



Executive Committee & Board Members

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Julia K. Chun was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a four-year term and serves as Chair.

Julia is Chief of Staff to Senator Barbara A. Favola (D-Arlington). Prior to joining Sen. Favola's staff, Julia was the Head of Business Development for BITSY, a woman-owned tech and services startup in Singapore, and Chief of Staff to Delegate Mark L. Keam (D-Vienna).

Julia is an associate member of the Council for Korean Americans (CKA), a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of successful Korean American leaders with the mission to increase the voice, visibility, and influence of the Korean American community and advance Korean American leadership everywhere. Julia is a founding member of Korean Americans for Organizing (KAFO) and KAFO PAC, and Korean Americans for Obama, and Korean Americans for Hillary that served as official allied and affinity groups, respectively, for President Barack Obama's re-election campaign in 2012 and Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2016. She also worked on the Specialty Media Communications Team for the 2012 and 2016 presidential conventions.

Julia is the proud daughter of Korean immigrants and small business owners, and lives with her family in McLean, Virginia.



May Nivar was appointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a four-year term and serves as Vice Chair.

May serves as Manager, Regulatory Communications, for Altria Client Services, which provides professional services and support to Altria Group and its operating companies. May has over 20 years of communications, marketing, and change management experience. She is the founding chair of Altria's Asian employee resource group and has served on the boards of Asian American Society of Central VA and the Central Virginia chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans.

May holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from New York University and is a 2017 graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond.

May is a first-generation Chinese American whose parents owned and operated Chinese take-out restaurant businesses. May lives in Midlothian, Virginia with her husband and their three children.



Mona Siddiqui was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a four-year term and serves as Secretary.

Mona is a life-long resident of Virginia since emigrating from Pakistan with her family at the age of four. She completed her K-12 public education in Chesterfield County Public Schools and then pursued a Bachelors of Arts in Foreign Affairs and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Virginia College of Arts and Sciences. She attained her Juris Doctor at the University of Maryland School of Law and is now practicing law in the Virginia Office of the Attorney General. She is also a Ph.D. Candidate of Public Policy and Administration at the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her research interests include civil rights and social equity in the areas of migration, nationality, race, religion and gender.

She lives in Richmond, Virginia with her partner and four children, while participating as an active community volunteer in areas of community service, interfaith work, legal advocacy, and Asian cultural and civic groups.



Hassan M. Ahmad was appointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a two-year term.

Hassan is the founder and principal of the HMA Law Firm. Fluent or proficient in eight languages besides English, he is known and respected among his peers for his reliable knowledge of the law, research and writing ability, and trial skills. Due to his unique ability to explain legal concepts through client stories, Hassan is invited regularly to speak and write about immigration and is often quoted in local and national media.

Hassan is also an immigrant rights advocate who firmly believes that serving clients means not only direct representation, but also advocating for their interests and telling their stories before lawmakers. His ability to advocate in this way is why he was appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe to serve on the VAAB to help advise the Governor on issues facing the AAPI community and beyond; and on the Commonwealth Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Hassan also serves on the board of the Dulles Justice Coalition, the group of airport lawyers who represented clients in the wake of President Trump's travel ban.

Hassan was born and raised in North Carolina and now resides in Virginia with his family.



Atiqua Hashem was appointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a three-year term.

Atiqua is General Counsel of ChildFund International, USA. In this capacity, she oversees the organization's global legal affairs and provides strategic legal advice and counsel to the organization's board of directors and executive management. Previously, Atiqua served as Associate General Counsel & Special Advisor/Policy at CARE USA. She started her legal training as an associate attorney at Alston & Bird, LLP where her practice focused on international mergers and acquisitions and legislative and public policy. Atiqua holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Mathematics and Economics from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctorate (Honors) from the Frederic G. Levin College of Law at the University of Florida.

Atiqua is active with the Association of Corporate Counsel and currently serves as Communications Chair for its International Legal Affairs Committee.

An American citizen, Atiqua was born in Bangladesh but lived in England and Thailand, where she completed her high school education prior to coming to the United States. She lives in Glen Allen with her husband and two boys.



Razi Hashmi was appointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a three-year term.

Razi is a congressional advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the U.S. Department of State. He previously served as a foreign affairs officer on INL counternarcotics and rule of law programs for Afghanistan. Prior to that, he was a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) where he worked on public affairs, congressional testimony in former Secretary Jeh Johnson's office, and innovation and emergency management policies. Razi has worked in Loudoun County government, on several political campaigns, and was a 2015 Sorensen Political Leadership Program (PLP) participant. Before his work in Virginia, he worked on Capitol Hill and served as an executive director of a nonprofit in Oklahoma City.

Razi received a Master of Public Policy (MPP) in 2012 from George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government, and a Bachelor's in international studies in 2006 from Dickinson College.

