



In memoriam: Anjan Choudhury (1979 -2022)



April 8, 2022 – SABA-SC mourns the loss of Anjan Choudhury, who passed away on April 3, 2022. Anjan served as SABA-SC president during the 2015-2016 term, was a longtime member of SABA-SC’s steering committee, and was the recipient of SABA-SC’s 2017 Mentor of the Year Award.

Anjan was a pillar of our community. If you have been to a SABA-SC event in the last few years, you have probably met Anjan. And if you have met Anjan, then you know that he was overflowing with talent, generosity, enthusiasm, and energy that elevated everyone around him.

Anjan was a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP since 2015. At Munger, he built a successful entertainment litigation practice representing Netflix, Disney, the

Creative Artists Agency, and other major players in the industry. Anjan's professional accomplishments earned him a number of accolades. In 2015, he was named to *Variety* magazine's *Legal Impact Report* and the following year he received the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Best Under 40 Award. Before entering private practice, Anjan served as a law clerk for Judge Marsha Berzon on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

Anjan's professional and academic successes were just a small part of his legacy. He dedicated countless *pro bono* hours to marginalized communities and those in need. In 2014, Anjan successfully represented the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking in protecting the confidentiality of the location of shelters for trafficking victims and their families. Five years later, he was recognized with a "Volunteer Recognition Award" by Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles for his litigation work challenging the City of Los Angeles's Countering Violent Extremism program.

Helping others was in Anjan's DNA. For every minute he spent to practicing law, he dedicated two to training the next generation of practitioners. He was committed to mentoring students and lawyers at every stage of the pipeline into the legal profession—from high school to post-law school. A former debate champion himself, Anjan served as a debate coach for Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, MD. Under his watch, the ["debate program \[\] bec\[a\]me a national powerhouse."](#) He later served as a coach at the Hockaday School in Dallas, TX, and, after moving to Los Angeles, continued to coach local high school debaters. Many of his former students have become lawyers.

Anjan's commitment to mentorship and diversity has benefited young lawyers across Southern California and the country. His mentees describe Anjan as kind, supportive, and singularly dedicated. Professor Guha Krishnamurthi, Anjan's former colleague, described him as a mentor "who would always find time to help in any and every way he could." Former SABA-SC president Vandana Kapur recalls:

I met Anjan about ten years ago through the SABA mentorship program, and, as a junior attorney, had no concept of what good fortune I had to be paired with him. What began (and remained) as a great mentorship pairing, with Anjan guiding me, supporting me, and cheering me on at every point in my career, also became an incredible friendship. I always marveled at how

Anjan gave so much of himself to others while also proving so successful in his career.

Anjan championed diversity through his mentorship efforts. At Munger, he co-chaired Munger's Diversity Committee and spearheaded the MTO Fellows program, a pre-law to law firm pipeline. A recent Munger summer associate said: "Anjan introduced me to MTO, and I credit him with paving my way to a rewarding summer associateship there. Rarely does anyone as accomplished as Anjan make new lawyers feel so welcome during the campus recruiting process, and do so with his spiritedness."

Anjan was a phenomenal lawyer and an even better human being. The world is far worse without him and far better because of him. He will be sorely missed.

SABA-SC will include a remembrance for Anjan Choudhury during its [17th Annual Dinner & Installation](#) on May 5, 2022, at the DoubleTree by Hilton. Details can be found [here](#).

Munger's remembrance to Anjan can be [found here](#), and tributes to Anjan written by former MTO Fellows can be [read here](#).