



Jennifer Chen, Esq.
Judge Sandra R. Otaka Legal Fellow

The Asian American Institute (AAI) is pleased to host the Judge Sandra R. Otaka Legal Fellowship, which is dedicated to projects relating to voting rights and the Asian American community. The fellowship is established in honor of the late Judge Sandra R. Otaka, a founding member of AAI, who was the first Asian American to be appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court and the first Asian American to be elected a judge in Cook County. Judge Otaka's leadership and contributions in the areas of civil rights, law, and politics have had a profound impact on the Asian American community.

As the Judge Sandra R. Otaka Legal Fellow at AAI, Jennifer helps develop and implement legal advocacy programs serving the Asian American community, primarily in the area of voting rights.

Prior to joining AAI, Jennifer was an attorney at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in New York City, where she practiced corporate law in the firm's Credit & Banking group. Jennifer is a recipient of the Simpson Thacher & Bartlett Public Service Fellowship and was selected by the firm to spend a year with a non-profit organization of her choice.

Jennifer is admitted to practice law in New York and earned her J.D. from the New York University School of Law. While in law school, Jennifer served as President of the Asia Law Society and was an active member of the Asian-Pacific American Law Student Association. Jennifer earned her B.A. in Human Biology from Stanford University, where she led several student groups serving the Asian American student community, including serving as Co-Chair of the Asian American Student Association.