



Name in English: Debra Wong Yang
Name in Chinese: 杨黄金玉 [楊黄金玉]
Name in Pinyin: Yáng Huáng Jīnyù
Gender: Female
Birth Year: 1959
Birth Place: Los Angeles, California
Philanthropy:

Profession (s): Lawyer, California State Judge, Professor

Education: 1981, Pitzer College; J.D., 1985, Boston College Law School

Award(s): 2002, Public Service Award from the Asian Pacific Bar Association; 2003, Trailblazers award from the National Pacific American Bar Association; 2004, Pitzer College of the Claremont Colleges Distinguished Alumni Award; 2007, Women's Leadership Award

Contribution(s): Former United States Attorney for the Central District of California. She was appointed in May 2002 by President George W. Bush, the first Asian-American woman to serve as a United States Attorney. She was only forty-two at the time. Before becoming a US Attorney, Ms. Yang served as a California state judge in the Los Angeles Municipal Court. As a federal prosecutor, she handled violent crimes, white-collar crimes, international money laundering, arson and computer crimes. She has been an adjunct professor at the USC School of Law, teaching trial advocacy. She was also an instructor at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and an instructor at California's Judicial College.

As US Attorney for the Central District of California, Ms. Yang led the largest United States Attorney's Office outside of Washington, D.C., serving about 18 million people. During her first year in office, her staff filed 483 cases of business fraud. She served on President Bush's Corporate Fraud Task Force, the Ninth Circuit Jury Reform Committee. She was selected as chair for the Attorney General's Advisory Committees on Cyber/Intellectual Property and Civil Rights. Five months before she left her position as US Attorney, Ms. Yang had opened an investigation into the relationship between Representative Jerry Lewis and a lobbyist. She has denied that she was pressured to resign.

After resigning from her position as US Attorney, Ms. Yang has become a partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Los Angeles office. She is co-chair of the firm's Crisis Management Practice Group and the White Collar Defense and Investigations Practice Group. She has also served as President of the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles; she was influential in the creation of the museum. She is a member of Committee 100.

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