

# **HISTORY OF ATTORNEYS OF COLOR TIMELINE**



**Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows**

**George W. Crawford Black Bar Association**

**Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association**

**Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association**

**South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut**

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WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO

**BILL LOGUE**

FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF  
ATTORNEYS OF COLOR TIMELINE

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# PRE-1900

**1776:** Declaration of Independence

**1793:** Eli Whitney invents cotton gin

**1806:** Noah Webster publishes dictionary

**1808:** Congress prohibits import of African slaves

**1816:** **Moses Aaron Simons** (according to Litchfield Historical Society) 1st Black attorney in U.S., admitted to New York Bar

**1819:** Mashantucket Pequots submit legal petitions to the CT General Assembly

**1841:** Amistad Trial in New Haven, CT

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# PRE-1900 (CONT.)

**1850:** **Yung Wing** graduated from Yale and was the 1st Chinese student to graduate from an American university

**1856:** Mashantucket Pequots submit another legal petition to the CT General Assembly, clearly demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of state & federal law ( even invoking the U.S. Constitution)

**1863:** Emancipation Proclamation

**1868:** U.S. Constitution, 14th Amendment (citizenship granted to freed Black citizens)

**1870:** U.S. Constitution, 15th Amendment (voting rights extended to Black citizens)

**1879:** Women lawyers permitted to argue in U.S. Supreme Court

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# PRE-1900 (CONT.)

**1882-88:** Chinese Exclusion Acts (excluding Chinese from immigration to U.S.)

**1891:** 1st prominent Indian attorney, **Mohandas Karamchan Gandhi**; once too shy to speak in court, he led civil rights movements in South Africa (1893-1914) & the Indian Independence movement (1915-1945)

**1896:** *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896) (establishes "separate but equal" doctrine to justify segregated public facilities & schools)

**1898:** Spanish American War & Treaty of Paris (temporary U.S. control of Cuba & indefinite colonial authority over Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines)

**1880:** **Edwin Archer Randolph**, 1st Black graduate of Yale Law School & 1st lawyer of color admitted to CT Bar

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# 1901-1950

**1903: George W. Crawford**, 2nd Black Graduate of Yale Law School, with honors and Townsend Oration Award

**1909:** NAACP founded in New York City

**1915:** Indian Independence Movement (1915-1945)

**1917:** Jones Shafroth Act grants U.S. citizenship to Puerto Ricans, who are drafted & enlist to serve in WWI

**1917:** Immigration Act of 1917 (exclusion of Asian Indians)

**1920:** U.S. Constitution, 18th Amendment (prohibition on manufacture & sale of alcoholic beverages); repealed in 1933

**1920:** U.S. Constitution, 19th Amendment (Suffrage – voting rights extended to women citizens)

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# 1901-1950 (CONT.)

**1922:** *Ozawa v. United States*, 260 U.S. 178 (1922) (denying naturalized citizenship to applicant born in Japan who had lived most of his life in U.S. on ground that Japanese are not "White")

**1923:** *U.S. v. Bhagat Singh Thind*, 261 U.S. 204 (1923) (took right to naturalized citizenship under the Act of February 5, 1917, away from South Asians)

**1927:** Lindbergh crosses Atlantic non-stop

**1931: Jane Bolin**, 1st Black woman to graduate from Yale Law School

**1939: Jane Bolin**, 1st Black woman judge, named by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia to NY Domestic Relations Court

**1941:** U.S. enters World War II

**1943:** CT Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities established – the oldest governmental civil rights agency in the country

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# 1901-1950 (CONT.)