Razi resides in Fairfax with his wife and two children.



Eric Lin was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a three-year term. Eric is the Immediate Past Vice Chair.

Eric is Principal of The VIE Group, a business development and real estate consulting firm in Richmond. Prior to his current position, Eric was the owner and director of operations of Sunrise Enterprises, the mid-Atlantic's largest wholesale orchid nursery.

Eric attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Materials Engineering with a specialization in ceramic composites which afforded him the opportunity to work on NASA's Space Shuttle Program. Eric has lived in various parts of the State, but now resides in Chesterfield County with his wife, Tu and three children, Sydney, Audrey and Sebastian.

Eric has deep connections to the community and in the past, has served on several boards. Eric currently serves as a Board member on the Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital Community Advisory Board; Board member of Leadership Metro Richmond; member of the Equity Committee for Chesterfield County Public Schools; Vice President of Chapter Development of OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates (based in Washington D.C.); and as appointee to the VAAB, where he served two terms as Chair under Governor McAuliffe.



Vicki Mirandah was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a two-year term.

Vicki is Senior Director & Chief of Staff at Capital One, in US Card Customer Experience. She has been with Capital One for 20 years in various leadership roles, including Operations, Corporate Development, Diversity & Inclusion, Bank Operations and Risk Management. Prior to Capital One, she was with Morgan Stanley in Chicago for 12 years.

She has degrees in Computer & Information Sciences from East Tennessee State University and Graduate School of Banking from Louisiana State University.

A resident of Henrico County, she enjoys international travel and engaging in local community service. She has served as board member of Leadership Metro Richmond (Class of 2013), Susan G. Komen of Central Virginia (2008-2009 Race Co-Chair) and cochair of American Heart Association's Go Red Luncheon for Women.



Komal Mohindra was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a three-year term.

Komal is a senior private sector specialist with the World Bank Group's Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation practice, which focuses on advising client governments and country teams on designing and implementing policy reforms and strategies to improve the business environment and entrepreneurship ecosystem in order to achieve private sector led economic growth.

Her previous work experience is with global professional services firms in London, UK and in Toronto, Canada where she advised companies of all sizes seeking to expand operations from small owner-managed companies to global multi-national enterprises on the Fortune 500. Komal has also worked for the Ontario Attorney General's office and has her Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School in Canada.

She has lived in Virginia for the past 11 years and has two daughters attending Fairfax County Public Schools, where Komal is actively involved with the Parent Teacher Association and coaching activities.

She is also an active member of the Sikh community in Virginia, and is the daughter of Indian immigrants.



Romy Mohta was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a two-year term.

Romy is CEO of Atlas Branding & Communications and brings 20+ years of experience in international marketing and financing.

Prior to the VAAB, Romy served on several gubernatorial boards - the National Community Service, the Virginia Workforce Council and the Department of Aging and Rehabilitation.

Romy has also joined former Governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine on trade missions and successfully introduced various companies to the Commonwealth, specifically to RVA. Romy currently serves as Committee Chair of Economic Development of Chesterfield County and on the Board of Daily Planet Health Services.

Prior service include the Board of Trustees of the Asian American Society of Central Virginia, including as its chair; Executive board of the Virginia Asian American Chamber of Commerce; and Board of Trustees of Leadership Metro Richmond.

Romy resides in Chesterfield County with his wife, Marj, and two boys, Eric and Cyrus.



Patrick Mulloy was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a four-year term.

Patrick is an expert on international trade and has served five two-year terms on the bipartisan U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission whose members are appointed by the majority and minority members of the House and Senate.

During the Clinton Administration, he was an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration.

Prior roles include serving as General Counsel and Chief International Counsel to the U.S. Senate Banking Committee; a lawyer in the Justice Department; and a foreign service officer at the State Department. He presently practices as a trade lawyer and political consultant.

Patrick received his LL.M from Harvard University Law School and his J.D. (with honors) from the George Washington University law School.



Oz Parvaiz was appointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a three-year term.

Oz is a vice president at Capital One Financial. Oz's teams are passionate about helping people with their financial lives by launching national brands such as CreditWise, a tool that helps customers improve their credit; Venture Card, a product that helps customers accumulate points for future vacations; and Quicksilver, a product that helps customers maximize cash back opportunities. Since 1999, Oz has served in many roles at Capital One, from P&L growth, technology transformation to online analytics.

Oz received an MBA from Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia and a BA in Government from the College of William and Mary.

Oz is currently the national lead of Capital One's Asian business resource group and is eager to find synergies with the VAAB. Oz also serves on the Board of the 1717 Innovation Center, a 42,000-square-foot space located in Richmond that will serve as an incubator for as many as 50 startup businesses at a time.

