



Name in English: Frank H. Wu

Name in Chinese: 吴华扬 [吳華揚]

Name in Pinyin: Wú Huáyáng

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1967

Birth Place: Cleveland, Ohio

Current location: Detroit, Michigan/Washington DC

Author of “Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White”

Profession(s): Lawyer, Author, Law Professor, Law School Dean

Education: B.A. – John Hopkins University, 1988; J.D. – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 1991; Management Development Program, Graduate School of Education, Harvard, 2006

Awards: 2008, Chang-Lin Tien Education Leadership Award, Asia Pacific Foundation; 2007, Trailblazer’s Award, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; 2004, 20 Best Scholars in the Nation, Black Issues in Higher Education; 2004, Best Under 40 Lawyers, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Contribution (s):

Raised in Detroit, Michigan, Frank Wu was often the only Asian American among his Caucasian classmates. After enduring innumerable childhood slights and taunts he recalls asking his mother, “Why are we Chinese?” It was only as he reached adulthood that he realized that this treatment didn’t represent something directed at his family personally but a more generalized racial prejudice in society. It was Frank’s involvement in the “Justice for Vincent Chin” movement that followed the 1982 beating death of a innocent Chinese American man by two unemployed white autoworkers in Detroit, that turned him into an advocate for moving the American racial debate beyond the usual Black-White dynamic to include all shades of color.

Frank Wu’s career reflects this life calling. Straight out of law school, his first two jobs were enviable legal career cornerstones: a judicial clerkship (1991-92) with U.S. District Judge Frank Batista in Cleveland, Ohio, followed by a position with the well regarded San Francisco law firm of Morrison and Foerster, (1992-94) where he devoted a quarter of his time to providing legal representation to indigent individuals. Instead of staying for what appeared to be the start of a lucrative legal career though, Frank left for the first of many academic positions of increasing prominence to pursue a more personal calling – teaching not only the law, but its application within a multiracial American society.

From 1995 to 2004, Frank Wu taught and became a tenured Professor of Law at Howard University in Washington DC, the leading liberal arts university for African Americans in the nation. It was during this time (2003) that he published his first book, “Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White,” which rapidly became a standard text used in Asian American college courses nationally. Its place in American literature

has been compared to W.E.B. DuBois' classic "The Souls of Black Folks." He left his professorship for the even more challenging position as Dean of Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan, a position he held from 2004-2008. He became one of only three Asian Americans ever appointed as dean of a law school in the United States. Due to his wife's illness he resigned from this position in 2008 and resumed his professorship at Howard University.

Dean Wu has also taught at Stanford University, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the University of Maryland, George Washington University, and Deep Springs College. He has been a CV Starr Foundation Visiting Professor at the School of Transnational Law at Beijing University in China. Since 2000, he has been a Trustee and then Vice-Chair (since 2006) at Gallaudet University, the only institution in the world providing a liberal arts education to primarily deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

Dean Wu has debated Dinesh D'Souza and Ward Connerly, among others, on the efficacy of affirmative action programs in education. He has also testified before Congress and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on the same subject, and provided expert witness testimony on behalf of students intervening in the historic University of Michigan affirmative action cases. The US Supreme Court ultimately upheld the legality of affirmative action student admissions programs. He has also appeared on numerous television programs with Bill Moyers, Oprah Winfrey, Bill O'Reilly, and Al Franken. A prolific writer, he regularly contributes columns for major publications and academic periodicals such as the Washington Post, Detroit Free Press, Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun, Chronicle of Higher Education, Legal Times, and Asian Week.

As a prominent legal educator and author he has been elected as a member of the American Law Institute, as a Fellow of the American Bar Association, the board of directors of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, and become a member of the Committee of 100, a group of prominent Chinese Americans that encourages the full participation of Chinese-Americans in the economic, political, and social life of America.

Publications/Patents:

Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White: by Frank Wu (2003)

Race, Rights, and Reparation: Law of the Japanese American Internment: by Eric K. Yamamoto (Author, Editor), Margaret Chon (Editor), Carol L. Izumi (Editor), Jerry Kang (Editor), Frank H. Wu (Editor) (2001)

External Links:

http://www.eeoc.gov/abouteeoc/meetings/2-28-07/wu_bio.html

http://www.imdiversity.com/Villages/asian/dialogue_opinion_letters/archives/wu_where_are_you_really_from_arc.asp

<http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/best-law-schools/2009/04/22/why-law-school-is-for-everyone.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUvZ7jjowZc>

http://www.committee100.org/aboutus/member_bio.php?member_id=98