**1945:** *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1945) (upheld forced internment of persons of Japanese descent during WWI)

**1945:** President Truman signed into law the Luce-Cellar Act, which legalized the ability of Indian immigrants to seek naturalized and granted India a token quota of 100 immigrants annually (Quotas were ultimately phased out under the Hart-Cellar Immigration Act of 1965)

**1946-47:** *Mendez v. Westminster School Dist. of Orange Country*, 64 F. Supp. 544 (D.C. Cal. 1946), aff'd, 161 F.2d 744 (9th Circ. 1947) (desegregation case brought by Latino plaintiffs & argued on appeal by Thurgood Marshall that ended segregation in California schools, cited in *Brown v. Bd. of Education*)

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# 1951-1970

**1954:** *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) (ending legal segregation in public schools)

**1954:** **George W. Crawford**, 1st Black attorney named New Haven Corporation Counsel

**1955:** Montgomery bus boycotts

**1956:** **Robin L. Levister**, 1st Black attorney in Stamford, CT

**1957:** **Judge Boce W. Barlow, Jr.**, 1st Black Connecticut judge (Hartford municipal court)

**1958:** **John L. Merchant of Stamford**, 1st Black graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law

**1959:** Fidel Castro assumed dictatorship in Cuba, Cuban exiles flee to U.S.

**1961:** Bay of Pigs Invasion

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# 1951-1970 (CONT.)

**1961: John Daly**, 1st Black judge to serve on the (now defunct) Connecticut Circuit Court

**1961: Barlow & Lewis** was established as one of the 1st Black-owned law firms in CT (Hartford office)

**1962:** Cuban missile crisis

**1964:** Civil Rights Act

**1965: Thurgood Marshall**, 1st Black United States Solicitor General

**1965: Judge Robert L. Levister**, 2nd Black Circuit Court Judge

**1965: José A. Cabranes** graduates from Yale Law School

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# 1951-1970 (CONT.)

**1966: Constance Baker Motley**, 1st Black female US district Judge in U.S. A native of New Haven who graduated from Columbia Law School, she sat in the Southern District of NY & in 1982 advanced to the position of Chief Judge in that district

**1966: Boce W. Barlow, Jr.**, 1st Black State Senator in CT

**1967: Justice Thurgood Marshall**, 1st Black justice of the United States Supreme Court

**1967: Merchant, Melville & Spear** was established as one of the 1st Black-owned law firm in CT (after Barlow & Lewis, 1961)

**1968: John Rose, Jr.** 1st Black associate at a major CT law firm – Ribicoff & Kotkinn; he was elected partner in 1972

**1970:** Black Panther Trials in New Haven

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# 1971-1975

**1971:** Congressional Black Caucus is founded

**1971: José A. Cabranes** helped found the Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund, of which he was later Chairman

**1972:** Congress passes Equal Employment Opportunity Act

**1972: Constance Belton Green**, 1st Black woman to graduate from the UConn School of Law

**1972: Antonio Robaina**, admitted to the CT bar and became the 1st Latino attorney to practice in this state

**1972: Andrew Young**, House of Representative (from Georgia) & **Barbara Jordan**, House of Representatives (from Texas) are the 1st African-Americans elected to Congress from the South since 1898

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## **1971-1975 (CONT.)**

**1973: Tom Bradley**, 1st African-American mayor of Los Angeles

**1973: Maynard Jackson**, 1st African-American mayor of a major Southern city (Atlanta)

**1974: Bessye W. Bennett**, 1st Black woman admitted to the CT bar

**1974: Jacky Chan**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander admitted to the CT bar

**1974: Judge Robert L. Levister**, 1st Black Judge on Court of Common Pleas

**1975: José A. Cabranes** became General Counsel of Yale University, the 1st Latino to hold the position

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# 1976-1980

**1976:** *Washington v. Davis*, 426 U.S. 229 (1976) (holding that proof of disproportionate impact alone is not to establish unconstitutional discrimination)

**1976: Judge Robert L. Levister**, 1st Black Connecticut Superior Court Judge

**1976: Sanford Cloud**, 1st Black attorney at Robinson & Cole

**1977: John Brittain**, 1st Black appointed tenure-track law professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law; he was granted tenure in 1985

**1977: Drew S. Days, III**, 1st Black Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division

**1977: Wade H. McCree, Jr.**, 2nd Black United States Solicitor General

**1977:** *Horton v. Meskill*, 172 Conn. 615 (1977) (holding that education is a fundamental right subject to strict scrutiny under the CT Constitution)

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## 1976-1980 (CONT.)

