

**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**

Pre-1900

ERA

- 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 Connecticut General Assembly
- 1841:** Amistad Trial in New Haven, CT
- 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 Connecticut General Assembly, clearly demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of state and 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
- 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) and 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 and schools)
- 1898:** Spanish American War and Treaty of Paris (temporary U.S. control of Cuba and indefinite colonial authority over Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines)

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

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

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1901 - 1950

ERA

1909: NAACP founded in New York City

1915: Indian Independence movement (1915-1945)

1917: US enters World War I

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

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

1920: U.S. Constitution, 18th Amendment (prohibition on manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages); repealed in 1933

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

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

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

1927: Lindbergh crosses Atlantic non-stop

1941: U.S. enters World War II

1943: Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities established - the oldest governmental civil rights agency in the country

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

1946: President Truman signed into law the Luce-Cellar Act, which legalized the ability of Indian immigrants to seek naturalization and granted India a token quota of 100 immigrants annually (Quotas were ultimately phased out under the Hart-Cellar Immigration Act in 1965)

1946-47: *Mendez v. Westminster School Dist. of Orange County*, 64 F. Supp. 544 (D.C. Cal. 1946), aff’d, 161 F.2d 774 (9th Cir. 1947) (desegregation case brought by Latino plaintiffs and argued on appeal by Thurgood Marshall that ended segregation in California schools; cited in *Brown v. Bd. of Education*)

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

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

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

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1951 - 1970

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1954: *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) (ending legal segregation in public schools)
1955: Montgomery bus boycotts
1959: Fidel Castro assumes dictatorship in Cuba, Cuban exiles flee to U.S.
1961: Bay of Pigs Invasion
1962: Cuban missile crisis
1964: Civil Rights Act
1965: Thurgood Marshall, 1st Black United States Solicitor General
1965: Hart-Cellar Immigration Act phased out the quotas on immigrants from India established by the 1946 Luce-Cellar Act
1967: Justice Thurgood Marshall, 1st Black justice of the United States Supreme Court
1970: Black Panther Trials in New Haven

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

1954: George W. Crawford, 1st Black attorney named New Haven Corporation Counsel
1956: Robert 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
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 Connecticut (Hartford office)
1965: Judge Robert L. Levister, 2nd Black Circuit Court Judge
1965: José A. Cabranes graduates from Yale Law School
1966: Constance Baker Motley, 1st Black female US District Judge in US. A native of New Haven who graduated from Columbia Law School, she sat in the Southern District of New York and, in 1982, advanced to the position of Chief Judge in that district
1966: Boce W. Barlow, Jr., 1st Black State Senator in CT
1967: Merchant, Melville & Spear was established as one of the 1st Black-owned law firms in Connecticut (after Barlow & Lewis, 1961)
1968: John Rose, Jr., 1st Black associate at a major CT law firm – Ribicoff & Kotkin; he was elected partner in 1972

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1971 - 1975

ERA

- 1971:** Congressional Black Caucus is founded
- 1972:** Congress passes Equal Employment Opportunity Act
- 1972:** Andrew Young, House of Representatives (from Georgia) and Barbara Jordan, House of Representative (from Texas) are the 1st African-Americans elected to Congress from the South since 1898
- 1973:** Tom Bradley, 1st African-American mayor of Los Angeles
- 1973:** Maynard Jackson, 1st African-American mayor of a major Southern city (Atlanta)

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

- 1971:** José A. Cabranes helped found the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, of which he was later Chairman
- 1972:** John Rose, Jr., 1st Black partner at a major CT law firm – Ribicoff & Kotkin; he started as the 1st Black associate there in 1968.
- 1972:** Constance Belton Greene, 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
- 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

