experience* PBS documentary on the "Chinese Exclusion Act" (2017). His often-recommended book *Yellow Peril: An Archive of Anti-Asian Fear* (2014) is a critical, archival study of images, excerpts, and essays on the history and contemporary impact of paranoia and xenophobia.

Tchen was founding director of the A/P/A (Asian/Pacific/American) Studies Program and Institute, and part of the founding faculty of the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University (1996–2018). In 1980, he cofounded the New York Chinatown History Project with Charles Lai, now called the Museum of Chinese in America.

In addition, Tchen has produced and curated many productions including websites, films, exhibitions, archives, and countless public and academic programs. He has written essays, articles, and authored/edited award-winning books, notably *Genthe's Photographs of San Francisco's Old Chinatown* (1984); *The Chinese Laundryman: A Study of Social Isolation* by Paul C. P. Siu (1987); and *New York Before Chinatown: Orientalism and the Shaping of American Culture, 1776–1882* (1999). In 2007 he was commissioned by The College Board to produce the report "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Fact, Not Fiction: Setting the Record Straight" (2008) challenging the divisive construction of the model minority.

Tchen has also written about and worked on underground archives, dialogue-driven museums, historic preservation, digital archives, the power of place, and decolonizing pedagogy.

In Memory and Recognition



Mr. James Tu was the Section Chief of the unit where I was working at USCIS. He was kind and friendly, genuinely interested to get to know the people who crossed his path. Whoever coined "laugh out loud" must have met Mr. Tu, he had this belly deep laugh that was full of joy, humor and warmth. Everyone in the office went to him for a chat or advice or if they were just having a bad day. His door was always open and everyone who left his office after seeing him felt better. A few of us joked he was like the Godfather, and he would act out his best Marlon Brando impression and have us all cracking up. Mr. Tu was a great storyteller and mentor; he often had this queer mix of East meets West, Confucian-Christian discussions, always adding underlying life lessons to the stories. He encouraged us to "Invest in yourself now, your future self will thank you". Mr. Tu always saw the best in people and had that rare ability to bring out the best in people.

I remember when Mr. Tu first invited me to attend a SOAFO meeting. I said, "Mr. Tu, I'm not an officer". He replied, "it doesn't matter, anyone can go. You'll get a free dinner and then if you like it, you can become a member. And if you don't like it, you can still enjoy the dinner". I did enjoy the dinner and have been a SOAFO member since. SOAFO meetings became synonymous with dinner with Mr. Tu. He gave us the opportunity to build a camaraderie outside of the office, learning about each other and developing long-lasting friendships. Mr. Tu exemplified the kind of leader who people would go to bat for in a heartbeat. One of my colleagues said it was too sad to attend the SOAFO meetings now because Mr. Tu is not here with us anymore. I believe Mr. Tu would still want us to continue to attend the SOAFO meetings, support its members, and enjoy the dinners. He believed in the good work SOAFO was doing and that it was important for its members to keep it going and growing. So, I will keep attending the SOAFO meetings, support its efforts, enjoy the dinners and raise my teacup in honor of the memory of our dear Mr. Tu.

Lynn Duvall



I first met Victor Pei back around 1993 when I was the Membership Director at the Vanderbilt YMCA and he was on the Board of Directors governing the YMCA. Fast forward 5 to 6 years and I'm a US Postal Inspector at an NYPD AJS function and I see him there. Naturally Victor doesn't remember me, LOL! As the years went by, I met Victor time and again at law enforcement (LE) functions, such as SOAFO events, NYC Dept of Corrections events, and at kung fu events. Pretty soon, we got to know each other and found out we shared a passion for LE, kung fu, and eating. Victor and his lovely wife, Maria, were always helpful to me whenever I needed an award, or something translated into Chinese for my kung fu school. Victor, Maria and I would share a meal every so often, and Victor was so generous that he would get mad at me if I grabbed the check before he could. He would always offer his support, in whatever way he could – he was just generous that way with LE and his friends. When I learned Victor had passed away during the Covid lockdown, I was in shock and felt a deep sense of grief in losing a close, genuine friend. I cried. Victor's memory lives on in Maria, his three sons, his recently born granddaughter, and those whose lives he touched so deeply.

Yui Chow



The Society of Asian Federal Officers (SOAFO) was founded in December 1990 and is a duly incorporated non-profit, fraternal organization, whose members are law enforcement professionals, including Special Agents, Criminal Investigators, Inspectors, auditors, analysts, attorneys, etc. from every branch of the federal government. SOAFO provides a vital link to our ethnic communities by interfacing with other community-based organizations and sponsoring special events that honor our unique heritage while recognizing the advancement of community members.

SOAFO is a 501(C)(6) Not-For-Profit and the SOAFO Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization. The sitting Board of Directors volunteer their time and energy to help run, organize, and lead this Asian Fraternal organization so that it's members can take pride, be mentored in leadership roles, and be future leaders within this Society and within their own communities.

Yui Chow	President	U.S. Postal Inspector (retired)
Mark Chang	1 st Vice President	Federal Bureau of Investigations
Joanne Zhao	2 nd Vice President	Internal Revenue Service – CID
Harry Pang	Treasurer	IRS - CID (retired)
Ken Leung	Legal Officer	FBI (Retired)
Michael Chen	Secretary	Customs & Border Protection
William Cheung	Historian	IRS – CID ASAC (retired)
John Calabria	Sgt. At Arms	U.S. Marshals Service
Ken Siu	Trustee	DHS/HSI RAC (retired)
Lisa Chan	Trustee	U.S. Pre-Trial Services (retired)
Chun Kai Lo	Trustee	EPA – OIG ASAC
David Chan	Trustee	DHS/HSI SSA (retired)



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Wishes to Congratulate

The SOCIETY OF ASIAN FEDERAL OFFICERS

For 32 years of serving to strengthen Asian American voices
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Congratulations to this Year's Honorees

Prosecutor of the Year

Won Shin

Chief of Appeals

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Southern District of New York

Civilians of the Year

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Founders of the Museum of
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In Recognition

James Tu

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The Society Of Asian Federal Officers and all 2023 Honorees



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Lee Kum Kee



The Ultimate Sacrifice

The Society Of Asian Federal Officers wishes to honor and remember all the law enforcement officers (LEO) who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Please keep our fallen comrades and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

We would also like to keep in our prayers those brave soldiers who continue to serve overseas. Remember and honor those have also made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation in-country.

Let us remember Freedom is not free; there are men and women all over the world and at home, who put their lives on the line so that we can raise our children to have a better future. A future where the wars are fought to eradicate disease, famine, and poverty. A future where adults will learn to be like their young children - having friends from all races, nationalities, and creeds.

*A future where we will recognize that we are all
"Children of this Planet Earth."*



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*Congratulations to the
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On its 32nd Anniversary and to
all the Honorees and Scholarship Award Recipients*



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