

DIANE C. YU

Diane C. Yu is Chief of Staff and Deputy to the President of New York University. Yu's responsibilities include managing the President's office and handling a portfolio that mirrors that of the President as a surrogate and alter ego in dealings with NYU Trustees, faculty, deans, students, and external audiences. She currently teaches a Freshman Honors Seminar on leadership in the College of Arts and Science.

From August 1997 to June 2001, Yu was Associate General Counsel at Monsanto Company, a \$6 B Fortune 250 company. At Monsanto she was the highest ranking Asian American executive and held positions as Managing Counsel and chief operating officer for the 75-attorney worldwide law department, Chief Counsel for the Agriculture business, and Chief Legal Strategist. Previously, she was the General Counsel for the State Bar of California, managing four departments and represented the state's 150,000 lawyers. She was the youngest, first woman, and first person of color ever appointed to the position. Yu argued and won over 30 cases in the California Supreme Court and one case in the U.S. Supreme Court for the State Bar.

In 1986 she was appointed a White House Fellow by the President and named as Special Assistant to the U. S. Trade Representative. Yu also served as a Superior Court Commissioner in Alameda County, the first Asian American Superior Court Commissioner in the state of California. Previously she had been in private practice in Oakland, CA. Her B.A. is from Oberlin College and J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. She served on the Boalt Hall Alumni Association board and in 2006 was elected to the Oberlin College Board of Trustees.

A bar leader for many years, Yu was the first woman of color to chair the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Women in the Profession. In 2004, she originated the Women in Law Leadership Academy, sponsored by the Commission on Women. In 2000, she was elected Chair of the ABA's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (which accredits U.S. law schools), becoming the first woman of color to chair the Section and the first Asian American ever to head any Section or Division in the history of the ABA. Currently on the ABA Nominating Committee, Long-Range Planning Committee, Council for the Fund for Justice and Education, and in the House of Delegates, she has served on the ABA Commission on Multijurisdictional Practice, ABA-Asia Council, Commission on Loan Forgiveness and Repayment, President's Diversity Council, and Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. She was also the first Asian American to head the Multicultural Women Attorneys Network of the ABA.

Yu is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, was elected to the American Law Institute, and previously sat on the boards of the Association of Corporate Counsel and Equal Justice Works. She chaired the California Committee of Bar Examiners and served on the Multistate Bar Examination Committee of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The founding President of the Missouri Asian American Bar Association, she helped create the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) in 1988 and has had the unique experience of serving on the boards of three Asian American Bar Associations: in San Francisco, Missouri, and New York. In 2004, she began financing a loan repayment assistance program for a public interest lawyer through the NAPABA Law Foundation.

A frequent speaker on the legal profession, diversity, and leadership, Yu also authored an essay in a 1996 book, *A Voice of Our Own: Leading American Women Celebrate the Right to Vote* (Jossey-Bass), along with several former First Ladies and other noteworthy women. Among her honors are the 2001 Missouri Woman Justice Award; "25 Most Influential Women in Business" by the *St. Louis Business Journal*; 2003 NAPABA Trailblazer Award; Minority Bar Association and the Judicial Council of California awards for her efforts to promote diversity in the bar; and Ten Outstanding Young Women of America (1985). She presently serves as Second Vice President of the White House Fellows Association and has been on White House Fellows Regional Selection Panels in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York. Yu is a David Rockefeller Fellow (the civic leadership program of the Partnership for New York City) and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the City University of New York in 2004.