Steve Ngo was elected citywide to the San Francisco Community College District Board of Trustees in November 2008, becoming the first Vietnamese American elected to public office in the City and County of San Francisco. He chairs the Board’s Policy Implementation Committee and is a member of the Planning and Budgeting Committee. The District is one of the largest in the nation and serves over 100,000 students.

Steve’s commitment to civil rights and education is rooted in his family’s refugee experience. After fleeing Vietnam for the United States, Steve’s mother worked in the service industry as a waitress and nail salon technician in New Orleans, Louisiana. After 20 years, she eventually opened her own nail salon business.

His father took jobs as a busboy, roofer, and chef, and later attended community college to become an auto body repair technician. Steve’s mother only had a third grade education and his father only completed the eighth grade, but in America they were able to build a better life through hard work and vocational education.

Steve became an attorney and practiced election law and civil litigation, representing individuals in negligence and employment discrimination cases, before winning office. Previously, Steve was a budget consultant for the California State Assembly Budget Committee, where he advised legislators on $3.1 billion worth of spending proposals. He served in state government as a recipient of the Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship. He continued his public service as a law clerk for the California Attorney General’s Energy Task Force, a specially formed group that pursued price gouging and other unfair business practices claims.

Steve was born in Lexington, Kentucky. He received his B.A. from University of California, Los Angeles. He later received his Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University and a law degree from California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, where he was elected Student Body President.

Steve continues to practice law and remains active in his community. He currently serves as a Chair of the Civil Rights Committee of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area. He is also an active volunteer with API Equality, an organization working for equal marriage rights and fair treatment of the lesbian and gay community. The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights recently appointed Steve to its membership.

In his first year in office, Steve authored and passed resolutions to reduce the impact of devastating state budget cuts by saving classes, reducing textbook costs and expanding programs for the most vulnerable students. He pushed for and won an increase in local hiring for City College construction projects, creating opportunities for San Franciscans to get a job during the recession. He has also sought to aggressively address the District’s structural deficit, while seeking tougher fiscal accountability measures and ethics reforms.