**1978:** Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, 438 U.S. 265 (1978) (holding that race can be a factor, but not the sole determining factor for admission to public educational institutions)

**1978: Eugene Spear,** 1st Black Public Defender in CT; later appointed judge & elevated to the Appellate Court

**1978: Cheryl Brown Wattle,** 1st Black Assistance United States Attorney in CT

**1978: Rosita "Bae" Creamer,** 1st Latino prosecutor for State of Connecticut

**1979: José A. Cabranes,** 1st Latino federal judge in the District of CT & 1st Puerto Rican appointed to the federal bench in the U.S.

**1979: Marily Ward Ford,** 1st Black law professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law (then Univ. Of Bridgeport); she later became the 1st Black law professor granted tenure at QUSL

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## **1976-1980 (CONT.)**

**1979: Sonia Sotomayor** graduates from Yale Law school

**1979: Professor Tse-shyan ("Frederick") Chen**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander tenured professor at University of Bridgeport (now Quinnipiac University School of Law)

**1980: Elizabeth Yen**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander female admitted to the CT Bar

**1980: Nancy Griffin**, 2nd Black Assistant United States Attorney in CT

**1980: Carmen E. Espinosa**, 1st Latina Assistance United States Attorney in CT

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# 1981-1990

**1981: Kevin Choi**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander graduate of University of Bridgeport School of Law (now QUSL)

**1981: Thirman, Milner**, 1st African-American mayor of Hartford

**1981: Joseph A. Moniz**, 1st Black partner at Day, Berry & Howard (then, the largest law firm in CT)

**1982: Jacky Chan**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander state special prosecutor in the Danbury Juvenile Court

**1982: Jorge A. Simon**, 2nd Latino prosecutor for State of CT

**1983:** Mashantucket Pequot Tribe achieves federal recognition

**1983: Jim Wu**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander partner at large CT law firm (Carmody & Torrance)

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# 1981-1990 (CONT.)

**1984: Melanie Howlett**, 1st Black in-house adjudicator (Hearing Officer) at the CT Dept. of Public Utility Control & 1st person of color to hold the position

**1984: Jose Lugo**, 1st Latino state representative

**1985: John Brittain**, 1st Black law professor appointed tenure at the University of Connecticut School of Law

**1985: Rafael A. Santiago**, 1st Latino partner at a large CT law firm, the former Hoberman & Pollack

**1985: Jackie Chan**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander President of Danbury Bar Association

**1986: Francisco Borges**, 1st Black attorney elected CT State Treasurer; he is reelected to a second term in 1990. (Henry (Hank) E. Parker, a non-attorney preceded him as CT State Treasurer in 1974, Hank was the 2nd Black person elected to the position.

**1986: Elizabeth Yen**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander female to become a partner at a large CT firm

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## **1981-1990 (CONT.)**

**1986: William Holden**, 2nd African-American appointed Public Defender

**1986: Sabino (Rod) Rodriguez III**, 1st Latino partner at Day, Berry & Howard ( now Day Pitney)

**1987: Justice Robert D. Glass**, 1st Black associate justice of the CT Supreme Court

**1987: Judge Fleming Norcott, Jr.**, 1st Black judge to be elevated to the CT Appellate Court

**1987: Ramona Mercado-Espinoza**, 1st Latina public defender for the state of CT

**1988: Juliett L. Crawford**, 1st Black Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney in CT; she later becomes a CT Superior Court Judge

**1988: Maria C. Sanchez**, 1st Latina state representative

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## **1981-1990 (CONT.)**

**1989: Edna Negrón Rosario**, 1st Latina state representative to serve a full term

**1989: Judge Eugene Spear**, 1st Black Administrative Judge in CT

**1989: Harold Hongju Koh**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander tenured professor at Yale Law School

