

“Birthright Citizenship & Why Wong Kim Ark’s Victory in the U.S. Supreme Court Matters Today”

Date: May 22, 2025

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 pm (Pacific Standard Time)

Register for your spot: <https://ofm-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/baYKLgSNQzipmVrr2DqAZA>

Sponsoring Washington State Business Resource Groups

- Washington Immigrant Network (WIN)
- Hawaiians, Asians, & Pacific Islanders Promoting an Empowerment Network (HAPPEN)

Program Description: The program focuses on birthright citizenship - a fundamental right often taken for granted yet deeply rooted in legal precedent and history. We will anchor our discussion in the landmark 1898 U.S. Supreme Court case, *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, which affirmed that children born in the United States to immigrant parents are citizens under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Who was Wong Kim Ark and what was his story? Why does his victory before the U.S. Supreme Court matter today? Born in San Francisco, Wong Kim Ark was denied entry to the U.S. after a trip to China. The discussion will start with a brief historical overview of the social and political landscape during Wong Kim Ark’s times, how his plight was litigated and resolved through the court system, and how Executive Order 14160 (signed Jan. 20, 2025) reinterprets and raises questions about what birthright citizenship means today. This portion will be presented by **Judge Andrea Chin**, Seattle Municipal Court, **Judge Joan Churchill**, Immigration Judge (retired) and **Lorraine Lee**, WIN Founder.

Then **Naghmana Sherazi**, Community Outreach Lead for HAPPEN, will moderate a discussion with three phenomenal leaders from our community of state employees: **Grace Huang** Senior Policy Adviser, Governor’s Policy Office, **Nicholas Vann**, first Executive Sponsor of HAPPEN, and **Representative Janice Zahn**, 41st Legislative District, Washington State House of Representatives. The speakers will share their perspectives and reflect on the significance of the Wong Kim Ark decision, the impacts and effects of the current controversies over immigration policies and birthright citizenship on immigrant communities today.

Speakers Biographies



Andrea Chin
Judge, Seattle Municipal Court

Judge Andrea Chin was elected to the Seattle Municipal Court (SMC) bench in 2018. She served as the SMC Domestic Violence judge from 2022 - 2024 where she presided over all domestic violence cases at the pretrial, trial and post resolution stages. She served as Assistant Presiding Judge from 2023-2024. She currently presides over a general trial court.

Prior to taking the bench, she served as an Assistant City Attorney with the Seattle City Attorney's Office for 26 years where she tried criminal cases and argued appeals at all levels of state appellate courts. Judge Chin is a Seattle native and grew up in the Mount Baker neighborhood. She graduated from Occidental College and Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California.

Judge Chin is a long-time member of the Asian Bar Association of Washington and past president. She served on the Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee from 2011 - 2014, and as an ABAW board member from 2013 - 2016.



Joan V. Churchill
Immigration Judge (Ret.)

Judge Joan Churchill served as an Immigration Judge for Washington DC/Arlington VA from 1980-2005. Immigration Judges are Federal administrative judges. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Churchill served several years as a naturalization examiner. In both positions, she had to evaluate whether the persons before her were United States citizens.

Judge Churchill is a native of Washington DC. She obtained both her undergraduate and Law School degrees from the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor Michigan. She is a member of several professional and civic community organizations.



Grace Huang
Senior Policy Adviser,
Office of the Governor

Grace Huang, J.D. is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Law and has spent her career working to address the needs of survivors of domestic and sexual violence, immigrants and refugees, and low-income families. Most recently her work has focused on advancing federal policy to support survivors of gender-based violence in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities. She is also a former legal services lawyer, attorney in private immigration law practice, and policy advocate at a statewide domestic violence coalition. Ms. Huang also served as a White House appointed Commissioner on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Ms. Huang is the recipient of several awards, including an American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence 20/20 Vision award in 2015, induction in the University of Washington School of Law Public Interest Law Association Hall of Fame in 2008, the Washington State Bar Family Law Section "Professional" of the year award in 2005, and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project "Golden Door Award" in 1999 for her advocacy on behalf of immigrant survivors of gender-based violence.



