

OCA & FCC PRESENT:

# *Asian American in 2018*

IDENTITY · CHALLENGES · OPPORTUNITIES



## *The Importance of Citizenship*

Citizenship matters for all immigrants and their families – whether you are an adoptive parent, an adoptee, the child of an immigrant or an immigrant yourself. In a time of shifting legal standards and increased enforcement, ALL immigrants to the U.S. need the security of citizenship and the documentation to prove it. Learn about critical documents every immigrant must have, how adoptive families and adoptees may be vulnerable without readoption (including FCC families), what you can do for your family, and how to help those without citizenship.



### **C. J. Lyford**

CJ's law practice is devoted exclusively to legal representation in the areas of International Adoption, Pennsylvania Domestic Adoption, Immigration and Citizenship. She graduated from

law school in 1982 and for the next twelve years worked as an associate in a large law firm handling general litigation cases as well as in a corporate setting. However, in 1994, she was fortunate enough to be able to adopt a child from China. As a result, she became committed to helping other families and individuals add to their families through adoption. In addition, as the number of international adoptions increased, she realized that many families needed legal assistance in handling and navigating the complex immigration and related legal issues that are involved in international adoption. In 1997 she formally opened her practice as a Pennsylvania immigration lawyer and since that time has been representing individuals and families in the areas of adoption and immigration.



### **Maureen Farrell**

**Moderator**

Maureen is mom to Lily and Cali, both adopted from China. Maureen has been board chair of FCC Northern NJ since 2009 and board member of OCA NJ since 2011. She was OCA NJ

secretary 2011–2015 and is currently the Executive VP of OCA NJ. She is also a board member of FCC Greater NY since 2016. Maureen and her husband Alan are strong supporters of OCA/FCC partnerships and have made it their mission to bring FCC and OCA together to support our Chinese children. Maureen was a member of the committee that brought the first “FCC Day” to the 2016 OCA National Convention in Jersey City NJ. When she's not working with FCC and OCA, Maureen is VP Financial Management for the NJ Family Planning League – the nonprofit agency that provides statewide public funding for family planning services to women's health clinics. Maureen has an MBA in Finance and Operations Management from NYU Stern School of Business.



### **Anne Montgomery**

Anne is the Founder and Director of Chinese for Families, a Chinese language school and publisher in the Philadelphia metro area. She holds an MSc in anthropology from the University of

Pennsylvania and an MA in Middle East Studies from the University of Texas Austin. She began her career as an intelligence officer with the US Navy. She now devotes her time to teaching Chinese as a second language, advocating for adoptee citizenship rights through the Adoptee Rights Campaign and organizing with the ACLU of Pennsylvania.



### **Cassandra Montgomery**

Cassandra is a high school student in Pennsylvania and a transracial adoptee from China. In school she studies film, participates in the Black Student Union and the Rainbow Coalition. She campaigns for social justice in the areas of immigration,

common sense gun laws, LGBTQ rights, and racial equality. Over the last two years she met with 10 Congressional offices and made multiple presentations on behalf of the Adoptee Rights Campaign, coordinated the National Walkout for Gun Safety at her high school, and holds a fellowship with the Combined Campaign in Pennsylvania.