ERA

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

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

- 1976:** Judge Robert L. Levister, 1st Black Connecticut Superior Court judge
- 1976:** Sanford Cloud, 1st Black attorney at Robinson & Cole
- 1977:** Greater Hartford Black Law Society founded. Two years later, it incorporates and becomes the George W. Crawford Law Association (“Crawford”). (Crawford’s 1st Officers: Joseph A. Moniz, President; Lewis K. Robinson, Jr., Vice President; Francisco Borges, Secretary; and Barbara Jackson, Treasurer)
- 1977:** John Brittain, 1st Black appointed tenure-track law professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law; he was granted tenure in 1985
- 1978:** Eugene Spear, 1st Black Public Defender in CT; later appointed judge and elevated to the Appellate Court
- 1978:** Cheryl Brown Wattle, 1st Black Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) 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 and 1st Puerto Rican appointed to the federal bench in the United States
- 1979:** Marilyn 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
- 1979:** Sonia Sotomayor graduates from Yale Law School
- 1979:** Professor Tse-shyang (“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 (AUSA) in CT
- 1980:** Carmen E. Espinosa, 1st Latina Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in CT

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1981 - 1990

ERA

- 1981:** Thirman Milner, 1st African-American mayor of Hartford
- 1983:** Mashantucket Pequot Tribe achieves federal recognition
- 1984:** Jose Lugo, 1st Latino state representative
- 1988:** Maria C. Sanchez, 1st Latina state representative
- 1989:** Edna Negrón Rosario, 1st Latina state representative to serve a full term
- 1990:** John C. Daniels, 1st African-American mayor of New Haven

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

- 1981:** Kevin Choi, 1st Asian Pacific Islander graduate of University of Bridgeport School of Law (now Quinnipiac University School of Law)
- 1981:** Joseph A. Moniz, 1st Black partner at Day, Berry & Howard (then, the largest law firm in Connecticut)
- 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 Connecticut
- 1983:** Jim Wu, 1st Asian Pacific Islander partner at a large CT law firm (Carmody & Torrance)
- 1984:** Melanie Howlett, 1st Black in-house adjudicator (Hearing Officer) at the CT Department of Public Utility Control and 1st person of color to hold the position
- 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 Connecticut 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 elected to the position.)
- 1986:** Elizabeth Yen, 1st Asian Pacific Islander female to become a partner at a large CT firm
- 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 State of Connecticut
- 1988:** Julieta L. Crawford, 1st Black Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney in CT; she later becomes a CT Superior Court Judge
- 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

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1991 - 1995

ERA

1991: Justice Clarence Thomas, 2nd Black Justice of the United States Supreme Court
1993: Drew S. Days, III, 3rd Black United States Solicitor General
1994: Mohegan Tribe achieves federal recognition

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

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: Judge Eugene Spear, 1st Black Chief Civil Judge 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
1993: Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (“CHBA”) founded; David N. Feliú, Justino Rosado and Toni M. Smith-Rosario, from Bridgeport, New Haven and 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: Judge Alvin W. Thompson, 1st Black United States District Judge in CT; he later advanced to the position of Chief Judge
1994: Judge Eugene Spear, 3rd Black CT Appellate Court Judge
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. Cavero, José L. DelCastillo, David N. Feliú, Ronald A. González, David Medina, Sheila M. Prats, Antonio C. Robaina, Sabino (Rod) Rodríguez III, Justino Rosado, Rafael A. Santiago. Toni M. Smith-Rosario and Luis Cruz
1994: Juliett Crawford, 1st Black Officer of the Connecticut Bar Association (Secretary); she is also a Past President of Crawford
1994: Sanford Cloud, 1st Black President of National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ)
1995: Toni M. Smith-Rosario, 2nd President of the CHBA and 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 and 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

ERA

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

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

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 Connecticut employer

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

1996: Marilda Gándara, 1st Latina President and Executive Director of Aetna Foundation; she was hired by the Aetna corporate law department in 1978

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

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

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

1998: Stephen C. Robinson, 1st Black 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 2003

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: Edna N. Negrón Rosario, 1st Latino Assistant Vice President for Community Affairs, The Hartford

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

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

1999: Krishna Patel, 1st South Asian Assistant United States 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, and 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 and Fidelity business at Travelers Property Casualty Company

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2001 - 2005

ERA

2001: Eduardo Alberto “Eddie” Perez, 1st Latino Mayor of Hartford

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

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

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

2001: Angel Y.C. Feng, 1st Asian Pacific Islander full-time legal aid lawyer

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 and 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; and Raj Mahale, Treasurer.