Nicholas Vann
HAPPEN Co-Founder and
Inaugural Executive Sponsor

Nicholas Vann is the inaugural Executive Sponsor for Washington State Business Resource Group HAPPEN (Hawaiians, Asians, and Pacific Islanders Promoting an Empowerment Network). He recently served as the Director of Equity and Belonging within the Washington State Office of Equity.

He is Chinese American, and is the son, grandson, and great grandson of immigrants.

Nicholas is dedicated to public service and prioritizes putting people first to ensure systems are serving Washingtonians equitably. He began serving the public in Washington state government in 2011 with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, where he served as the State Historical Architect and Deputy Director. He believes that every Washingtonian deserves the dignity of feeling a sense of belonging regardless of their identity, and that the future of state government models relational partnership by empowering the voice and lived experience of people.



Janice Zahn
Representative,
41st Legislative District,
Washington State House of
Representatives

Representative Janice Zahn was appointed as Washington State Representative to 41st LD in January 2025. She served on the Local Government, Housing, Capital Budget and Transportation Committees. She previously served over 7 years on the Bellevue City Council. Her priorities on council included safe and supported neighborhoods, affordable housing, infrastructure for a healthy city, and engaged and connected communities. Given Bellevue's diversity, Janice ensured the city continues its work to be more inclusive and celebrates the richness of our many cultures.

In the legislature, she focused on policies to increase affordable housing, education funding and improving delivery of capital projects. Janice is also Chief Engineer at the Port of Seattle, directing capital projects delivery, small business access to public contracting and workforce development promotion. Janice has worked in both the private and public sector, and partnered with business, non-profits and the community, to get things done. She is a proven leader with a very diverse background of experience and expertise over her extensive 35-year career.

An immigrant from Hong Kong, she attended Federal Way public schools. She has lived in Bellevue for over 30 years and raised her two daughters in Bellevue public schools.

Moderators Biographies



Lorraine Lee
WIN Founder

Lorraine Lee served as Chief Administrative Law Judge, Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings from 2009 until her retirement in 2024. During her 28 years with the state of Washington, she held several policymaking, managerial and executive-leadership roles working for four governors. She started her legal career as a military lawyer in the U.S. Army officer with duty stations in Washington DC, Hawaii and Seoul, Korea. She was a criminal defense lawyer in the U.S. Army and also practiced before the Washington state appellate courts. Lorraine immigrated to the U.S. from Hong Kong as a young child.

In 2017, Lorraine founded the Washington Immigrant Network (WIN) as a business resource group to be a community of state employees from an immigrant background and their allies. WIN brings people together connected by their lived experiences of being immigrants or children of immigrants. Hope, courage and resilience are strong attributes of the immigrant experience that WIN honors and celebrates through its programs and activities.



Naghmana Sherazi
HAPPEN Community Outreach
Lead;
Pro-Equity Consultant, Office
of Equity

Naghmana Sherazi is a public speaker and community advocate whose work bridges science, education, and social justice issues, especially around immigrant and refugee populations. A proud immigrant of South Asian descent and a single mother, she brings an intersectional lens to issues of racial equity, climate action, and community resilience. Naghmana made history as the first Muslim immigrant woman of South Asian heritage to run for office and win a primary in Spokane, Washington.

She currently serves as a Pro-Equity Consultant with the Washington State Office of Equity and as Community Outreach Lead for HAPPEN. Her leadership spans multiple boards and initiatives, including 350Spokane, Earth Ministry, Greater Spokane Progress (Board Chair), and the City of Spokane's Sustainability Action Subcommittee.

A founding member of Muslims for Community, Action and Support (MCAS), Naghmana works to dismantle Islamophobia, xenophobia, and misogyny through education and community engagement.