

Leaders for Change



Michael Tsia

Awarded '04, '05

My father died when I was six years old. My mother, who spoke little to no English, struggled to provide for my sister and me. We were always short of cash, and one year, when I was still in elementary school, our landlord illegally locked us out of our apartment and auctioned off our most treasured belongings. *We lost everything. But we started over and I knew education was the way out.*

With diligence, determination, and the assistance of selfless people, I made my way through UC, Berkeley. Along the way, *I served as a leader and as a tenant's rights advocate* in the local renter's assistance clinic, the low-income housing rights initiatives in Oakland, and the UCB Housing Advocacy Group.

I then went on to earn my Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, where *I studied with the country's top minds in affordable housing policy.* This experience expanded my horizons to include the societal pillars of education, healthcare and social welfare policy.

Today, I serve as a management consultant for some of the nation's most esteemed non-profit hospitals, helping them to brave the economic storm and deepening government budget cuts.

I look forward to continuing *to give back to the community by working on further development of affordable housing in impoverished neighborhoods in Los Angeles.*

