

Tips for nominees | Where are they now? Updates on previous honorees

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[20 under 40]

Family: Wife, Rishaly

Education: Bachelor's degree in political science and history from USC's Honors College; law degree from Wake Forest University

Community/professional involvements: A member of the Midlands' Diversity Leaders Initiative club and the LeadershipNextSC advisory committee at the Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership. Chikhliker also is active in his neighborhood. He serves on a variety of legal and economic development boards and was a past board member of Workshop Theatre.

In his own words: I decided to become a lawyer upon realizing that this profession provided me with a unique opportunity to make others, while influencing positive change in my community. I have entrepreneurial companies and governmental entities in economic development projects that have resulted in significant job investments in South Carolina. Last year, I was honored to have been elected as a member (partner) at Nexsen Pruet. However, I will always measure professional success by the positive impact my efforts have on my community.

What saying do you live by? "Few will have the promise to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." – Robert F. Kennedy

Your life changed when: My senior year at USC I

was honored to receive the Algonson Spivack Sullivan Award. It was the meaningful activities and interactions which led to my receiving the award that have truly shaped me. To this day, I view the award as a fond reminder of lessons learned through collaboration, dedication and service.

What do you aspire to? Almost 40 years ago, in search of better opportunities for the family they hoped to love, my parents came to the U.S. from India with very little money. Through hard work, integrity and perseverance, my parents have personalized the American Dream, while providing me with unconditional love, support and guidance. My successes are the direct result of the values my parents have instilled in me and the example they have set. I aspire to lead a life that is both worthy of and a testament to my parents' sacrifice.

South Carolina has landed some great economic development announcements recently? What makes it attractive to businesses? The rest of the world is finally realizing what many of us in South Carolina have long known: The state's business friendly climate includes a skilled work force, continued development of infrastructure and utilities, a pro-business environment and a good quality of life. South Carolina's development has taken shape through the efforts of a phenomenal network of government and economic development professionals and is well-positioned in spite of an increasingly competitive global economy.



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