



## Matthew I. Oh

August 5, 1938 - March 26, 2022

Age 83 of St. Paul

Passed away Sat. March 26, 2022. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Matthew attended Seoul National University, Columbia University and William Mitchell College of Law. He served in the twin cities as an Immigration Lawyer for over 30 years. He was a founder and active supporter of the Korean Service Center. Matthew was a founder and chairman of the State of Minnesota Council on Asian-Pacific Relations and member of the North Korean Human Rights Project. A Fulbright fellow, Matthew was active in numerous other endeavors. Survived by his wife of 48 years, Young Oh; 2 children, John "Jack" Z. Oh and Amy J. Oh; grandchildren, Rex M. Oh and Colette F. Oh.

# Tribute Wall

DL

“ *This is such sad news. Not sure why Mr. Oh's name came to mind in the middle of my work day and decided to look him up. He was my mentor during my law school years while I was still trying to find my way and have always remember his advice and encouragement to a young kid from Africa. To Mr. Oh's family, please accept my belated condolence and know that he left an indelible legacy.*

Daniel L - April 09, 2025 at 01:37 PM

RI

“ *His Immigration-law portal helped lot of us in keeping up to date. Today as a proud citizen for past few decades, I am certain that Matthew is giving us thumbs up from heaven.*

RinumJiwa - March 03, 2025 at 05:25 PM

MP

“ *I knew and respected Mathew as a colleague and a friend. He was a very meticulous individual with a thorough knowledge of the law and I always had great respect for his opinion. He was a kind gentle person who always had something positive to say. Quite frankly I had no idea how old he was and his death is a great shock to me personally. He was the sort of person who deserved to live forever.*



Michael Piston - June 28, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Matthew Insoo Oh, a beloved friend and colleague, passed away last year at the age of 83. This photo was taken four years ago at an AILA conference, where he was still actively participating even at the age of 79.*



*He would attend conferences from 7 AM to 6 PM, speaking passionately about immigration for long hours. I have had the pleasure of knowing him for more than 25 years and he was always like a big brother to us. He was a sweet gentleman and it is so sad that he is gone. He is deeply missed by all who knew him. He was always accompanied by his wife, who was a constant presence by his side. At every AILA conference, there was a meeting of Korean lawyers on Fridays at Korean restaurants. It was a time for us to come together and share our experiences. Sadly, most of my old friends who were Korean immigration lawyers have either passed away or retired. Matthew's passing is a great loss to us all."*

---

**Jennifer Chun** - June 27, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ To Ms. Oh, and children Jack and Amy - I am a US immigration attorney. I am based in the Twin Cities. I knew Matthew professionally through the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). I noticed he had retired a few years ago and regret not staying in touch with him. As I am sure you know, he was an excellent attorney; very thorough and diligent in all things and highly ethical. Over the years I had the opportunity to brainstorm with him on cases and issues and was grateful for his counsel. We both had a similar modest paranoia on behalf of our clients and the challenges of the immigration system. I think an underappreciated aspect of his practice and professional life was his incredible public service through his website that was a leading source of immigration law news and analysis for many years. I always liked his approach; "Matthew Oh reporting" was part of style if I recall. He was very precise in his reporting on the most cutting edge issues.



*I am half-Korean and I have an adopted son from South Korea. I always thought he was the epitome of a Korean immigrant (Korean-American) professional. He would even occasionally have a self-deprecating comment about his accent. He helped a lot of clients as I am sure you know and was respected by his peers. Our local immigration lawyers association has been posting several 'tributes' in our listserv.*

*My own mom, an immigrant from South Korea, died of brain cancer at Thanksgiving 2021, and I know it is a hard thing; it's like we made it through the pandemic only for this?*

*I wanted to post this note to honor Matthew. I hope he was able to have peace at the end. I hope you all are able to have peace now. May your burden be light. -- Bob Webber*

---

**Robert Webber** - April 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.* ”



---

**R. Mark Frey** - April 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM