



# NFALA NEWS

April 2024

Dear NFALA Family.

Welcome to our April 2024 Newsletter! As the flowers bloom and the days grow longer, we're delighted to bring you our latest updates and highlights in this April 2024 edition of our newsletter. From exciting events to important announcements, we have plenty to share with you.

We look forward to seeing you all at the NFALA Mid-Year Leadership Summit in Houston on April 12! Make sure you register today. Peggy Li, NFALA VP of Programming and Operations, has curated a fantastic slate of speakers and planned some amazing events that you do not want to miss out. Thank you to Bronze Sponsor, [Ligot Dizon Law Firm, P.C.](#), our host sponsor [Jackson Walker](#), and our individual sponsors ([Jerrilyn Gonzales Abrams](#), [Arnold Pamplona](#), and [Andrew Villacastin](#)). If you are interested in sponsoring, reach out to [Peggy Li](#).

We hope this newsletter brings a touch of warmth and inspiration to your day as we embrace the beauty of the Spring season together.

Happy reading!

[Natalie Garcia Lashinsky](#)  
Vice-President of Communications  
[communications@nfala.com](mailto:communications@nfala.com)

NATIONAL FILIPINO AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



# MID-YEAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT HOUSTON, TEXAS

**April 12-14, 2024**

[nfala.com/midyear2024](https://nfala.com/midyear2024)

The Summit will feature inspiring keynote speakers, panels, and workshops, and provide opportunities for you to deepen and broaden your connections with other NFALA Board Members, Affiliate Leaders, and Committee Chairs. If you are not yet involved with NFALA or a local affiliate, we encourage you to come and start building your NFALA network!



For more info, visit the [NFALA Mid-Year Leadership Summit Event Page](#)



## MID-YEAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

### Registration Fees

- **NFALA Direct & Affiliate Members | \$85**
- **NFALA Government & Public Sector Members | \$50**
- **NFALA Law Students | Free**
- **NFALA Individual Sponsor | \$100**
  - **Recognized at the Conference and in promotional materials.**
- **NFALA Leadership Academy Participants | \$40**



Register for Mid-Year Today!

Friday, April 12, 2024  	
1:00 - 3:00 PM	Partners and In-House Members Meet-Up   <a href="#">West Alabama Ice House</a> , 1919 W Alabama St, Houston, TX
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Executive Officer Meeting (Invite Only)
5:00 - 5:30 PM	Mid-Year Leadership Summit Registration and Welcome Reception
5:30 - 5:45 PM	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peggy Li</b>, NFALA VP of Programs &amp; Operations; Senior Director of Chapters, American Constitution Society</li> <li>• <b>S. Priya Coffey</b>, Houston Managing Partner, Jackson Walker LLP</li> </ul>
5:45 - 6:15 PM	Opening Keynote: <b>Anna Mercado Clark</b> , Partner, Chief Information Security Officer, Governing Committee, Phillips Lytle; President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Introduced by <b>Lorna Garcia</b>, NFALA President; Founding Partner, Garcia &amp; Sahni LLP</i></li> </ul>
6:15 - 7:00 PM	Ice Breakers
7:30 - 9:30 PM	Dinner: <a href="#">POST Market   International Food Hall</a> , 401 Franklin St Houston, TX *Food and drink can be purchased on site
10:00 PM	Optional Activity: <a href="#">Axelrad</a> , 1517 Alabama Street, Houston, TX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOCHE DE CUMBIA: "Houston's biggest Cumbia dance party with exciting and fiery lineups of live bands, producers, and DJs every 2nd Friday of the month." *Food and drink can be purchased on site.</li> </ul>

Saturday, April 13, 2024  	
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	In House Counsel and Partners: Networking, Management, and Supporting the NFALA Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joseph Yao</b>, Former Senior Intellectual Property Counsel, ExxonMobil; Former President, Association of Corporate Counsel Houston</li> </ul>

