

Rising Star: Mintz's Angela Y. Kung

By Kelcee Griffis

Law360 (July 31, 2020, 4:47 PM EDT) -- Angela Kung of Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC has had a hand in two of the biggest matters recently before the Federal Communications Commission, helping steer a \$1.5 billion rural broadband subsidy auction and advocating for the C-Band spectrum reorganization, earning her a spot among the telecommunications law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

THE BIGGEST ISSUE SHE'S WORKED ON IN HER CAREER:

During her time at the FCC, Kung helped lead the Connect America Fund II auction, a complex process that distributed nearly \$1.5 billion in government subsidies to internet service providers that committed to bolstering rural networks.

Kung said that being a part of that process stretched her professional knowledge and helped her branch into other areas of expertise within the telecom industry.

"The majority of my career was focused on wireless technology, and with this auction, I had to learn about other types of technology, like fiber and DSL," she said.

For the first time, the FCC also required companies vying for support to submit detailed financial and buildout plans, and Kung led the squad of expert reviewers tasked with vetting this information.

"I had to coordinate a team of nearly 60 or so reviewers that included not only lawyers, but also financial experts and engineers to review the nearly 300 applications that were submitted," she said, noting that the complex reviews had to be completed "in a very short time frame."

Ultimately, the auction awarded infrastructure funding to over 100 winning bidders in 45 states, which Kung said was "really,



Angela Y. Kung
Mintz Levin

Age: 38
 Home base: Washington, D.C.
 Position: Of counsel
 Law school: American University's Washington College of Law
 First job after law school: Associate at Squire Patton Boggs LLP

really a great feat."

THE MOST INTERESTING MATTER SHE'S WORKED ON LATELY:

Kung advocated for T-Mobile in the FCC's hotly contested reorganization of the C-Band satellite spectrum, which the agency cemented in February. The FCC's decision clears the way for mobile providers to buy valuable midband spectrum previously tied up with back-end TV program transmissions.

"This proceeding was and continues to be incredibly interesting, especially from a legal perspective, because of the unique way satellite operators hold licenses for that spectrum," Kung said. "Usually, an entity has a license for a discrete set of frequencies, but for the C-Band, satellite operators share the whole band and some use it more than others."

As part of her advocacy, Kung said it was important to submit thoughtful and well-reasoned comments to the FCC that balanced the need for more 5G spectrum with the obligation to treat current spectrum users fairly.

"As private practice attorneys, we were advocating on behalf of our clients and sort of helping the FCC develop its own record about ways they could relocate satellite operators in a legally defensible way," Kung said.

HER PROUDEST MOMENT:

Kung spearheaded her firm's Next-Gen-Fem initiative, a professional networking program for women in the communications industry. Since launching the effort last year, the firm said it's brought together more than 100 women from 30 different organizations with its quarterly events.

Kung said she saw a need for networking opportunities tailored to younger women, which inspired her to form the group.

"I started to hear a lot from my peers, many of whom are women, that while they appreciated our invitations to traditional events like baseball games and basketball games, they weren't really interested in those kinds of activities," she said.

Since Next-Gen-Fem's inaugural event — networking in a suite at an Ariana Grande concert — participants have also been treated to rosé wine tasting, a flower-arranging class and a "puppy party" with adoptable dogs.

"We want to bring people together, especially younger women," Kung said. "We're in a very tech-intensive, male-dominated field, so it's important to get women together when we can."

WHAT MOTIVATES HER:

Kung said she draws strength from the example of her mother, the first woman native of China to practice law in the U.S.

"Whenever I have any doubts about whether I can accomplish something, I think about how difficult my parent's generation had it before me," Kung said. "In my mom's case, she not only had to overcome a language barrier, but she had to learn a whole new system of law in a country she'd never lived in, all while raising a family. I get over my pity parties really quickly when I think about that."

— As told to Kelcee Griffis

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2020 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,300 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2020, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.

All Content © 2003-2020, Portfolio Media, Inc.