



**SABA-DC**

SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON, DC

# Public Interest Benefit Gala

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 • 6pm

Dear SABA-DC Members and Friends,

First and foremost, I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe, healthy, and happy. None of us could have predicted this unbelievable year, and yet we persist. I am humbled and honored to welcome you to SABA-DC's 12th Annual Public Interest Benefit Gala—a celebration of our public interest initiatives, the gathering of our community, and unique to this year—celebrating 20 years of our beloved organization. Thank you for virtually joining us.

When I reflect on this year as a whole, a lot of unpleasant feelings come to mind: fear, frustration, heartache, and exhaustion. But when I think about SABA-DC, I feel a deep sense of hope and immense pride. I have been in awe of our community's ability to adapt and mobilize to meet the demands of this incredible year. And I am truly grateful to my fellow Board members, all of whom helped navigate these uncharted waters with compassion, thoughtfulness, and enthusiasm.

We began this year by celebrating last year's accomplishments, as SABA-DC had the distinct privilege of being recognized as the DC Bar's 2020 Voluntary Bar Association of the Year. That we accomplished this feat in our 20th year as an organization speaks volumes of how far we've come.

At the outset of my term, my goals were to (a) build on last year's momentum through quality programming and extended reach; and (b) strengthen our organization from within. Despite the curveball(s) 2020 has thrown our way, I am proud to say we have far exceeded expectations. We spearheaded noteworthy programming (including some still on the horizon) in specific areas:

**Solidarity with the Black Community/Anti-Racism Efforts:**

- Monthly Virtual Justice Forums (to reflect and learn)
- Introspection Within the South Asian Community: How Our Experience Can Shape Our Support of Black Lives
- South Asians in Support of Black Lives: In Conversation with Arjun S. Sethi

**Mental Health & Wellness:**

- Stay-at-OM Virtual Yoga Series
- Minding Burnout: COVID-19 & Your Mental Health
- SABA-DC Virtual Book Club: Together by Dr. Vivek Murthy

**Professional Development:**

- In-House Counsel Nuts & Bolts Workshop
- Advice for Job Seekers in the COVID-19 Era
- Virtual Networking in the Time of COVID-19
- Applying for a Clerkship 101
- Surviving (and Thriving) COVID-19 as a Junior Lawyer

**Legal Trends & Developments:**

- Census Training
- Responding to a Corporate Crisis
- An Evening with New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal
- So You Want to Practice International Law?
- Pathways to Federal Political Appointments
- Current Trends and Challenges in Immigration
- Protecting the Right to Vote in 2020
- The Complex Legal Landscape of Election 2020
- Presidential Town Hall

We fostered community during a decidedly disconnected and difficult time by creating opportunities for our members to meet virtually, and supported our members facing unique at-home challenges through initiatives like our Parents Circle. We continued SABA-DC's commitment to public interest and mentorship, by awarding four public interest fellowships and continuing our mentorship program, which had record participation this year. Our community also came together to support those in need, raising more than \$1,000 each for the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) and the Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP) in the early months of the pandemic.

While 2020 has been a year of transition and immense change, SABA-DC remains steadfast and strong. Our strength and success would not be possible without our members and support from the broader legal community. Tonight, we also recognize members of the South Asian community for their leadership and significant contributions. Thank you for sticking with us, and remaining engaged. We look forward to celebrating with you tonight.

Sincerely,

**Amisha R. Patel**

President, SABA-DC

## 2020 Public Interest Fellows

Since its inception in 2016, SABA-DC's Public Interest Fellowship Program has awarded more than \$135,000 to law students serving public interest organizations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. This year, SABA-DC received a record number of applications from law students across the country and awarded grants to an outstanding class of four fellows who are actively engaged in the SABA-DC community.



**Reena Naik**

Temple University, Beasley School of Law  
DOJ Executive Office for Immigration Review, Office of the General Counsel



**Saisha Nanduri**

Georgetown University Law Center  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Elder Justice  
and Adult Protective Services



**Madhu Narasimhan**

New York University (NYU) School of Law  
The World Bank Global Forum on Law, Development & Justice



**Aamina Shaikh**

Columbia Law School  
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

## 2020 SABA-DC Awardees

SABA-DC has the privilege of serving a bar of high-impact, high-achieving attorneys. SABA-DC is proud to honor four outstanding members of the Washington, D.C. community who have had a significant impact on the law, the legal profession, and the South Asian community.

### Community Leader



**Rahul Dubey** is Founder of the AHIP Innovation Lab, where he is responsible for collaborating with C-level executives at his Health Plan/IDN collaborating organizations as well as across multi-institutional stakeholders to develop and implement innovative frameworks and unique approaches that lead to accelerated adoption of mission critical initiatives that ensure the delivery of high quality care and improve consumer ability to receive needed care all while driving down the cost of care received. Rahul has extensive practical knowledge in creating new, multi-stakeholder, collaborative innovative models and solutions as well as integrating

next gen digital health solutions that optimize the utilization of appropriate care measures. His role expands to include the creation of innovative care pathways, normalizing and sharing of data assets for proper segmentation, developing actionable and personalized programs and tools that ensure measurable behavior change imperative for desired health outcomes. He continues to help develop, test, measure and iterate innovative initiatives that increase efficiencies for all key Healthcare stakeholders as they collectively focus on outcomes-centric care.