9:00 AM	<p>Former President, Association of Corporate Counsel Houston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arnold Pamplona</b>, System Director &amp; Senior Counsel, CommonSpirit Health/Dignity Health</li> <li>• Moderated by <b>Barbara Hayes</b>, Senior Associate, Hogan Lovells</li> </ul>
10:00 AM	<p>Branding, Messaging, and Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alison S. Reynolds</b>, Director of Digital Marketing, Vinson and Elkins LLP</li> </ul>
11:00 AM	<p>Growing the NFALA Network: Reinvigorating and Expanding Affiliates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Genevieve Galman</b>, FALA - Nevada; Assistant Director, Pro Bono Project, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada</li> <li>• <b>Connie Montoya</b>, FALA- NY; Partner, Hinshaw &amp; Culbertson LLP</li> <li>• Moderated by <b>Caroline Capili</b>, Associate, Jackson Walker LLP</li> </ul>
11:50 AM	<p>Group Photo and Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NFALA Government and Public Sector Affinity Network Lunch</li> </ul> <p><i>Lunch generously provided by Jackson Walker LLP</i></p>

<p>Saturday, April 13, 2024 Continued</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>MID-YEAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT</b> HOUSTON, TEXAS    APRIL 12-14, 2024 NFALA.COM/MIDYEAR2024</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>	
1:00 PM	<p>The Fight for Civil Rights in Texas and Beyond- Bodily Autonomy, Education, and Voting Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Edgar Saldivar</b>, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of Texas</li> </ul>
2:00 PM	<p>Keynote: <b>Christian Menefee</b>, County Attorney, Harris County</p>
2:45 PM	<p>Effective Mentoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maria Celis</b>, General Counsel, JO Cosmetics, Co</li> <li>• <b>Heliane Fabian</b>, Associate Attorney, Quilling, Selander, Lownds, Winslett &amp; Moser, P.C.</li> </ul>
3:30 PM	<p>Leadership Academy</p>
4:00 PM	<p>Closing Keynote: <b>Jonathan Cruz</b>, Former Chief Deputy Public Defender of Santa Cruz County; 2023 NAPABA Public Sector Leadership Awardee</p>
4:45 PM	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Caroline Capili</b> and <b>Tim Dominguez</b>, Jackson Walker LLP</li> <li>• <b>Hon. Bryan Ramos</b>, NFALA President-Elect; Chief Judge of the Municipal Court, Brookhaven, Georgia</li> </ul>
5:30 PM	<p>NFALA Reception and Dinner: The Grove, 1611 Lamar St, Houston, TX 77010</p>
8:00 PM	<p>Optional Activity: Exploring the Houston Heights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better Luck Tomorrow, EZ's Liquor Lounge, followed by Karaoke at Christian's Tailgate. *Food and drink can be purchased on site</li> </ul>



**MID-YEAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**  
HOUSTON, TEXAS    APRIL 12-14, 2024  
NFALA.COM/MIDYEAR2024

Sunday, April  
14, 2024

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Brunch: Be More Pacific, 506 Yale Street Ste E, Houston, TX 77007
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Houston BBQ Festival • Purchase tickets at <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-houston-barbecue-festival-tickets-782979030357">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-houston-barbecue-festival-tickets-782979030357</a> .



NATIONAL FILIPINO AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
**MID-YEAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

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**NFALA PARTNERS &  
IN-HOUSE ATTORNEYS  
MEET-UP**

**Calling all NFALA Partners and In-House Attorneys! Join us for a casual meet-up at a true Texas Ice House!**

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**April 12, 2024 | 1 pm - 3 pm**

Register at [nfala.com/midyear2024](https://nfala.com/midyear2024)

Questions or Sponsorship Opportunities?  
Contact Partner Network Co-Chairs Phillip Bautista or Natalie Garcia Lashinsky

Register for the Partners and In-House Attorneys Meet-Up!



**NFALA's In-House Committee presents**

## **ESG 101: What is the Environmental, Social, and Governance Framework and Why is It Important to Companies?**



**April 24, 2024 | 3 pm EST / 1 pm MST / 12 pm PST**

Join us for virtual panel discussion as we delve into the fundamentals of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. ESG considerations are increasingly becoming integral to business practices, investment decisions, and corporate sustainability strategies. Whether you're new to the concept or seeking a deeper understanding, this panel aims to provide a comprehensive overview of ESG and its significance in today's business landscape.



