

Brian Heslin

Moore & Van Allen

HEADQUARTERS:

Charlotte, North Carolina

WEBSITE: www.mvalaw.com

BUSINESS: Law firm

EMPLOYEES: 580

TITLE: Member, MVA Litigation Team

EDUCATION:

BA, University of Southern California;

JD, George Mason University

WHAT I'M READING:

The Wise Heart, by Jack Kornfield

PHILOSOPHY:

Live and learn in each moment.

INTERESTS:

Spending time with family, mixed martial arts, coaching youth sports

> Have you ever felt discrimination in your career or life? How did you overcome it? Growing up as a half-Filipino in the North Shore of Boston in the 1970s and '80s, I was faced with periodic discrimination fueled by ignorance. There were very few Asians in my community and virtually no Asian Pacific Islanders so most people didn't know what to do with me. I endured generic Asian racist taunting growing up. Then, when I went to USC for college, I joined a Filipino student organization and experienced negative treatment because I was half-white. So, I learned to be somewhat individualistic, which served me well. Now, as a more established adult, I see the strength and beauty of individual diversity and that our differences should be celebrated. I believe that our overall society is learning to recognize this as well.

> What are some tips for other AAPIs beginning their careers? Find yourself and be genuine in all your relationships. If you are open and genuine, most people will see beyond your appearance and also appreciate your individual qualities, character and abilities.



Catharina Y. Min

Reed Smith LLP



WEBSITE: www.reedsmith.com

BUSINESS: Law firm

REVENUES: \$1.01 billion

EMPLOYEES: 3,400

TITLE: Office Managing Partner, Silicon Valley

EDUCATION: BA, JD, University of Virginia

WHAT I'M READING:

A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini

PHILOSOPHY: Life is difficult but once you

accept that it is not so difficult.

INTERESTS:

Furthering the career advancement of women, Asian American, and other minority attorneys in law and business, and helping people achieve their highest potential.

- > What are the major values of your heritage? How have they helped you in your career? My parents, who took a huge risk in moving our family to the United States in the '70s when they did not even speak English. They taught me so much about taking risks, diligence, and bettering oneself through education and perseverance, which I draw upon every day.
- > What do you think is the greatest issue or dilemma facing the AAPI community today? Despite great progress in recent years, Asian Americans are still not fully engaged in the American life. In addition, while many AAPIs are succeeding in middle management, they are not represented in the top C-suite positions.
- > What are some tips for other AAPIs beginning their careers? Find a mentor and a champion. Increase your circle of influence by helping others and asking for help. Don't be afraid of promoting yourself.

William Cho

Sodexo 

HEADQUARTERS: Gaithersburg, Maryland

WEBSITE: www.sodexousa.com

BUSINESS: Quality of life services; facilities and food service management

REVENUES: \$8.8 billion

EMPLOYEES: 125,000 United States

TITLE: Vice President of Operations

EDUCATION: BA, University of Michigan;

MBA, Thunderbird School of Global Management

WHAT I'M READING: *Vested Outsourcing*, by Kate

Vitasek, Mike Ledyard and Karl B. Manrodt

PHILOSOPHY: Live life without fear;

discover and fulfill the purpose of why I'm here.

INTERESTS: Traveling, coaching, cooking, golf, and spending time with my family!

TWITTER HANDLE: @SodexoDiversity



- > Have you ever felt discrimination in your career or life? How did you overcome it? I've been discriminated against because of my skin color, age, and even gender. What has allowed me to push forward is to always have my end goal in mind. Doing so has made those that discriminated against me a small barrier that I needed to overcome in order to achieve my end goal.
- > What do you think is the greatest issue or dilemma facing the AAPI community today? We lack role models. When we talk about American society's business heroes, names such as Gates, Ford, Jobs, and Buffet come to mind. We need more names like Nooyi of Pepsi and Hsieh from Zappos. The next generation of AAPI leaders need role models to look up to.