**1989: Akhil Amar**, 1st South Asian tenured professor at Yale Law School

**1990: John C. Daniels**, 1st African-American mayor of New Haven

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# 1991-1995

**1991: Justice Clarence Thomas**, 2nd Black Justice of the United States Supreme Court

**1991: Alvin W. Thompson**, 1st Black Managing Partner at a major CT law firm – Robinson & Cole

**1991: Judge E. Curtissa Cofield**, 1st Black female CT Superior Court judge; also one of the 1st Black state prosecutors in CT

**1991: John Brittain**, 1st Black President of the National Lawyers Guild

**1991: Jorge A. Simon**, 1st Latino Corporation Counsel for City of Hartford

**1991: Natalia Martin**, 1st Latino dean at Yale Law School, as Associate Dean of Student Affairs

**1992: Judge Fleming Norcott, Jr.**, 2nd Black justice appointed to the CT Supreme Court

**1992: John Rose, Jr.**, 1st Black attorney appointed to the Judicial Selection Commission; he was responsible for soliciting and encouraging the applications of approximately 8-10 lawyers who were subsequently appointed judges

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# 1991-1995 (CONT.)

**1993: Drew S. Days, III**, 3rd Black United States Solicitor General

**1993:** Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association ("CHBA") founded; David N. Feliú, Justino Rosado, & Toni M. Smith-Rosario, from Bridgeport, New Haven & Hartford, respectively, were the triumvirate of attorneys who initially led the CHBA

**1993: Professor John Brittain** awarded NAACP's coveted William Robert Ming Advocacy Award for legal service to the NAACP without a fee

**1993: Ángel R. Oquendo**, 1st Latino tenure track law professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law; he was granted tenure in 1998

**1994:** Mohegan Tribes achieves federal recognition

**1994 : Judge Alvin W. Thompson**, 1st Black United States District Judge in CT; he later advance to the position of Chief Judge

**1994: Judge Eugene Spear**, 3rd Black CT Appellate Court Judge

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# 1991-1995 (CONT.)

**1994: Judge José A. Cabranes**, 1st Latino federal judge to be elevated to the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

**1994: Judge Carmen E. Espinosa**, 1st Latina female CT state court judge

**1994: Judge Eddie Rodriguez**, 2nd Latino CT state court judge

**1994: David N. Feliú**, 1st President of the CHBA; **Toni M. Smith-Rosario** 1st President-Elect; Founding CHBA Board: **Grace A. Caverro, José L. DelCastillo, David N. Feliú, Ronald A. González, David Medina, Sheila M. Prats, Antonion C. Robaina, Sabino (Rob) Rodríguez III, Justino Rosado, Rafael A. Santiago, Toni M. Smith-Rosario & Luis Cruz**

**1994: Juliett Crawford**, 1st Black Officer of the Connecticut Bar Association (Secretary); she is also a Past President of Crawford

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# 1991-1995 (CONT.)

**1994: Sanford Cloud**, 1st Black President of National Conference for Community & Justice (NCJJ)

**1995: Toni M. Smith-Rosario**, 2nd President of the CHBA & 1st woman to hold that position

**1995: Carolyn Ikari**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander Assistant U.S. Attorney for U.S. Attorney's Office in CT

**1995: Melanie Howlett**, 1st Black Chair of the CBA Public Utility Section & 1st person of color to hold the position

**1995: David Bogan**, 1st Black Treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association

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# 1996-2000

**1996:** *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996) (outlawed de facto racial segregation in CT public schools)

**1996:** **Judge Carmen L. López**, 3rd Latino CT state court judge

**1996:** **Judge Jorge A. Simon**, 4th Latino CT state court judge

**1996:** **Carlton Chen**, named General Counsel for Colt's Manufacturing, 1st Asian Pacific Islander to be named general counsel for a major CT employer

**1996:** **Melanie Joy Howlett**, 1st Black Chair of CBA Minority Affairs Committee

**1996:** CHRO through **Attorney Cheryl Sharp & Attorney Rae Thiesield** co-chair first state-wide "kids Court Competition" & "Kids Speak" to educate students about diversity & civil & human rights (started in 1993 as UConn Law students)

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# 1996-2000 (CONT.)