**MARTY LORENZO**  
Mozarc Medical

**RAMYA RAVISHANKAR**  
HowGood

To Register, visit <https://nfala.com/event-5652371>

For more information, contact NFALA In-House Committee Co-Chairs  
Maria E. Celis ([mcelis@jocosmetics.jp](mailto:mcelis@jocosmetics.jp)) and Laurie Rose Lubiano ([laurie.lubiano@deckers.com](mailto:laurie.lubiano@deckers.com))

**NFALA's In-House Committee presents, " ESG 101: What is the Environmental, Social, and Governance Framework and Why is It Important to Companies? | April 24, 2024 | 3 pm EST/ 1 pm MST / 12 pm PST**

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corporate sustainability strategies. Whether you're new to the concept or seeking a deeper understanding, this panel aims to provide a comprehensive overview of ESG and its significance in today's business landscape.

Panelists include:

- [Marty Lorenzo](#), Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, Mozarc Medical
- [Ramya Ravishankar](#), General Counsel, HowGood

Moderated by Laurie Rose Lubiano and Maria Celis.

For more information, contact NFALA In-House Committee Co-Chairs Maria E. Celis (mcelis@jocosmetics.jp) and Laurie Rose Lubiano (laurie.lubiano@deckers.com)

Register Today!

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## NFALA Judicial Announcements





**Congratulations to**

**HON. MARY  
SEVANDAL COHEN**

**on her appointment  
as Judge to the 13th Subcircuit  
of Cook County, Illinois**





# 2024 FILIPINO AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER SAN DIEGO'S BUSINESS LEADERSHIP OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to:

**VALERIE GARCIA  
HONG**

Founder/Owner, García Hong Law



# 2024 CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION'S VANGUARD AWARD

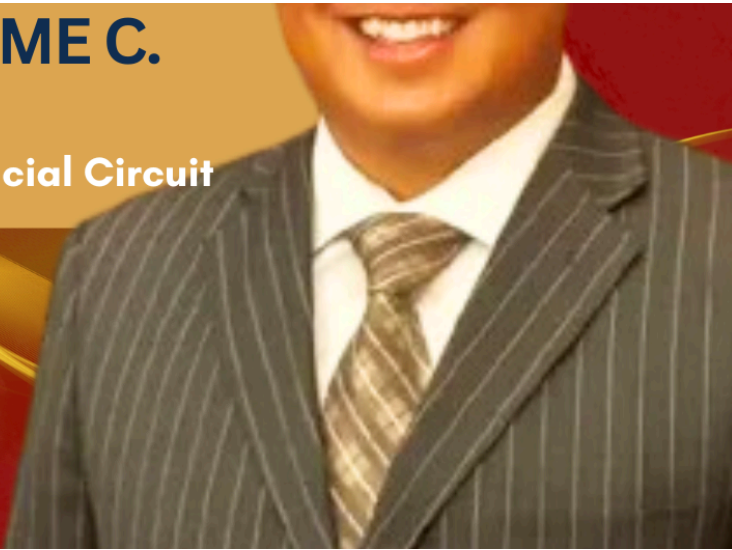


Congratulations to:



# HON. JEROME C. BARRIDO

Cook County Judicial Circuit



## In The News



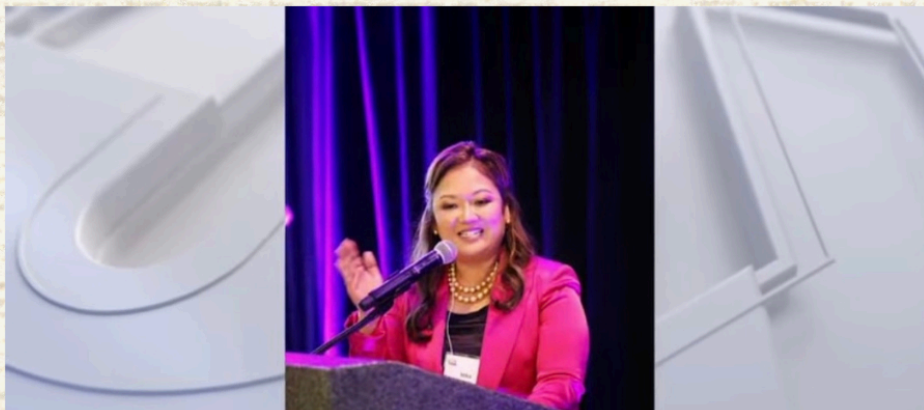
AT HOME SA ABROAD: MAKING SPACE AS FILIPINA LAWYERS IN THE US

### NFALA IN THE NEWS

# NFALA Member Christine Start Recently Interviewed by Rappler on Pinay Powerhouse Origin

VISIT: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3HFWE89N](https://tinyurl.com/3HFWE89N)

