

**Ami Gandhi, Esq.
Legal Director**

As the Legal Director of the Asian American Institute (AAI), Ami Gandhi develops and implements legal advocacy programs to serve the Asian American community, including initiatives in the areas of affirmative action, redistricting, voting rights, language access, and hate crimes. Under Ami's direction, AAI's Legal Advocacy Program advocates for laws and policies that promote social, economic, educational, and political equity for the Asian American community as a whole.

Prior to joining AAI, Ami was a litigation attorney at Freeborn & Peters, where she represented individuals and companies in a wide variety of practice areas, including consumer protection, employment, intellectual property, defamation, and class actions. Ami has experience litigating before numerous state and federal courts, as well as government agencies. She is also experienced in settlement negotiation and alternative dispute resolution.

Ami is admitted to practice law in Illinois, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She actively participates in civic organizations, including Indus Women Leaders of Chicago and the Chicago Bar Association Chorus. She has served as a pro bono immigration attorney in conjunction with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, and she currently is an associate board member of CARPLS, which runs a legal aid hotline for low-income residents of Cook County. Ami has authored several legal publications, including articles and book chapters published by the American Bar Association, the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, and *The George Washington International Law Review Guide to International Legal Research*.

Ami earned her J.D. from The George Washington University Law School. While in law school, Ami served as a student attorney for victims who had suffered injuries from mandatory vaccinations, representing them in litigation against the U.S. Department of Justice. She also worked as a law clerk for the Office of General Counsel for the U.S. Library of Congress, counseling clients on copyright and employment issues. Ami earned her B.A. in psychology and cognitive science from Indiana University, where she led several student groups that promoted cross-cultural understanding.