



AAABA

ARIZONA
ASIAN AMERICAN
BAR ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Roxanne K. Song Ong Inducted into Hall of Fame

PHOENIX -- The Arizona Asian American Bar Association inducted the Honorable Roxanne K. Song Ong into its Hall of Fame for her years of dedicated leadership in the justice system at its April 26, 2018 banquet.

Judge Roxanne K. Song Ong has served the Arizona criminal justice system for nearly 40 years, breaking new ground as the first Asian American woman lawyer and judge in Arizona. A Phoenix native, Judge Song Ong began her career practicing in the areas of criminal prosecution, defense, and immigration law, followed by her judicial career beginning in 1986 on the Scottsdale City Court. In 1991, she became a judge for the Phoenix Municipal Court and in 2000 became the Assistant Presiding Judge. In 2005 she was appointed as the Chief Presiding Judge of Phoenix, the fifth largest city in the United States, running one of the busiest courts in the country until her retirement from the court in late 2014. Judge Song Ong became the first woman and minority to hold the chief judge position.

Judge Song Ong's term was marked by advances in the management of DUI cases and the introduction of problem-solving courts to address cases involving populations with significant financial, psychological, behavioral, physical and related challenges. Phoenix's Veterans Court, Homeless Court, Mental Health Court, and Domestic Violence Court have become models for other courts in the state and country. Judge Song Ong continues to serve as Pro Tem Judge for other jurisdictions while teaching and speaking on topics of judicial, legal and civics education, access to justice, and diversity and cultural competency.

The Arizona Asian American Bar Association (AAABA), founded in 1993 by the late Honorable Thomas Tang, one of the first Asian Pacific American judges to be appointed to the federal bench. It is a non-profit organization composed of legal professionals, law students, and

members of the community interested in Asian American issues.

AAABA provides a vehicle and forum for the unified expression of opinions and positions by our members, promotes the professional growth of Asian American lawyers, and assists Asian American law students financially and academically.

AAABA is an affiliate member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), a national organization that represents the interests of over 50,000 attorneys and 75 national, state, and local bar associations.