Prior to joining AHIP, Rahul held a leadership role as a founding employee of a successful digital Healthcare start-up based in Washington, D.C. On June 1, 2020, Rahul opened the doors of his Washington, D.C. home to 70 protesters during the Black Lives Matter demonstrations after the killing of George Floyd. He created a refuge for this protesters, who sought to escape pepper spray, tear gas, and rubber bullets. Rahul is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Ross School of Business and lives in Washington, D.C. with his son.

### Rising Star



**Rachit Choksi** is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center and a senior counsel to the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, where he leads investigations into civil and criminal wrongdoing in the private and public sectors. Prior to his current role, he served as Oversight and Nominations Counsel to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. He is a Wilson Center Foreign Policy Fellow and an Aspen Institute Socrates Emerging Governance Leader.

Prior to his tenure in the Senate, Rachit served in the Obama Administration as Counsel to the Chairman at the Federal Maritime Commission, where he was the chief legal advisor to the head of an agency that enforces antitrust and consumer protection laws in the shipping industry. Before that, he was an APAICS Legislative Fellow for Rep. Judy Chu for whom he handled House Judiciary Committee and CAPAC matters. Between 2010 and 2014, he clerked in the federal court, prosecuted ponzi schemers and others violating the securities laws, and defended clients in criminal and commercial litigation matters. He was also a Research Assistant to the Hon. John J. Farmer, Jr., former Attorney General of New Jersey and Senior Counsel to the 9/11 Commission, for whom he conducted research and assisted with drafting of *The Ground Truth*. Rachit has served as General Counsel and volunteer counsel to Democratic local and presidential campaigns, respectively. He cofounded Desis for Progress in January 2016, and served on the boards of South Asians for Hillary, South Asians for Biden, SABANY, SABA-NJ, and APABA-DC. He obtained his law and undergraduate degrees from Rutgers University.

## 2020 SABA-DC Awardees

### Public Sector Trailblazer



**Vijay Shanker** is Deputy Chief of the Appellate Section of the Criminal Division at the United States Department of Justice. He has briefed and argued almost 60 federal appeals, including four en banc rehearings, in all of the federal circuits with criminal jurisdiction. Vijay is currently serving on detail as Senior Litigation Counsel in the Criminal Division’s Fraud Section, where he investigates and prosecutes violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and related offenses and advises attorneys and leadership on a range of legal issues and litigation matters.

From October 2012 to February 2014, Vijay served in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, first as Senior Counsel and then as Acting Deputy Chief of Staff and Counselor to the Assistant Attorney General. In the latter role, Vijay was the third-highest ranking Criminal Division official, helping to oversee approximately 1,000 employees and manage an annual budget of approximately \$600 million. Vijay has been awarded the Attorney General’s John Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement in the Handling of Appeals; the Assistant Attorney General’s Award for Exceptional Service; the Assistant Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service; and the University of Virginia School of Law Shaping Justice Award for Prosecution.

Vijay received his B.A. in Public Policy Studies, *cum laude*, from Duke University in 1994. He received his law degree in 1999 from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was named to the Order of the Coif and served as a Notes Editor on the Virginia Law Review. He was awarded the Roger & Madeleine Traynor Prize for “the graduate who has produced the best written work” and also the Law School Alumni Association Best Note Award. Following law school, Vijay served as a law clerk for the Honorable Chester J. Straub on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He then practiced general civil, white-collar criminal, and appellate litigation, first at Covington & Burling and then at Mayer Brown, before joining the Justice Department in 2005. He has served as an adjunct faculty member at American University’s Washington College of Law and currently sits on the Board of Directors for Calvary Women’s Services.

### Private Sector Trailblazer



**Emilie R. Ninan** is the Co-Chair of Ballard Spahr LLP’s Finance Department and divides her time between the Delaware and Washington, D.C. offices. A former office managing partner and Chair of the Public Finance Department, she is a member of the firm’s Expanded Board. In her role as Co-Chair, she is responsible for the revenue and profitability growth as well as business development strategy for the firm’s finance practices across the country. In her legal practice, Emilie works with governmental, quasi-governmental, and private entities, including 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, to obtain lower cost capital financing through the issuance of taxable and tax-exempt bonds.

Emilie has held leadership positions in various bar associations, including as President of the South Asian Bar Association of North America. Emilie has been recognized for both her professional accomplishments and her commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. She has been profiled by *Law360* as a Female Powerbroker, and is the recipient of multiple awards including the inaugural Hinton J. Lucas, Jr. Torchbearer Award from DuPont.

A frequent speaker and panelist on a variety of law-related topics, Emilie has also served on a number of nonprofit boards. In addition, she recently co-authored an article on “10 Characteristics of Inclusive Leadership” which appeared in the American Bar Association’s *Business Law Today*.

Emilie is a graduate of Temple University (B.B.A., *summa cum laude*); Georgetown University Law Center (J.D.), where she was a member of the *Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics*; and Georgetown University School of Business (M.B.A.).

Thank you to our **2020 Sponsors!** Through their generosity, and the generosity of individual donations, we have raised over **\$35,000** in funds to support SABA-DC's public interest programs.

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