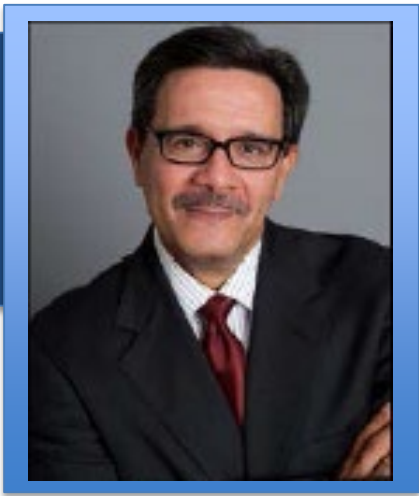




Columbia Alumni Association
Board Member
Candidate Biographies



Rolando T. Acosta '79CC, '82LAW

Presiding Justice, Appellate Division

First Department, NY State Supreme Court

The Hon. Rolando T. Acosta was elected as a New York State Supreme Court Justice in New York County in 2002 and appointed by the governor to the Appellate Division, First Department, in January 2008. In May 2017, Justice Acosta was appointed by the governor to serve as the Court's Presiding Justice. Justice Acosta is a graduate of Columbia College and Columbia University School of Law. He is the recipient of Columbia University's Medal for Excellence, and is a member of Columbia's Athletics Hall of Fame. He currently serves as a Trustee of Columbia University, a member of the CAA Board, the CAA Task Force on Belonging, and as a member of The Dean's Council of Columbia Law School. In 2013, he was awarded Columbia Law School's Wien Prize for Social Responsibility. Justice Acosta was raised in the South Bronx and Washington Heights, after having immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic at the age of 14. Prior to his judicial service, he held various posts with the Legal Aid Society, including Attorney-in-Charge of the largest civil trial office. Justice Acosta has also served in Mayor David Dinkins' administration as Deputy Commissioner for Law Enforcement for the New York City Commission on Human Rights. In this role, he was responsible for directing all of the Commission's investigatory and prosecutorial functions, including the planning and execution of litigation strategy.



Adil Ahamed '12BUS

*Managing Director
Destination Auto Group*

Adil is Managing Director at Destination Auto Group, a Vancouver-based group of dealerships that represent numerous brands including Toyota, Honda, Mazda and FCA. With over 10 years of experience in finance and business development, Adil has developed competencies in leadership, corporate planning, financial strategy and governance. He obtained his MBA in Finance & Real Estate from Columbia Business School and his BA in Economics from Cornell University. He currently serves as an Executive Member of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO) BC Chapter, Co-President of the Columbia Business School Alumni Club of Vancouver, a member of the CAA Board, on the Leaders Experience Steering Committee, and an alumni interviewer for both Columbia Business School and Cornell University. He and his wife have two young children, and he is passionate about international development, knowledge sharing, and skiing.



Natasha Lebedeva '94JRN

Director for International Affairs

NBC News

Natasha Lebedeva grew up in St. Petersburg, Russia. After earning her Masters in mathematics, she came to New York as the first Russian student to attend Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. In her role at NBC, she is responsible for special/major international news projects, international breaking news coverage, exclusive interviews with world leaders, and access to foreign countries. Lebedeva serves as a liaison between NBC and countries including North Korea, Syria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Lebanon, China, and others. Prior to NBC, she was a producer for CNN, a reporter for Newsweek magazine and a producer for PBS. She also produced a number of documentaries shown on PBS, the Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and at the Library of Congress and Stanford University. Lebedeva is a recipient of several Emmy Awards; International Press Club Award; National Headliner Award; Alfred I. DuPont - Columbia Award. She is a participant at the Davos Economic Forum, Munich Security Conference, Halifax International Security Forum, Aspen Security Forum, St Petersburg International Economic Forum, and more. Natasha serves as a member of the CAA Board, Co-President of the CAA DC Club, on the Programs Committee, Leaders Experience Steering Committee, and the Alumni Representative Committee at Columbia College. She is a Board member of the Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation, a global development organization that promotes the health and wellbeing of children in need, and consults for the Powerful Women's Weekend, an international organization that promotes women's leadership. She speaks four languages.



