



Education: Juris Doctor, Georgetown University Law Center; Bachelor of Science, economics and political science, University of California, Davis

Company Name: Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Industry: Law

Company CEO: Kim Koopersmith, Chairperson

Company Headquarters Location: N/A

Number of Employees: 1,726

Your Location (if different from above): Washington, DC

Words you live by: Always striving to stay ahead of the curve.

Who is your personal hero? My parents and my mother-in-law; together they possess all the qualities I work to embody.

What book are you reading? *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* by Adam Grant

What was your first job: Research assistant

Favorite charity: Capital Area Food Bank; they provided a critical lifeline during the height of the pandemic

Interests: Travel & hiking

Family: Kendrick, Lauren and Kendrick Jr.

The Spirit of Doing More in this Time of Change

As our post-pandemic world starts to take shape, the notion of falling back into my pre-pandemic life feels unlikely and at some level, unthinkable. In many ways, I've come full circle from my childhood as the daughter of South Asian Muslim immigrants doing their best to make it in America.

Like so many first-generation Americans, growing up, I found myself in a constant push and pull between the two very different cultures that defined me. I attempted to balance and integrate various aspects of each into my life. This ranged from adopting the intense work ethic that made my father so successful, to forging my own career path on Capitol Hill, to fulfilling my responsibilities to my family and overall community. Because of the energy and intense thought associated with those deliberations, I

eventually found my equilibrium and a strong sense of confidence.

It has been years since competing priorities and values have overwhelmed my inner thoughts. But, when I think about this past year—the countless deaths, deepening economic inequality, and increased incidents of violence, particularly against people of color—it forced me to revisit and reassess. The pandemic amplified so many of the societal challenges we are facing, driving home the need to rebuild for the future. That process has already begun, and we see glimmers of hope, whether in the nationwide protests in the wake of the George Floyd incident or in gestures of solidarity in response to a dangerous increase in hate crimes against the AAPI community.

The values ingrained in me from my earliest days—hard work

as an equalizer, persistence, public service, and reverence for our elders—somehow feel under attack as I look at the senseless violence, particularly against older AAPI women. These mothers and grandmothers represent our own families, who made selfless sacrifices to benefit the next generation. Thankfully, these events have also brought people together based on shared values, underscoring lessons of my childhood and the responsibility to do more. So, I have also refocused and now devote more time as a board member for the AAPI Victory Fund and as co-chair of Akin Gump's AAPI firm-wide resource group, all in the spirit of doing more. Most important, I know it cannot end there. I need to continue to leverage my skill set to do my small part during this time of change.