

Posted 9/1/16:

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Gordon J. Quan Managing Partner, Co-Founder, Quan Law Group, Houston

Gordon Quan has been opening doors for people for more than 35 years.

As a nationally recognized immigration lawyer, Quan has dedicated his career to giving others the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

It was a passion he discovered through a personal experience.

Quan, the managing partner and co-founder of the Houston-based Quan Law Group, was committed to helping others even before he became a lawyer. He started out as a history teacher at a predominantly African-American school. Then, thinking he might help people more by going into juvenile law, he earned his J.D. in night school.

But he realized the challenges many immigrants face when he sponsored his wife, an international student from Hong Kong, for permanent resident status.

He's been helping people with complex and ordinary immigration problems ever since.

Quan has served as chair of the Texas chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and as a member of its national board of governors. He was a founder of the Texas State Bar Association's Immigration section and chaired the section in 2011. He also is a founding member of the Asian American Bar Association of Houston.

In 1999, he became the first Asian-American to serve as an at-large member of the Houston City Council, and was instrumental in the creation of the city's Office for Immigration and Refugee Affairs. He also has served as president of the Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials of the National League of Cities.

He's also on the board of trustees for the South Texas College of Law and on the advisory board of the University of Houston immigration law clinic. In addition, he hosts a weekly radio program on immigration law in which he answers callers' questions.