Oz and his wife, Adela, have two children, Mikhail and Mischa, and a Goldendoodle named Bolt! Most weekends are joyfully spent with the family playing basketball, and most recently, learning to play the guitar.



Ssunny Shah was appointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a three-year term.

Since 1995, Ssunny has owned and managed a group of hotels in Roanoke, Virginia's Blue Ridge.

In addition to the VAAB, Ssunny is actively involved in the local community serving on several Boards and committees, including the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge Board & Executive Committee, Roanoke Civic Center Commission, Roanoke County Economic Development, Roanoke Parks & Recreation, Roanoke Regional Chamber Board and

Howard Johnson Franchise Advisory Board. He is also a member of the Roanoke County Democratic Party Committee.

Until recently, Ssunny also served on the Virginia Small Business Commission.

Ssunny holds a bachelor's degree in Commerce & Economics and lives in Roanoke with his wife, Meena. Together, they have a daughter, Nehali, who lives in Alexandria.



J.R. Smith was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a two-year term.

J.R. is the Immediate Past Chair of the VAAB.

J.R. is a partner at the international law firm, Hunton & Williams LLP. Having lived in Japan for over six years and worked extensively throughout Asia, J.R. brings a unique perspective to the needs of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in Virginia and trade between the Commonwealth and Asian nations.

He is the chair of the board of the Japan-Virginia Society.

He is a graduate of the University of Richmond School of Law and graduated with a double major in Journalism and East Asian Studies from Washington & Lee University.



Leonard C. Tengco was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a two-year term.

Leonard is an attorney at Shapiro & Brown, LLP, focusing his practice on financial services and real estate litigation throughout Virginia.

Leonard was elected to serve on the Virginia Beach School Board (Centerville-District 1). Before transitioning to private practice, Leonard served as the Law Clerk for the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Portsmouth, and Assistant Appellate Defender in Richmond.

Leonard earned a B.A. in Political Science, B.S. in Economics, and a minor in Women's Studies from James Madison University. Before earning his J.D. at Michigan State University College of Law, Leonard served as Vice President of the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association. Leonard is a graduate of the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership's flagship Political Leaders Program and Candidate Training Program.

Leonard is designated by the U.S. Green Building Council as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) and an active member in the Filipino-American Community Action Group in Virginia Beach. Leonard enjoys playing tennis, strumming the guitar, and scrapbooking with his wife.



Alice Tong was reappointed to the VAAB in 2017 for a three-year term.

Alice is the political director for Senator Tim Kaine's re-election campaign this year. A veteran of Virginia politics, Alice has worked on multiple statewide races including the 2016 Clinton presidential campaign and four U.S. Senate and House campaigns. Alice served as political director for Win Virginia, under the leadership of CEO Tom Perriello.

Alice is a graduate of the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. She and her husband, Clarence, live in Old Town Alexandria and are proud parents of Sorkin the Labradoodle (@Sorkinofoldtown).



Dr. Shaheen E. Lakhan was appointed to the VAAB in 2018 for a three-year term.

Dr. Lakhan is a physician, scientist, and educator, board-certified in neurology and pain medicine with clinical training from the Cleveland Clinic and Massachusetts General Hospital. He currently serves as medical director at Sage Therapeutics advancing neuroscience drug discovery, development, and delivery.

Formerly, Dr. Lakhan was on the medical staff of leading medical centers (City of Hope; Cambridge Health Alliance), founding neurology department chair and assistant dean of an emerging medical school (California University of Science and Medicine), chair of an active institutional review board (Arrowhead Regional Medical Center), and chief of pain management at a multi-hospital academic healthcare system (Virginia Tech Carilion).

In addition to exemplary clinical service, Dr. Lakhan has an extensive research, educational, and philanthropic portfolio. He has over 100 peer-reviewed journal publications, books, and book chapters; was appointed by California Gov. Brown as Trustee of the Health Professions Education Foundation; and bestowed the Harvard Medical School Dean's Community Service Award for his founding of the Global Neuroscience Initiative Foundation. He was also awarded the President's Call to Service Award for Lifetime Achievement by George W. Bush and The U.S. Congressional Award Gold Medal. In 2017, he was recognized by his peers and inducted as Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, the Academy's highest designation.



Karla Soloria was appointed to the VAAB in 2018 for a one-year term.

Karla Soloria was born in Norfolk, Virginia and grew up in the Hampton Roads area. She earned her Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in History and Politics, at New York University. She earned her law degree from the University Of Virginia School Of Law, where she served as president of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

Karla practiced several years with the law firm of Kaufman & Canoles in Norfolk, focusing on general business litigation, construction, and government contracts law. She then joined the Norfolk City Attorney's office as an Assistant City Attorney, where she handles a broad range of civil litigation matters, including employment disputes, civil rights litigation, tort liability, and workers' compensation.