**1997: Melanie Joy Howlett**, 2nd Black Treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association & 1st Black female to hold the position

**1998: Justice Sonia Sotomayor**, 1st Latina to be name to the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

**1998: Stephen C. Robinson**, 1st Black person to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut (named by President Bill Clinton); became judge of U.S. District Court for SDNY in 2203

**1998: Grace Cavero Feliú**, 1st Latino Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Juvenile Matters, New Britain Superior Court

**1998: Judge Antonio C. Robaina**, 5th Latino CT State court judge

**1998: John R. Flores**, 1st Latino Vice-President & Head of Litigation at The Phoenix Companies

**1998: John R. Flores**, 1st Latino officer of the Connecticut Bar Association (Treasurer)

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# 1996-2000 (CONT.)

**1999: Krishna Patel**, 1st South Asian Assistant United State Attorney in CT

**1999: Elizabeth Yen**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander officer of the Connecticut Bar Association (Treasurer)

**2000:** The Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("CAPABA") founded by **Attorney Amy Lin Meyerson**, who also served as CAPABA's 1st President. (**Amy Lin Meyerson, Mony P.B. Yin, Mary Chang, & Ivan K. Fong** were the attorneys who initially led CAPABA

**2000: Nina Elgo**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander Assistant Attorney General

**2000: Judge Sheila A. Prats**, 6th Latino CT state court judge

**2000: Julie Alleyne**, 1st South Asian in-house counsel for Surety & Fidelity business at Travelers Property Casualty Company

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# 2001-2005

**2001: Eduardo Alberto "Eddie" Perez**, 1st Latino Mayor of Hartford

**2001: Senator Eric Coleman**, 1st Black attorney to serve as Chair of the Judiciary Committee

**2001: Andrea Barton Reeves**, 2nd Black Secretary of the Connecticut Bar Association; she is also a Past President of Crawford

**2002: Harold Koh** named Dean of Yale Law School, 1st Asian Pacific Islander named dean of a law school in CT

**2002: Proloy Das**, 1st South Asian CT state prosecutor, Appellate Bureau – Office of the Chief State's Attorney

**2002: Julie Alleyne**, 1st South Asian in-house counsel for Surety & Fidelity business at The Hartford Financial Services Group

**2003: South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut ("SABAC")** founded by **Attorney Asker Saeed**. SABAC's 1st Officers: **Asker Saeed**, President; **Ami Gadhia**, Vice President; **Meghana Shah**, Secretary; **Raj Mahale**, Treasurer

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## 2001-2005 (CONT.)

**2003:** Crawford changed its name from the "George W. Crawford Law Association" to the "George W. Crawford Black Bar Association" in an effort to make the organization's identity more visible to prospective members & the greater community

**2003:** Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity founded by **Carolyn Golden Hebsgaard** to increase recruitment, retention & promotion of diverse individuals in CT legal community

**2003: Jim Wu**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander to sit on the Judicial Selection Committee. (He became Chairman in 2006.)

**2003: Rupal Shah Palanki**, 1st South Asian Assistant Attorney General with CT Attorney General's Office

**2003: Krishna Patel**, 1st South Asian Assistant United States Attorney in CT

**2004: David Vatti**, 2nd South Asian Assistant United States Attorney in CT

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## **2001-2005 (CONT.)**

**2004:** Investigation reveals that two of Avon Police Department supervisors had for years ordered the targeting of minority motorists

**2004: Ivan K. Fong**, named General Counsel for GE Commercial Finance, Vendor Financial Services, the 2nd Asian Pacific Islander named as general counsel for a major employer in CT