Maryam Hassan '20CC

Strategy Analyst

Deloitte

Maryam K Hassan is a 2020 graduate of Columbia College and the co-founder of the Columbia Arab Alumni Association. In her time at Columbia, Maryam was a two-time captain of the varsity women's track team as a long and triple jumper, the co-chair of Arab/Middle Eastern Family Tree in the Columbia Mentoring Initiative, and an NSOP Crew Captain. In her senior year, she received the Edward S. Brainard Prize, Indelible Mark Award, Multicultural Affairs Award, and recognition as a Senior Marshal for her continued service and leadership to her peers, especially in the Arab community. Outside of athletics and the Arab community, Maryam is an avid photographer, and thoroughly enjoys connecting back to her Egyptian roots through music, movies, and literature. Maryam holds her Bachelor of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies and Anthropology, and a Master of Arts in Global Affairs from Rice University. She currently works for Deloitte.



Daniel D. Billings

'15NRS, '17NRS, '18NRS

Doctor of Nursing Practice–Hematology, CUIMC

Daniel Billings was a full-time opera singer, living in Germany. He studied music at Boston University and the Julliard School. Daniel has performed at Carnegie hall, with orchestras, on national television, recorded albums as soloist, performed for President and Senator Clinton, served as artist consultant, judged competitions, performed opera in Europe and for Her Royal Highness Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. After almost 20 years of singing, Daniel transitioned to become a Nurse Practitioner, earning his Bachelor's and Master of Science in Nursing, and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice at Columbia University's School of Nursing. Daniel is a Hematology Nurse Practitioner at the Columbia University Medical Center's Cancer Center. Daniel has served as a mentor to new nursing students at Columbia and often serves as an Alumni Ambassador for accepted students. He remains engaged with the Columbia University community, serving on the Columbia University School of Nursing Alumni Board of Directors, as a member of the CAA Board, the CAA University Senate Relations Committee, and an Alumni Senator. Daniel also serves on the School of Nursing's Alumni Board and its Reunion Planning Committee, as well as Co-Chair of CUIMC Cancer Center's Nurse Practitioner Council.



Jillisa Brittan '86GSAS

*Circuit Mediator, Seventh Circuit
US Court of Appeals*

Jillisa Brittan is a mediator in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, where she has conducted over 1,700 mediations in civil appeals. She is a member of the American Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Council, and served as co-chair of the ABA's Advanced Mediation and Advocacy Institutes in 2015-2017. She also chaired the 2015 Federal Circuit Mediators Conference. Before her appointment at the Seventh Circuit, Ms. Brittan was a partner in the trial group at McDermott Will & Emery in its Chicago office. Ms. Brittan received her JD from the University of Chicago Law School, where she was a member of the Law Review; a Master's degree in English Literature from Columbia University, where she was a President's Fellow; and a BA with honors in English from Northwestern University. In addition to serving as a current member of the CAA Board, Ms. Brittan is Chair of the CAA Leaders Experience Steering Committee, past Chair of the GSAS Development Committee and Marketing Committee, and is the immediate past President of the Alumni Board of Directors of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University, and is the 2017 recipient of Columbia's Richard E. Witten Award for Volunteer Leadership; she also serves as a Senior Trustee at the Latin School of Chicago. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hyde Park Arts Center, and of High Jump.



Eash Kumarasamy '08SEAS

*Executive Vice President, Treasury & Finance
Basin Holdings LLC*

Eash Kumarasamy is the Executive Vice President of Treasury & Finance for Basin Holdings, an industrial holding company focused on manufacturing and services in the oil & gas and industrial sectors. In his role, he focuses on financing and capital raising, investor relations, and liquidity and bank management across all of Basin's subsidiaries. He has been with Basin since 2011 holding several positions prior to his current one, including CFO of one of Basin's divisions and Head of M&A of Basin Holdings. Before joining Basin, he worked in the Global Communications and Media Group at Lehman Brothers & Barclays Capital. Mr. Kumarasamy serves as current member of the CAA Board, a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, and serves on the SEAS CEYA Board. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University. He lives in New York City.



Andrew Giangrave '05BUS

*Chief Credit Officer, Commercial Finance
First Citizens Bank*

Andrew Giangrave is a Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer, Commercial Finance at First Citizens Bank with over 28 years of experience in corporate finance, restructuring and distressed debt. Andrew joined the CIT Group (predecessor to First Citizens) in 2006 as part of the Syndicated Loan Group. Prior to his current role, he led the Problem Loan Management group overseeing a \$2B portfolio of distressed assets. Upon graduation from the University of Connecticut, Andrew started his career at GE Capital where he held various positions in underwriting, portfolio management, restructuring and distressed debt. Andrew serves as a Board Member and Treasurer for the Columbia University Club of New York.



