



THUY THI NGUYEN, J.D.

Since October 2003, Thuy Thi Nguyen (“twee-tee-win”) has served as General Counsel and legislative liaison for the Peralta Community College District, which comprises of Laney College, Merritt College, College of Alameda, and Berkeley City College in Alameda County. At different points during her tenure as General Counsel, Thuy had served in additional roles as Acting Vice Chancellor for Human Resources and District-wide Strategic Planning Manager.

Thuy and her family fled as boat people from Vietnam, and drifted aimlessly in a rickety boat in the Pacific Ocean for about twenty-five days. A commercial ship rescued her family and took them to a refugee camp in Japan. Her family ultimately settled in Oakland, California. A refugee, Thuy grew up in poor, minority communities and her parents still speak limited English.

When she graduated from Castlemont High School in Oakland, the Mayor of Oakland named June 23, 1993 “Thuy Thi Nguyen Day” for her community service. Thuy attended Yale where she earned a B.A. in Philosophy, and UCLA School of Law where she received her Juris Doctor degree in 2000. In 1999, Thuy was selected a Paul and Daisy Soros for New Americans Fellow.

Thuy co-published a book entitled, “25 Vietnamese Americans in 25 Years,” chronicling the first twenty-five years of Vietnamese people in America since the Fall of Saigon. The publication is archived in the Library of Congress, the Viet Museum in San Jose, and many university and public libraries in the country. She has taught education law as an adjunct faculty member at California State University, East Bay.

Thuy has successfully initiated many bills on behalf of the Peralta Colleges. She served on the California State Bar’s Council on Access and Fairness where she created the innovative statewide *2+2+3 Community College Pathway to Law School* initiative as part of an effort to diversify the legal profession. She helped spearhead the Spanish language court interpreter program at Laney College, which has been providing language court interpreter classes for five years. She is appointed to the Judicial Council’s Joint Working Group to develop a statewide Language Access Plan for all state courts.

Thuy co-founded the California Asian and Pacific Islander Community College Trustee and CEO Caucus, and the California Network of Asian Public Administrators. She currently serves as board president of the Marcus A. Foster Education Fund, which supports Oakland public school students and families, and had served as founding President of the Castlemont High School Alumni Association. Thuy is also on the board of Emerge California, which trains Democratic women to run for public office; and the Vietnamese American Professional Women of Silicon Valley.

In 2002, Thuy was listed among “30 Most Influential Asian Americans Under 30” nationally by Rainmaker Political Group (politicalcircus.com). In 2007, she was named one of eighteen “Best Lawyers Under 40” in the country by the National Asian American Bar Association. In 2010, she was inducted into the Castlemont High School Alumni Hall of Fame. Thuy received the 2011 Trailblazer Award from the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California; 2012 Unity Award from the Minority Bar Coalition; and 2013 Strong, Smart & Bold Woman of Distinction Award from Girls Inc. of Alameda County.