## In The News





BAY AREA LAWYER TAKES PRIDE IN HELPING UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

NFALA IN THE NEWS

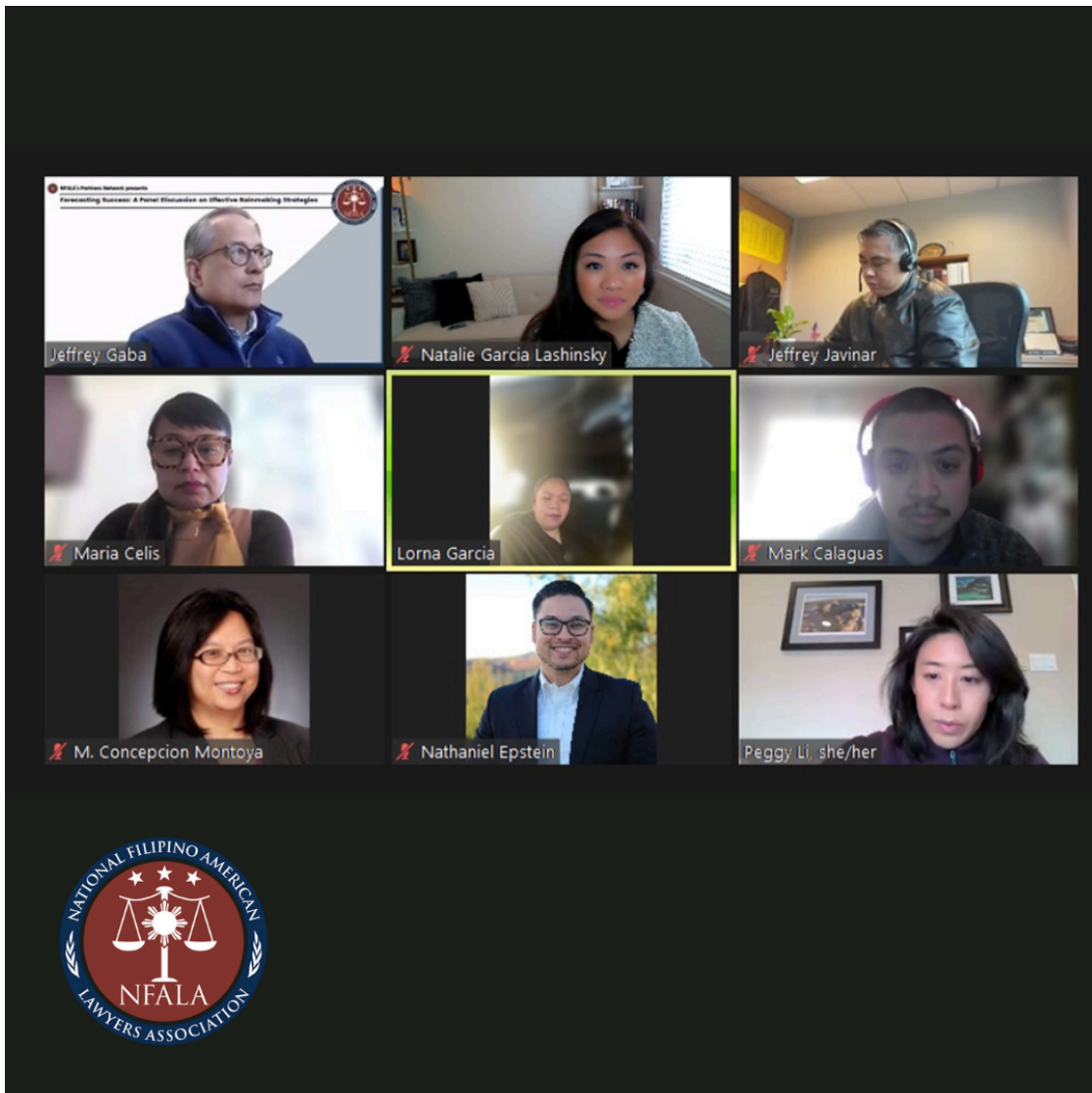
# NFALA Member Mika Domingo Featured on KTVU Fox 2 for Women's History Month

