



DAVID STEWART

## VIRGINIA LEE

Ask lawyer Lee, the 35-year-old name partner in the small State Street firm of Salgo and Lee, what 1986 portends, and she'll respond, "I don't know how to translate it into something printable, but I just feel so much more confident."

That confidence stems, of course, from the pressure-cooker trial of Long Guang Huang. Lee not only helped clear the Chinese immigrant, who had been arrested by Boston vice-squad detective Francis Kelly, Jr., for solicitation and assault and battery on a police officer, but is also representing him in his civil suit against the city. To the Chinese community, just emerging as a political force in the Flynn administration, the testimony and arguments were mileposts in a landmark victory in its struggle to push the Combat Zone away from Chinatown. And in addition to making front-page news in Boston, Lee's involvement in the trial was reported in the Chinese press throughout the United States and in China.

Lee's political interests extend far beyond Chinatown. She is active in both the Asian/Pacific Caucus of the Democratic Party and the 45-member Asian-American Lawyers Association, a Boston group. She has handed out leaflets at T stops calling for the abolition of the death penalty and stumped on behalf of the Mondale-Ferraro ticket. But whom she'll work for this year remains to be seen. "I'd love to help an Asian candidate, but I don't see any," she says. "That will happen soon, though. An Asian judge, too."

Meanwhile, she'll concentrate on her firm's 100-case load. Huang's civil action against the city will have the highest priority in that batch, and Lee, the Chinese community, and the international Asian press will be closely monitoring the city's response to the litigation.