

## **STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OVERSIGHT BOARD PRESIDENT**

Esteemed Colleagues,

After careful consideration, I have decided to ask you to support my candidacy for Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB) President. I believe that my academic training, professional experience, and my decades of public service and leadership will allow me to readily guide the nascent SDOB into an efficient and transparent oversight board that will give San Franciscans and neighboring jurisdictions the confidence that we have a Sheriff's Department (Office) that is responsive to the needs of San Francisco and is comprised of well-trained and professional sworn officers and staff who are dedicated to public safety with respect for all.

In the past year, I have demonstrated that I am willing to put in dedicated hours to advancing SDOB's duties and incorporating the voices of all members and the communities we serve. I have been a strong liaison to other City departments and outside agencies that support our work or are called to provide information. I have also been present and engaged at community engagements. I have fostered positive and respectful relationships toward advancing our work and goals.

Perhaps most important to leading a board is that of direct experience. From 2009 to 2021, I served on the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and served as a past president. I am familiar with conducting meetings in compliance with the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance. As an attorney, I am keenly aware of legal issues that require input from the City Attorney's Office. One of the key accomplishments that has been replicated in other jurisdictions is that of the Family Violence Council. San Francisco saw 12 to 14 domestic violence-related homicides annually until the establishment of a Justice and Courage Panel and subsequently the Family Violence Council. Collaboration among responsible agencies and stakeholders is necessary to achieve short-term and long-term policy goals. Dashboards and data collection are also necessary to provide measures of accountability and allocation of resources. Through work involving representatives from the Department and Commission on the Status of Women, the San Francisco Police Department, Family Court, the Sheriff's Department, and Adult Probation, San Francisco reduced the number of domestic violence-related homicides to zero for almost a four-year period.

But, work on a public commission or board is not something that happens only at City Hall and sitting behind a dais. I believe in community engagement and that is the hallmark of successful public service.

I am a fourth-generation San Franciscan whose family dates to the late 1880s on my mother's side. My father was an immigrant and for the majority of his career was a civil engineer for the City, retiring as head of DPW's Structural Section. My grandparents and parents not only spoke of community service and civic engagement but set an active example. My maternal grandfather was a co-founder of the San Francisco Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance in 1914/15 that fostered civic engagement, promoted the importance of voting, and included charitable work for families in need and the elderly. My father sat on not-for-profit boards that served immigrants in everyday services, job readiness and placement, and mental health. He was tapped by Mayor Dianne Feinstein to help establish the Shanghai Sister City relationship; he did that by first engaging a delegation of

engineers. My father also served on community economic task forces after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

My academic training is in mathematics and statistics and the law. I have been an attorney with the CA Department of Insurance since 2001. I am charged with prosecuting enforcement cases as part of my regulatory duties. I work with investigators and conduct disciplinary actions involving individuals, insurance agencies, and companies through administrative hearings or settlements. Our work is to serve the public in consumer protection and education.

I have served on organizational boards and committees addressing hate crimes, civil rights education, and community health advocacy. I served on the Saint Francis Memorial Hospital Board from 2009 to 2018 as a fiduciary trustee. From 1998 to 2015, I actively served on the local civil rights committees for the local Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. From 1998 to 2013, I actively served as a public arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, formerly the National Association of Securities Industry Dispute Resolution, Inc.

From 2001 to 2023, I served as a delegate to the CA Democratic Party and from 2005, I served on its Executive Board. I was elected president of the Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus, serving two terms from 2005 to 2009. I served continuously by appointment to the CA Democratic Party Platform Committee since 2005 and served as a co-chair from 2009. In 2019, I was named a lead co-chair. I have conducted listening tours to note public testimony and have pored over written testimony. As a co-chair, each two-year term I made committee assignments and conducted meetings to bring forth consensus language for a platform to be ratified by an entire delegation, working with some 28 committee members drafting and editing. With a focus on police accountability, I personally sought out African American representation for the 2015 Platform Committee as we revised the criminal justice plank to address police training and unconscious bias. Our platform is timely and is based on active consensus building. The criminal justice plank is particularly robust and addresses fair and just laws and equitable enforcement; crime prevention; law enforcement practices and accountability; victim advocacy; juvenile justice; and, fairness for the accused and rehabilitation of offenders.

I again look forward to working with all of you and appreciate your consideration of my candidacy. My civic engagement exhibits full teamwork and a deep appreciation of voices from our lived experiences.