**2004: Judge Nina Elgo**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander CT Superior Court Judge

**2004: Kevin J. Rasch**, named Chief Legal Counsel to CT Governor M. Jodi Rell, the 1st Black attorney to serve in that position

**2004: Tejas Bhatt**, 1st South Asian Public Defender in CT

**2004 Vanessa L. Ramirez**, 1st Latino Associate Legal Counsel, Office of Governor M. Jodi Rell

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## **2001-2005 CONT.**

**2004: Asha Rangappa**, 1st South Asian Assistant Dean at Yale Law School, becoming Associate Dean in 2007

**2005: Raj Mahale**, 1st South Asian partner at a major CT law firm (Murtha Cullina LLP)

**2005: John Rose, Jr.**, received the inaugural Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award

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# 2006-2007

**2006: Sabita Singh**, 1st South Asian state judge (MA)

**2006: William Tong**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander attorney named CT state representative

**2006: Elsie M. Mata**, 1st Latino Chief Deputy Clerk of Court for the United States District Court in CT

**2006: Preston Tisdale**, 3rd Black Treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association

**2006: Judge Nina Elgo** honored by the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association Women's Caucus as. "Trailblazer in the CT Judiciary"

**2006 Amy Lin Meyerson** receives the Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award

**2006:** The CAPABA Educational Foundation is formed

**2007: Judge Vanessa L. Bryant**, 1st Black Female U.S. District Judge in New England

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## **2006-2007 (CONT.)**

**2007: Amul Thapar**, 1st Indian American federal judge (U.S. District Court, E.D. Kentucky)

**2007: Gail Petteway Hardy**, 1st Black State's Attorney in CT

**2007: Judge John Nazzaro**, 2nd Asian Pacific Islander CT Superior Court Judge

**2007: Judge José A. Suarez**, 7th Latino CT state court judge

**2007: Toni M. Smith-Rosario** receives the Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award

**2007: Judge Nina Elgo** receives the CT Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Section Diversity Award

**2007: Don Liu**, named General Counsel for Xerox Corporation, becomes the 3rd Asian Pacific Islander named general counsel in CT; he was also the 1st Asian Pacific Islander general counsel for a Fortune 500 Company (IKON)

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# 2008-2010

**2008: President Barack Obama**, 1st Black President of the United States

**2008: Bobby Jindal**, 1st Indian American governor (Louisiana)

**2008: Alexia E. Cruz**, 1st Latino attorney named VP in Claim Subrogation, Subrogation Major Case & Complex Claim Unites at Travelers

**2008: Andrew Crumbie** founds Crumbie Law Group, the largest state-certified Minority Business Enterprise law firm in New England

**2008: Professor Marilyn Ward Ford** receives the CT Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Diversity Award

**2008: Judge Alvin. W. Thompson** receives the Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award

**2009: Rupal Shah Palanki**, 3rd President of SABAC & 1st female to hold that position

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## 2008-2010 (CONT.)

**2009: Justice Sonia Sotomayor**, 1st Latino to be named to the U.S. Supreme Court

**2009: Eric Holder**, 1st Black United States Attorney General

**2009: Neal Katyal**, 1st South Asian Principal Deputy Solicitor General of the U.S.

**2009: Preet Bharara**, 1st South Asian prosecutor at U.S. Attorney's office (SDNY)

**2009: Sung-Ho Hwang**, 2nd Asian Pacific Islander Officer of the Connecticut Bar Association (Treasurer)

**2009: Proloy Das**, 1st South Asian Chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the Connecticut Bar Association

**2009: Marilyn Ward Ford** chairs historical symposium honoring the late Judge Constance Baker Motley of New Haven

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## **2008-2010 (CONT.)**

**2010: Jay Gandhi**, 1st South Asian magistrate judge in the U.S.

**2010: Paul Grewal**, 2nd South Asian federal magistrate judge

**2010: Denny Chin**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander appointed to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals

**2010: Pedro E. Segarra**, 1st Latino attorney elected mayor in CT

**2010: Ndid Moses**, 4th Black Treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association & 2nd Black female to hold the office; she is also a Past President of Crawford

**2010: Don. H Liu** receives the Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award

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# 2011-2015

**2011: Kamala D. Harris**, 1st African-American/South Asian American Attorney General in CA, and the 1st South Asian American in the U.S.