Alicia D. Guevara '94CC, '19BUS

CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC

Alicia D. Guevara is CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC – the first woman to lead the 118-year old nonprofit. Alicia is an accomplished and proven nonprofit executive with 30 years' experience of leadership. Alicia brings deep knowledge in youth development, having rooted her life's work in pursuit of access and inclusion for young people. Her career took shape impacting diverse audiences across myriad issues like job readiness and criminal justice as well as community, workforce, and leadership development. Alicia has led regional youth serving organizations, including at Peace First and Year Up. Prior to her current role, she was executive director of Part of the Solution. She has also led fundraising operations for several nonprofits. Most recently, Alicia was named to the 2021 New York City & State Power of Diversity Latino 100 List and Crain's 2022 Notable Black Executives List. Alicia serves on the Task Force of Belonging, is a member of the Columbia College Board of Visitors, Columbia College Reunion Committee and was past President of LAACU. Alicia prides herself on being a native New Yorker, she lives with her husband and two young children, all of whom enjoy spending time outdoors and rooting for NY's "home" teams.



James H. Kolker '84CC, '86GSAPP

*Associate Vice Chancellor and University Architect
Washington University in St. Louis*

James Kolker, FAIA, LEED AP, is Associate Vice Chancellor and University Architect at Washington University in St. Louis. He is responsible for stewardship of the university's campuses, leadership of campus planning, and for the design and development of all capital projects, renovation and new facilities, space management, and project planning and programming. He provides strategic vision and direction and is a leader of the core facilities team, who address all university facilities, their operations, maintenance, and utilities initiatives. He partners with units responsible for off-campus real estate, security, sustainability, parking and transportation, dining services, and environmental safety. In 2018, Kolker was named a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects. Prior to his position at Washington University, he was Principal at Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates in Philadelphia, serving as architect and planner on a wide range of academic and other sites throughout the world, including Dartmouth, UC Santa Barbara, and the University of Michigan. Kolker serves as a member on the CAA Board, Co-Chair of the CAA 2027 Task Force, Co-Chair of the CAA Strategic Planning Committee, a member of the CAA of St. Louis Club, on the CAA 2023 Task Force, and was past President of the GSAPP Alumni Board.



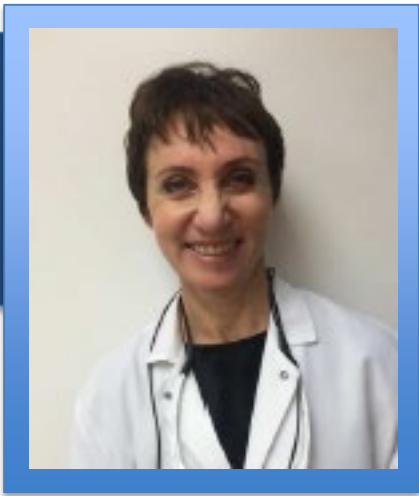
Thomas “Chef Dr.” Lo ’08VPS

MD, CEO

Modern Renaissance Anesthesia

Thomas Lo, M.D., D.ABA, known as “Chef Dr. Lo,” is a board-certified Anesthesiologist, Chef, and CEO of Modern Renaissance Anesthesia. Dr. Lo graduated from Yale University with a degree in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, and pursued medicine at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was awarded the Virginia P. Apgar Award for excellence in Anesthesiology and Critical Care upon graduating from Columbia. Dr. Lo remained at Columbia for his residency in the Department of Anesthesiology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Lo is a Diplomat of the American Board of Anesthesiology and has served as past president of the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons Alumni Association. Dr. Lo served on the CAA 2027 Task Force, the Alumni Trustee Nominating Committee and on AACA. Dr. Lo was the recipient of the 2021 Columbia Alumni Medal.

Dr. Lo was raised in Buffalo, NY. Before, pursuing his career in medicine, Dr. Lo studied classic French cooking at the French Culinary Institute in New York. Dr. Lo has appeared on Food Network’s Iron Chef America and was the winner of Food Network’s Kitchen Crash. Dr. Lo is also a partner of Spy C Cuisine restaurant located in the heart of Forest Hills, Queens, which has gained critical accolades from the New York Times and has earned a Michelin Bib Gourmand award.



