

News & Notes

SPOTLIGHT

Nevada Lawyer Spotlights AAPI Women Leaders During Asian American Heritage Month

Genevieve Galman is a first-generation Filipina American attorney in Las Vegas. In 2023, she founded the Filipino American Lawyers Association (FALA) of Nevada. The mission of this new bar organization is to unite and support Nevada's Filipino lawyers, judges, and law students, and to advocate for and protect the Filipino community. Nevada is home to one of the nation's largest Filipino communities, and Galman plans to provide intensive community outreach and professional legal resources through FALA Nevada. Galman said equipping community members with legal education and services is crucial in protecting them from abuse and fraud and providing access to the justice they deserve.

Growing up, Galman didn't know any Filipino attorneys until she attended the University of San Francisco School of Law and joined the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California (FBANC). Having mentors who looked like her and understood her culture and the unique challenges that minorities face as attorneys was beneficial in her success in law school and as an attorney. Now, as a practicing attorney in Nevada who is very involved in the community, Galman hopes to give back by mentoring Filipino law students and young attorneys. The organization welcomes everyone who wants to support or contribute to its mission.

In April, FALA Nevada hosted its inaugural event in Las Vegas. Leaders from the National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) flew into Las Vegas to attend the event. These national leaders shared the history of NFALA and its 15 affiliate chapters nationwide. With their guidance, FALA Nevada plans to become an affinity bar organization of the State Bar of Nevada and an affiliate chapter of NFALA in 2024.

Galman serves as the assistant director of the Pro Bono Project at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. She is passionate about providing access to justice to those who cannot afford an attorney. As assistant director, she reviews cases and connects vulnerable clients with committed and compassionate volunteer attorneys. Galman handles cases in various areas of the law, including consumer rights, guardianship law, family law, immigration law, child abuse and neglect, appeals and federal law. She is proud to represent the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada in the community alongside Executive Director Barbara Buckley and Michael Wendlberger, director of the Pro Bono Project.

Karen Bashor is a fellow Filipino and well-known lawyer in the community, and she is proud to support Galman with these causes. Bashor was born in Manila, Philippines, and immigrated to the U.S. with her family at a very young age. She was recently promoted to equity partner at Wilson Elser. She is one of two female AAPI equity partners at the firm and the firm's first Filipino equity partner. She continues to be a trailblazer. To Bashor, this hard-earned promotion is a quintessential reflection of "the American Dream."

Bashor also serves as the pro bono representative for the firm's Las Vegas office and the nationwide leader for her firm's AAPI Employee Resource Group. As with her many passionate causes, such as Women Attorneys Valued & Empowered (WAVE), where she was the Las Vegas leader for five years, she is dedicated to providing mentorship, sponsorship and support to help make a difference in the professional journey of lawyers while giving back to the community. Bashor is happy to be a founding member of FALA Nevada with Galman and many other great AAPI leaders in our legal community.

If you are interested in getting involved with FALA Nevada or the Pro Bono Project, please email Galman at ggalman@lacsno.org.



DISTRICT COURT NEWS

Mendoza Appointed to Department 27 Judicial Seat

Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo has appointed Erika Mendoza to fill the Department 27 judicial seat on the Eighth Judicial District Court. The seat became vacant when Judge Nancy Allf retired.

Prior to her appointment, Mendoza served in the Clark County District Attorney's office including the Gun Crimes Unit, General Litigation Team, and the Appellate Unit. She worked for the DA since September 2011.

To serve the entirety of the term, Mendoza is required to file as a candidate in the November 2024 general election. The current term for all district court judges in Nevada expires January 4, 2027.