**2011: Sohail Mohammed**, 1st Asian/Muslim state judge in NJ

**2011: Nikki Haley**, 1st South Asian female governor in SC & 2nd in the U.S.

**2011: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr.**, 3rd Black Justice elevated to the CT Supreme Court & recipient of the prestigious Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award

**2011: Judge Carmen E. Espinosa**, 1st Latino to be elevated to the CT Appellate Court

**2011: Judge Hanchu, Kwak**, 3rd Asian Pacific Islander CT Superior Court Judge

**2011: Judge Nawaz Wahla**, 1st South Asian CT Superior Court Judge

**2011: Sudha Setty**, 1st South Asian tenured professor at Western New England University; elevated to associate Dean for Faculty Development & Intellectual Life in Fall 2011; Secretary & past Treasurer of SABAC

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## 2011-2015 (CONT.)

**2011: Judge Edgardo Ramos**, 2nd Latino confirmed as U.S. District Court Judge (SDNY)

**2011: Michael Ferguson**, 1st Male African American Family Support Magistrate

**2011: Norma Sanchez-Figueroa**, 1st Hispanic Family Support Magistrate

**2012: Lee Cole-Chu**, 4th Asian Pacific Islander CT Superior Court Judge

**2012: Connecticut Bar Foundation** co-hosts 1st symposium on the History of Attorneys of Color in CT

**2012: Barack Obama** re-elected President

**2012: An-Ping Hsieh**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander named corporate secretary of Fortune 100 company in CT

**2012: Sung Ho Hwang**, 1st Asian Pacific Islander to serve as President of the New Haven Bar Association

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## 2011-2015 (CONT.)

**2012: Willajean F. McLean**, 1st African American female interim dean of UConn Law School

**2013: *US v. Windsor*** – Federal government must recognize same sex marriages & *Shelby v. Hodges* – Section 4(b) of Voting Rights Act unconstitutional

**2013: Claudia Jones**, 1st Black female to be appointed public Defender (Windham District)

**2013: Antoria Howard**, 1st African American Associate Attorney General for Administration & Management

**2014: Rupal Shah**, 1st South Asian female judge in CT & 1st Indian American Judge in CT

**2014: Gladys Nieves**, 2nd Hispanic Family Support Magistrate

**2015: *Obergefell v. Hodges*** – guaranteeing the right to marry same-sex couples

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## **2011-2015 (CONT.)**

**2015: Loretta Lynch** becomes 1st African American Female US Attorney General

**2015:** CT raises minimum wage to \$9.00/hour

**2015:** U.S. & Cuba re-establish full diplomatic relations

**2015: Foye Smith**, 1st African American Probate Judge (Hartford) in CT

**2015: Karyl Carrasquilla**, 1st Hispanic Chief Disciplinary Counsel for State of CT

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# 2016-2020

**2016:** Donald Trump elected President

**2016: Robert Richardson,** 1st Black U.S. Magistrate Judge, District of CT

**2016: Tanya Bovée,** 1st Asian Pacific American managing principal of an office of a national law firm, Jackson Lewis

**2016:** Chicago Cubs win World Series (previous 1908)

**2017:** Women's March on Washington

**2017: Alexis Smith,** 1st African American executive director of New Haven Legal Assistance

**2017: Clifton E. Graves, Jr.,** 1st judge of color to serve in New Haven Probate Court & 1st male probate judge of color