*Please also refer the video below of my 2021 Rules Committee hearing and my biography.*

Rules Committee hearing

Beginning at 4:53.

[https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/39865?view\\_id=13&redirect=true&h=339b162988398eb451ee0039c4e9ba5e](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/39865?view_id=13&redirect=true&h=339b162988398eb451ee0039c4e9ba5e)

## Biography

Julie D. Soo is a senior staff counsel with the California Department of Insurance and is charged with prosecuting enforcement cases among her regulatory duties. In 2017, she prevailed in a \$12 million settlement against a surplus line insurer, one of the largest of its kind for the Department. She volunteers in a variety of community causes, including addressing hate crimes, civil rights education, campaign work, and community health advocacy. Julie served on the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (SFCOSW) from 2009 to 2021 and is a past president. In November 2021, Julie was appointed to the San Francisco Sheriff's Department Oversight Board. She was a delegate to the California Democratic Party from 2001 to 2023 and from 2005 served on its Executive Board as a co-chair and lead co-chair of the Platform Committee and served two terms as the chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus. Julie also served nine years on the Board of Trustees for Saint Francis Memorial Hospital. Along with other Asian American attorneys who sit on the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Civil Rights Committee, Julie tackles civil rights issues affecting Asian Americans and their communities. From her experience working on the Dr. Wen Ho Lee case with the Asian Law Caucus over 20 years prior, Julie is again tackling racial profiling of Chinese American scientists. A fourth-generation San Franciscan, she is a Lowell High School alumna and holds an A.B. with a double major in Pure Mathematics and Statistics from U.C. Berkeley, an M.A. in Applied Mathematics from U.C. San Diego, and a J.D. from Golden Gate University School of Law.

Prior to law, Julie was engaged in pension actuarial science and insurance underwriting, and was a medical economist. Julie is well-known for her past work as a journalist with *AsianWeek*, a pan-Asian national weekly based in San Francisco, where she covered breaking stories, provided legal and political commentary, and wrote about Asian American history and notable figures. She appeared on *New California Media*, a public television news roundtable for California's ethnic news community, and served as a guest host for *Voice of the Neighborhood*, a political radio talk show targeted to the Bay Area Cantonese-speaking community. She was selected as a 2006 California Endowment Health Journalism fellow based on her story about a Chinatown shooting where six youths were wounded and her discovery that San Francisco's leading trauma center lacked interpreters past late evening hours to help non-English proficient patients and families. The story caught the attention of the Mayor, Chief of Police, and hospital administrators and led to policy changes. Julie has also served as a legislative aide and advisor to members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Julie received a Women Making History Award in 2004 from the Democratic Women's Forum of San Francisco for engaging more young women in politics and being elected as a district-level delegate for presidential candidate John Kerry, representing Nancy Pelosi's Congressional District. In August 2007, as Statewide Chair of the California Democratic Party's Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, Julie announced her support of Senator Hillary Clinton for President and in October 2007, she was named as a California co-chair of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) for Hillary. In May 2008, she was named as an at-large alternate to the Democratic National Convention.

Julie is a 2012 recipient of the Filipina Women's Network Vagina Warrior Award and the 2013 recipient of the Asian Women's Resource Center's Outstanding Giving Back Award for her work in fostering culturally and linguistically competent services for families affected by domestic violence and human trafficking. In 2015, Julie received a Best Community Leader Award from the Korean American Journalists Association for her contributions in seeking justice for the "comfort women" of World War II and their families. In 2018, Julie was recognized by the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCOHT) with an Inspiring Leadership Award for her role as a former co-chair and bringing greater attention to labor trafficking. In 2019, the Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition (PAAWBAC) honored Julie with a Women Warrior Award for distinguishing herself in her profession while advancing Asian Pacific

Islander women and promoting the interests of API communities. She collaborated on a documentary film on the 14th Amendment and birthright citizenship, *14: Dred Scott, Wong Kim Ark & Vanessa Lopez*, and has gone on to speak at film screenings about *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, the 1898 case wherein the United States Supreme Court articulated the term “birthright citizenship” in its interpretation of the 14th Amendment, the Chinese Exclusion Act, and the historic exploitation of immigrants. Julie’s most recent film collaboration was as advisor to *Try Harder!* about San Francisco’s Lowell High School. She was proud to have watched the Sundance 2021 premiere screening with Justice Stephen Breyer, a fellow Lowellite. Julie has conversational abilities in Cantonese and has studied Mandarin to further her community work.