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 and the greater community

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

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

2003: Rupal Shah Palanki, 1st South Asian Assistant Attorney General with Connecticut Attorney General’s Office

2003: Krishna Patel, 1st South Asian Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in CT

2004: David Vatti, 2nd South Asian Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in CT

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 Connecticut.

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

2005: 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

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2006: Sabita Singh, 1st South Asian state judge (MA)
2007: Amul Thapar, 1st Indian American federal judge (U.S. District Court, E.D. Kentucky)

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

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 a "Trailblazer in the Connecticut 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
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 Lawyers Section Diversity Award
2007: Don Liu, named General Counsel for Xerox Corporation, becomes the 3rd Asian Pacific Islander named general counsel in Connecticut; he was also the 1st Asian Pacific Islander general counsel for a Fortune 500 company (IKON)

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2008-2010

ERA

2008: President Barack Obama, 1st Black President of the United States
2008: Bobby Jindal, 1st Indian American governor (Louisiana)
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)
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

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

2008: Alexia E. Cruz, 1st Latino attorney named Vice President in Claim Subrogation, Subrogation Major Case and Complex Claim Units 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 and 1st female to hold that position
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
2010: Pedro E. Segarra, 1st Latino attorney elected mayor in CT
2010: Ndidi Moses, 4th Black Treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association and 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

ERA

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

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

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

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

2012: Barack Obama Re-elected President

2012: Sandy Hook shootings

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

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

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

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

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

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

2011: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr., 3rd Black Justice elevated to the CT Supreme Court and 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 Hunchu 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 and Intellectual Life in Fall 2011; Secretary and past Treasurer of SABAC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2014: Gladys Nieves, 2nd Hispanic Family Support Magistrate

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

ERA

2016: Donald Trump elected President
2016: Chicago Cubs win World Series (previous 1908)
2017: Women’s March on Washington
2018: Brett Kavanaugh confirmed to Supreme Court
2019: Nancy Pelosi elected speaker
2019: House votes to impeach President Trump
2020: 1st all female NASA space walk
2020: COVID-19 spreads around world and arrives in U.S.
2020: Joseph Biden elected President
2020: Kamala D. Harris, 1st Female and African-American/South Asian American elected Vice President

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

2016: Robert Richardson, 1st Black US. Magistrate Judge, District of CT
2016: Tanya Bovée, 1st Asian Pacific American managing principal of an office of a national law firm, Jackson Lewis
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 and 1st male probate judge of color
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: 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 dean of ABA accredited law school, Western New England School of Law
2018: Michael Ferguson, Appointed Chief Family Support Magistrate
2018: Cherie Phoenix Sharpe, named Chief Legal Counsel to Lieutenant Governor
2019: William Tong, elected Attorney General, 1st Asian American elected to statewide office and 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
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)
2020: Connecticut Bar Foundation and CBA partner to present the Constance Baker Motley Series
2020: Andrea Barton Reeves, 1st CEO Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority, previously CEO of HARC and President of CBF
2020: Judge Melanie Cradle, 1st African American Female appointed to CT Appellate Court

**AFRICAN
AMERICAN/
BLACK**

**ASIAN-
PACIFIC
ISLANDER**

**LATINO/
HISPANIC**

**SOUTH
ASIAN**

**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**

2021 - Present

ERA

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 and Columbia Law graduate becomes chair of the Council on Environmental Quality
2021: Miguel Cardona, CT native names U.S. Secretary of Education
2022: Ketanji Brown Jackson, elevated to U.S. Supreme Court

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

2021: S. Dave Vatti, 1st South Asian US Magistrate Judge, US District Court
2021: Andy Corea, 1st South Asian Managing Partner at a major CT law firm, Murtha Cullina
2021: Cecil Thomas, 1st South Asian American President of the CBA
2021: Sarala V. Nagala, 1st Asian American and 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: Ndidi Moses, 1st Black Chair Judicial Selection Commission
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 Shipman & Goodwin

**AFRICAN
AMERICAN/
BLACK**

**ASIAN-
PACIFIC
ISLANDER**

Please Add Your Future First

(Use a Post-It)

Governor of color

**LATINO/
HISPANIC**

**SOUTH
ASIAN**

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*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 and tell us. (Please write legibly.)*

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