

Date: **Thursday, April 24, 2025**

Time: **12:00 pm – 1:15 pm**

Program Title: **Celebrating 50 Years of Resilience – Vietnamese Americans in Washington**

Registration: [via Zoom](#) or go to <https://ofm-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/8aPUTp90QKysn-VNemAjw>

Program Description: On April 30th, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, which signaled the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and initiated three waves of Vietnamese immigration to the U.S. since 1975. During this event, speakers will share their personal immigrant journeys and reflect on the resilience of the Vietnamese American community in Washington state. Lorraine Lee, the founder of WIN, will moderate a panel featuring accomplished Vietnamese Americans who arrived in the U.S. as young children.



Hon. Tam Bui, District Court Judge, Snohomish County.

She was elected in 2006. Her legal career includes serving as an administrative law judge with the State Washington Office of Administrative Hearings and as a staff attorney at the Snohomish County Public Defender Association and at the Washington Appellate Defender Association.

Judge Bui is passionate about mentoring and community involvement. She has served as a Trustees member for the YMCA and a Board member for Snohomish County Legal Services. As a judge, she is active on court committees and boards to better the administration of the justice system. Judge Bui received her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington and her law degree from the Seattle University School of Law. Born in Saigon, she was seven years old when she came to the U.S. as a refugee.



Nam Nguyen, Executive Director, Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Prior to his current position, he served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Revenue and Finance Division of the Washington state Attorney General's Office. He was also in private practice for law firms in Bellevue, WA, and Houston, TX. Mr. Nguyen has been active in community service throughout his career. After law school, he volunteered in Bayou La Batre, AL, to help address the economic and social problems caused by the BP Oil Spill. There, he developed, managed, and implemented youth development programs, social service programs for those with limited English proficiency, and work training/retraining programs for workers

displaced by the BP Oil Spill. He volunteered as an assistant scoutmaster and troop leader for boy and girl scouts' troops in Alabama, Massachusetts, Texas, and Washington.

He graduated from Boston University School of Law, has a master's in public policy from the University of Michigan, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Washington. He grew up in the Seattle area. Born in Saigon, he came to the U.S. in 1989 as a young child.

Hon. My-Linh Thai, Representative, 41st District, Washington House of Representatives. She is proud to be the first refugee elected in 2018 to serve in the Washington State House of Representatives. Rep. Thai is the Deputy Majority Leader of the House Democratic Caucus. She also serves on the Appropriations, Civil Rights & Judiciary, Health Care & Wellness, and Rules Committees.



Rep. Thai is a passionate education advocate who is committed to ensuring equity and access for all. This commitment springs from the early support she herself received as a student. Prior to serving in her current role, she has served as a PTSA parent volunteer and received the Washington State PTA Outstanding Advocate Award in 2013. She was elected as the School Board Director for the Bellevue School District and later elected by her fellow Board Directors to serve as Vice President of the Washington State School Board Directors Association (WSSDA) in 2017.

At the age of 15, Rep. Thai immigrated as a Vietnamese refugee with her family. She graduated from Federal Way High School and the University of Washington School of Pharmacy.