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/4ZNXMD3W](https://tinyurl.com/4zNXMD3W)

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## RECAP: NFALA's March 2024 Board Meeting

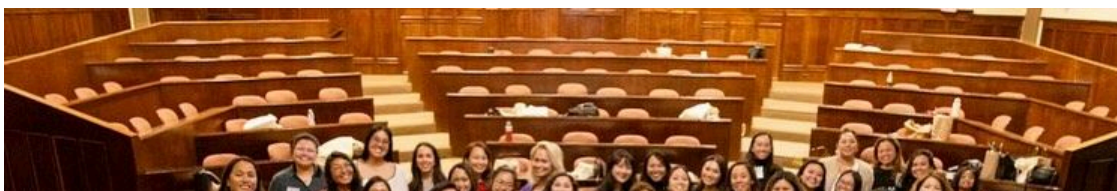
NFALA's Board of Directors gathered for its March 2024 Meeting where we focused on the upcoming NFALA Mid-Year Leadership Summit, budget, and upcoming programming plans and affiliate events! The Board will meet again on April 8, 2024.



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## RECAP: Pinay Powerhouse 7 in San Diego, CA

In partnership with NFALA Affiliate, [Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego](#), the [7th Annual Pinay Powerhouse Conference](#) was held at California Western School of Law in San Diego, CA. This year's conference theme is Sun, Sand, & Sampaguita. Sampaguita is the national flower of the Philippines and means "promises," from the phrase sumpa kita, and honored the promises we make to the community and our profession, as well as the promises we make to and keep for ourselves.



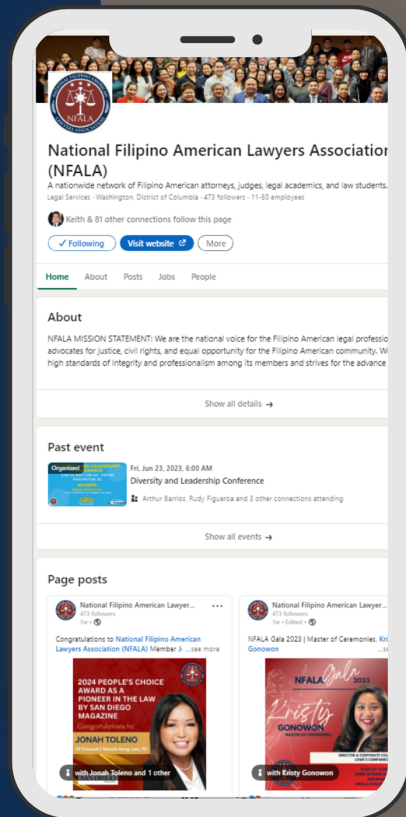


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**NFALA IN-HOUSE**





## SHARE YOUR NEWS

### 2023-2024 NFALA Executive Board

Congratulations to NFALA's newly elected 2023-24 Executive Board! #nfalafamily

**Bryan Ramos**  
President-Elect

**NFALA**  
2023-2024  
Executive Board

**Peggy Li**  
VP Programs & Operations

**Vanessa Candelaria**  
VP of Membership

**Lorna Garcia de Guzman**  
President

**Elizabeth Olivera**  
Secretary

**Andrew Villacastin**  
Treasurer

**Gage Javier**  
Immediate Past President

**Natalie Garcia Lashinsky**  
VP of Communications



Share your announcements, recent awards, judicial appointments, and upcoming events with the NFALA community!

To submit, visit <https://tinyurl.com/NFALANews>



Submit your news, announcements, awards, and events today!

## Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors

National Filipino American Lawyers Association wishes to thank its sponsors for their continued generosity and support of NFALA and its mission to promote diversity, supporting the entrance and advancement of Filipino-Americans into and within the legal profession, and ensuring the issues important to Filipino-Americans are adequately addressed within the legal community and public at-large

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**NFALA**  
**2023-2024**  
**Executive Board**



**Peggy Li**  
VP Programs & Operations



**Vanessa Candelaria**  
VP of Membership



**Lorna Garcia de Guzman**  
President



**Elizabeth Olivera**  
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**Andrew Villacastin**  
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**Gage Javier**  
Immediate Past President



**Natalie Garcia Lashinsky**  
VP of Communications

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