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## **2016-2020 (CONT.)**

**2017: Nina Elgo**, 1st Asian Pacific American judge appointed to CT Appellate Court

**2017: Karen DeMeola**, 1st African American President of CBA

**2017: Andy Corea**, former SABAC President, elected to management committee of St. Onge Stewart, Johnson & Reens

**2018: Brett Kavanaugh** confirmed to Supreme Court

**2018: Justice Richard Robinson** appointed Chief Justice of CT Supreme Court

**2018: Tejas Bhatt**, 1st male Indian American Judge

**2018: TaShun Bowden-Lewis**, 2nd Black female Public Defender (Waterbury)

**2018: Sudha Setty**, 1st woman of South Asian descent to serve as a dean of ABA accredited law school, Western New England School of Law

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## **2016-2020 (CONT.)**

**2018: Michael Ferguson**, Appointed Chief Family Support Magistrate

**2018: Cherie Phoenix Sharpe**, named Chief Legal Counsel to Lieutenant Governor

**2019:** Nancy Pelosi elected Speaker

**2019:** House votes to impeach President Trump

**2019: William Tong**, elected Attorney General, 1st Asian American elected to statewide office & 1st Asian American elected Attorney General in the U.S.

**2019: Ndidi Moses**, 2nd Black President of the CBA

**2019 Donal Green**, 2nd African American male Family Support Magistrate

**2019: "Still We Rise: African Americans at the University of Connecticut School of Law"**  
**published by Constance Belton Green**, 1st Black female UConn Law graduate

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# 2016-2020 (CONT.)

**2020:** 1st all female NASA space walk

**2020:** COVID-19 spread around world and arrives in U.S.

**2020:** Joseph Biden elected President

**2020: Kamala D. Harris,** 1st Female & African-American/South Asian American elected Vice President

**2020: Eboni S. Nelson,** 1st permanently appointed African-American female dean of UConn Law School

**2020: Cecil Thomas,** 1st South Asian President of the CBA

**2020: Amy Lin Meyerson,** 1st Asian Pacific American President of the CBA

**2020: Sharmese Walcott,** 2nd Black female to be appointed State's Attorney (Hartford Judicial District)

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## **2016-2020 (CONT.)**

**2020:** Connecticut Bar Foundation & CBA partner to present the Constance Baker Motley Series

**2020: Andrea Barton Reeves**, 1st CEO Paid Family & Medical Leave Insurance Authority, previously CEO of HARC & President of CBF

**2020: Judge Melanie Cradle**, 1st African American Female appointed to CT Appellate Court

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# 2021- PRESENT

**2021:** Attack on U.S. Capital during count of electoral votes

**2021:** President Biden signs Juneteenth National Independence Day Act

**2021:** Russia invades Ukraine

**2021:** Attorney **Brenda Mallory**, Waterbury native, Yale & Columbia Law graduate become chair of the Council on Environmental Quality

**2021:** **Miguel Cardona**, CT native named U.S. Secretary of Education

**2021:** **S. Dave Vatti**, 1st South Asian U.S. Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court

**2021:** **Andy Corea**, 1st South Asian Managing Partner at a major CT law firm, Murtha Cullina

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# 2021-PRESENT (CONT.)

**2021: Cecil Thomas**, 1st South Asian American of the CBA

**2021: Sarala V. Nagala**, 1st Asian American & South Asian American to serve as a federal district court judge in the District of Connecticut

**2021: Natalie Braswell**, 1st African American Comptroller of CT

**2021: Judge Dawne Westbrook**, 1st African American Female Chief Administrative Judge of Juvenile Matters

**2021: Ndid Moses**, 1st Black Chair Judicial Selection Commission

**2022: Ketanji Brown Jackson**, elevated to U.S. Supreme Court

**2022 Vanessa Roberts Avery**, 1st Black female appointed U.S. Attorney for District of CT

**2022: TaShun Bowden-Lewis**, 1st Black female Chief Public Defender

**2022: Leander Dolphin**, 1st Black Managing Partner at Shipman & Goodwin

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# PLEASE ADD YOUR FUTURE FIRST

We couldn't get it all and we know what we got probably isn't all correct.

For that we apologize in advance.

We hope that you will tell us what we missed or should be corrected.

Take one of the index cards & tell us. (Please write legibly.)

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