Lakshmi Sridaran currently serves as the Executive Director of South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT).

From 2014 to 2019, she was SAALT’s Director of National Policy and Advocacy where she led the organization’s external engagement and developed SAALT’s policy and legislative agenda, which primarily focuses on immigration, racial profiling, and combating hate violence. Prior to that she served as the Policy Director for The Praxis Project, a Washington D.C. based national movement support organization focused on health justice in communities of color.

Before moving to D.C., Lakshmi completed six years of work in New Orleans, Louisiana immediately following Hurricane Katrina, working in Black-led organizations to help improve federal contracting opportunities for Black and women-owned businesses; institute participatory budgeting to expose inequitable distribution of federal recovery dollars; and preserve public schools and infrastructure from rapid privatization.

Lakshmi is grounded in her early organizing experiences, which include fighting for living wages for campus workers; working to reverse Prop 209, which banned affirmative action in California; helping ensure land retention for Black farmers in her home state of Georgia; and conducting voter outreach in Haitian and Latinx communities in Miami leading up to the 2004 presidential election. Since 2009, Lakshmi has served on the Board of the Southern Initiative of the Algebra Project, originally founded in Mississippi in the 1980’s to use mathematics as an organizing tool to ensure quality education for every child. She holds a Masters degree in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from The University of California, Berkeley.
Marita Etcubañez

Marita is director of strategic initiatives for Advancing Justice | AAJC. Prior to joining Advancing Justice | AAJC, Marita was director of legal services for the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center in Washington, D.C. Her 10 years of experience providing direct legal services to low-income communities includes advocating on behalf of migrant and seasonal farm workers with Texas Rural Legal Aid, as well as working with labor pool workers as part of the Homeless Persons Representation Project in Baltimore.
Glenn D. Magpantay

Glenn D. Magpantay, Esq. is a 30-year veteran of the LGBTQ rights movement. He is currently the Executive Director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), a national federation of Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizations.

He received the Walter & Evelyn Haas, Jr. Fund’s award for Outstanding LGBTQ Leadership for Immigrants’ Rights in 2017. He was named as one of INSTINCT MAGAZINE’S “25 Leading Men of 2004. He organized the first ever LGBT testimony before The White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islander in 2000. He spoke at the National March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation in 1993. Before NQAPIA, Glenn was a nationally recognized civil rights attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), where he practiced voting rights law. He has published several scholarly articles and has been quoted in The New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Associated Press, MSNBC-TV, NBC Asian America, and The Advocate.

Glenn chairs the LGBT Committee of the Asian American Bar Association. He inspire new minds as a Professor of Asian American Studies at Hunter College/ CUNY and Columbia University. Glenn attended the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook on Long Island, and as a beneficiary of affirmative action, graduated cum laude from the New England School of Law, in Boston.

Congressman Scott has the distinction of being the first African-American elected to Congress from the Commonwealth of Virginia since Reconstruction and only the second African-American elected to Congress in Virginia’s history. Having a maternal grandfather of Filipino ancestry also gives him the distinction of being the first American with Filipino ancestry to serve as a voting member of Congress.

Congressman Scott currently serves as the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor. In this capacity, he is advancing an agenda that improves equity in education, frees students from the burdens of crippling debt, protects and expands access to affordable health care, ensures workers have a safe workplace where they can earn a living wage free from discrimination, and guarantees seniors have a secure and dignified retirement.

As the former Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on the Committee on the Judiciary, Congressman Scott is also a leading advocate for reforming our nation’s broken criminal justice system. Congressman Scott sponsored the Death in Custody Reporting Act, and in 2010, successfully led efforts in the House to pass the Fair Sentencing Act, one of the first successful reductions in a mandatory minimum sentence in decades.

Congressman Scott was born on April 30, 1947 in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Newport News, Virginia. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Boston College Law School. As a young attorney, he founded the Peninsula Legal Aid Center to assist those who could not afford legal representation. He received an honorable discharge for his service in the Massachusetts National Guard and the United States Army Reserve.
MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Bo Thao-Urabe

Bo Thao-Urabe is co-founder and Executive and Network Director of CAAL. She’s spent her career creating community-centered, asset-based solutions that result in meaningful progress for those who are most impacted by systemic inequities.

Her extensive leadership experience includes 25+ years of building and leading local, national and global efforts. Just before CAAL, she led AAPIP’s social justice philanthropy work. She’s also the co-founder of the Building More Philanthropy with Purpose (BMPP) Giving Circle, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence, RedGreen Rivers, Building Our Future: A Global Community Campaign, and Hmong Women Achieving Together. She currently serves on the Boards of Propel Nonprofits, Springboard for the Arts, and The Minneapolis Foundation.

Bo has received numerous awards for her leadership and work. Most recently she received the Facing Race Award, was named as Minnesota Business Magazine’s Real Power 50, Twin Cities Business Magazine’s 100 People to Know 2019, and named a Bush Fellow in 2019. Fun Fact: Bo is one of the few people in Minnesota with the honor of having the same day named after her in both the City of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota.