



*Shefali Razdan Duggal*

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## Indian American Named to Clinton Campaign Committee

By **DIANA ROHINI LAVIGNE**  
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San Francisco resident Shefali Razdan Duggal is hoping to make a significant impact on this year's presidential campaign as she takes on a lead volunteer role as a key participant in Indo-American Outreach and Young Professional Outreach in Northern California for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.

Being one of the younger members of the steering committee team, she is aware she has a big goal to meet. With two young children at home, she finds herself up past midnight pounding on her computer keyboard to keep pace with Clinton's aggressive initiatives. Armed with a B.S. in mass communications and minor in political science from Miami University in Ohio and an M.A. in political communication from

New York University, she has spent over a decade involved in politics, which is her passion.

"My first extensive practical political experience arose when I began volunteering for the Massachusetts Democratic Party in 2000," Duggal told *India-West*. "This led to a volunteer opportunity in Senator Ted Kennedy's office, where I was involved in his reelection campaign. It was at that point that I transitioned to a volunteer role for former Vice-President Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign," she explained. "I worked with the campaign in New Hampshire during the primaries and both in Massachusetts and New Hampshire during the general election. In recognition of my efforts with the campaign, I was selected by the Gore Campaign to be an at-large delegate to the 2000 Democratic National Convention

for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Duggal has been gaining support from other prominent Indian Americans who are influential in the political workings of the United States. "Shefali has taken the lead in getting support from young South Asian professionals for Hillary Clinton, and particularly South Asian women. She has co-hosted a number of events, and was one of the most successful 'Hillraisers'," said Ro Khanna, a former California Democratic candidate for Congress. "Because Hillary is particularly focused on targeting young women, Shefali's role is critically important," he added. "She really embodies one of the most important demographics for Hillary (young mothers), and she has already established herself within Hillary's inner Bay Area support circle. It would be great to publicize the role she is playing so other young South Asian women know who to contact to get involved."

This energetic, budding political activist spends a majority of her time on Clinton's campaign, which leaves her less time to devote to other endeavors. However, she has added a few pet projects to her plate of late, including being a political contributor for an online magazine called Spice. Also, she is hoping to become more involved in the non-profit organization Indus Women Leaders.

Perhaps her most compelling goal is her bid for a spot in



San Francisco resident Shefali Razdan Duggal was selected as one of the youngest Indian American campaign steering committee members for Hillary Clinton.

the Emerge California program, which is a political leadership training program for Democratic women that has been touted by *The New York Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Meanwhile, Duggal has kept in touch with the local political scene, being connected with events for Representative Nancy Pelosi and District Attorney Kamala Harris as well.

But her passion for politics doesn't overrule her need and love for her family.

"Even though it can be a difficult balancing act at times, as a volunteer I'm able to leverage evenings, weekends and the times when my children are in school to devote towards these activities," Duggal told *India-West*. "I'm very committed to making sure that my children are not negatively impacted by my involvement with the campaign. They remain my number one priority. I also do real-

ize, however, that the outcome of this presidential election will have a meaningful influence on their future and want to do my part in driving towards the best outcome for them in my view."

So why is she putting herself behind Clinton? "She was quite gracious when we were first introduced, and even though it was quite early in the primary season, I embraced her vision and candidacy and reengaged fully in politics, specifically in support of her campaign," offered Duggal.

Her dream is to see Hillary Clinton as president of the United States but also to personally become a role model in the Indian American community and inspire others to become more involved in the political process.

To get involved in the Northern California Clinton campaign or to reach Shefali Razdan Duggal, e-mail her office at [srazdan@aol.com](mailto:srazdan@aol.com).