

The Lee Family – Chester, Diana and Michael

Both Chester and Diana Lee are second generation Chinese-Americans whose fathers served in the US Army during World War II and whose mothers came to the US as war brides. Chester grew up in Chinatown and attended PS 23, Jr HS 65, Brooklyn Tech and Columbia University School of Engineering and Business School. Diana grew up in Hollis Queens and attended PS 35, Hunter College High School, Queens College and New York University Law School.

Chester worked as a VP in Citibank, at IBM and AIG in senior project management positions. He served on the Board of Chinatown Planning Council and was its former Chairman. He is a founder and current board member of the First American International Bank, a community bank with eight branches serving the Chinese American community in New York City. He also serves on the board of NYU Lutheran Augustana Center for Extended Care and Rehabilitation. He is a past president of the First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, a former board member of Brooklyn Ecumenical Cooperatives which owns 1,000 apartments for low income residents in central Brooklyn, and a former trustee of the Brooklyn Historical Society. He is an active alumnus of Columbia University serving in leadership roles in many alumni organizations on campus.

Diana has been an attorney for over 40 years in both the private and public sector, specializing in real estate development. She was a former law partner of Reginald F. Lewis, Deputy General Counsel at the NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development, Deputy Bureau Chief of the Real Estate Financing Bureau of the NYS Attorney General's Office, New York Counsel at Kaye Scholer Fierman Hays and Handler, and partner at Kalkines, Arky, ZaLL & Bernstein and Manatt Phelps & Phillips, LLP. Diana was a founding director of OCA, New York Chapter, and Asian American Legal Defense Fund. She has also been on the Boards of AAFE, Nonprofit Finance Fund and the YWCA of Brooklyn (where she served as Co-Chair). She is currently on the Boards of First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn and the Brooklyn Charter School in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Chester and Diana have two sons, Michael, Executive Director of Apex for Youth, and Douglas, Vice President of Investments at AIG, and three grandsons, Connor, Max and Owen. They have been residents of Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn for over 30 years.

Michael attended Saint Ann's School and the University of Pennsylvania. He was formerly Director of Development at the Committee of 100 and Executive Director of Apex since 2011. Under his leadership, Apex is celebrating its 25th anniversary next year and has expanded to serve over 1,300 low-income students from the Asian-American community in NYC.