Michelle S. Mirsky '77DM

Dentist

Private Practice

Michelle Mirsky's first profession was as a teacher in the NYC Public Schools. She quickly realized that she could expand that vision, having a strong background from Bronx High School of Science and a degree from SUNY Stony Brook (1968-1971). She applied to dental school and started at Columbia University CDM in the fall of 1973. After graduation, Mirsky taught at CDM and started a private practice in Manhattan. Both the practice of dentistry and the teaching responsibilities gave her the opportunity to be involved in the academic world again and mentor and teach. Her profession and her family life gave her the vision she has today for staying involved in organized dentistry, as well as the need to help others. Teaching at the clinic enabled Mirsky to give back to both the School and the community of Washington Heights. As a dentist, she has treated generations of families and helped individuals maintain their dental health and provide services that both informed and improved their function. Dentistry is a lifelong career and so is mentoring and leadership. Mirsky has served on the Columbia University CDM board in all facets, from Secretary to President for the past 10 years. The organization has grown and CDM's programs have expanded during this time. She currently serves as a member of the CAA Board and CAA Arts Access. Today Mirsky practices in partnership with her husband, Dr. David Abelson, and their son, Dr. Dan Abelson. She looks forward to many more years in this capacity.



Trina Nurse '22SW

MSW

Human Resource Administration (DSS)

Trina Nurse is pursuing her Master's in Social Welfare within the Accelerated Policy Program from Columbia University. She obtained her undergrad from Monroe College where she majored in Criminal justice and minor in human services. She has over 13 years of experience working in the human services field ranging from governmental city agencies to nonprofit organizations concentrating on victims of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault and low socioeconomic status. During her time at Columbia University she has taken part in being an orientation leader, Vice president of Student Union, Latin-X, First Gen caucus leader and Co-founder of the Parent and Caregiver Caucus. While holding these roles at Columbia School of Social Work Trina has received approval from the Deans committee to conduct a school wide needs assessment. With the findings of the needs assessment she is currently advocating for scholarships and grants for current and incoming students. Trina is a member of the inaugural class of CAA Scholars and is a recipient of the 2022 Campbell Award. Trina is currently the chairperson for NYC DOE Parent Advisory Council, during her spare time she volunteers working with local community programs with families in the NYC homeless shelter system and families with active Child Protective Services cases. She aspires to influence the decision making in policies in order to make an impactful change within a system for the protection, advancement and visibility of those in disadvantaged communities.



Andrew Sohn '04CC

Co-Founder & CEO

Due West Education

Andrew Sohn is the Co-Founder and CEO of Due West Education, an international education company headquartered in Beijing. Andrew founded Due West in 2009 with fellow Columbian Michael Novielli '03CC, with the vision of facilitating cross-cultural exchange between the Chinese and US education systems while setting the standard for providing high quality, ethical education services. Over the last ten years, Due West has been able to create a strong brand in China's fast-growing study abroad industry and has expanded internationally with a team of more than 75 passionate educators working across offices based in Beijing, Suzhou, Singapore, and Boston. Andrew holds a BA in English from Columbia College. After graduating from Columbia, Andrew joined the Investment Banking division of J.P. Morgan, where he worked in the Financial Sponsor Group. Prior to founding Due West, Andrew worked at Irving Place Capital (IPC), a leading New York-based institutional private equity firm focused on middle market investing. Sohn serves as a member on the CAA Board, the CAA Scholarship Committee, CAA Strategic Planning Committee, and on the Columbia College Class of 2004 Reunion Committee.



Mallory Stellato '20PH

Program Manager

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Mallory Stellato currently leads communications and educational programming at the BioMedical Engineering and Imaging Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She is a 2020 graduate of the Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health with a certificate in Public Health Research Methods. During her time at Mailman, Mallory was part of the inaugural Food Fellows program, where she interned with Glynwood, a Hudson Valley-based agricultural organization to develop programs that combine food, medicine and agriculture to benefit human and environmental health. She was also President of the student food policy organization and played viola with the CUIMC Symphony Orchestra. Prior to Columbia, Mallory managed development and communications for the national nonprofit Wellness in the Schools. She has been a membership volunteer for The Metropolitan Opera and currently volunteers as a crisis counselor via the Crisis Text Line. Mallory is a member of the CAA Recent Alumni & Student Committee and the CAA 2027 Strategic Planning Task Force and participated in CU There and Alum-is-in. She graduated from Cornell University in 2015 with a BS in Biology and Society.