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August 2024 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Summer is coming to an end, but CAPAJA Members have continued to work and play hard! Here is the CAPAJA newsletter for August 2024.

NEWS

Los Angeles Court Commissioner Mourned by the L.A. Legal Community

The L.A. Superior Court was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of CAPAJA Member Commissioner Frank Chen on July 18. Frank, who joined the Court in December 2018, was a dedicated judicial officer who “showed his love for the work” and was “so, so good at it.” A celebration of life for Commissioner Chen will be held at the San Marino Community Church on Thursday, August 8 at 3 pm. CAPAJA sends its deepest sympathies to Commissioner Chen’s wife, Chun-Yen Chen, his children, Nathaniel and Natalina, and all of his family and friends. L.A. Superior Court Presiding Judge Samantha Jessner wrote an email to the LASC bench about this tragic loss, and she has graciously agreed to allow CAPAJA to share it with our members. (See attachment to email).

CAPAJA EVENTS

CAPAJA Co-Sponsors Zoom Panel on Women in Leadership

CAPAJA is co-sponsoring a panel entitled: “Women in Leadership: Applying and Serving on Public Boards and Commissions.” CAPAJA Member Judge Debra Wong Yang (ret.) will be speaking on the panel, which will be held on Zoom (RSVP: [bit.ly.publicboards2024](https://bit.ly/publicboards2024)) on Thursday, August 15 at 12:15. (See attached flyer).

CAPAJA Training for Court Leadership

On August 29, CAPAJA’s Education Committee will hold a Zoom training session for all interested CAPAJA Members on “The Road to Supervising Judge.” This session will be moderated by Justice Joanne Motoike and will feature panel members Judge Elizabeth Lee, Presiding Judge of the San Mateo County Superior Court, Judge Cheri Pham, Assistant Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court and Judge Ben Reyes, Supervising Judge of Family for the Contra Costa County Superior Court. The panel will be held on www.zoom.us, with a meeting ID of 858 4048 4457 and a Passcode of 362705. This program advances CAPAJA’s mission to support all of its members in advancing through the ranks of Court leadership. (See attached flyer to sign up).

CAPAJA's ALJ Committee Presents Program on Judicial Security

On Tuesday, October 1 at noon, the CAPAJA ALJ Committee will present a virtual program designed specifically for judicial officers in response to judicial safety concerns that may occur in our courtrooms. The program, entitled: "Adjudicating in an Unsecured Workplace: How to Assess and Stay Safe" will be moderated by Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge Kimberly H. Kim of the California Public Utilities Commission and will feature special guest Chief John Muffler (Ret.), MS, CTM and Principal, Aequitas Global Security. To attend this essential and timely program, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/capajarsvp>. (See flyer attached to email).

Judges – Please Give Generously to the CAPAJA Scholarship Fund!

MAKE A SCHOLARSHIP DONATION: The CAPAJA Student Scholarship is only made possible thanks to your generous donation. If you are a judge, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to our Scholarship Fund via our website at www.capaja.org/student-scholarship. Thank you for your support!

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Two New APA Judges Appointed in LA

Janet Hong and Commissioner Tiffany Tai were appointed by Governor Newsom to the Los Angeles Superior Court on July 17. Janet is known to many CAPAJA Members as the Immediate Past President of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles. Tiffany has served on the CAPAJA Board Member as the Subordinate Judicial Officer Representative and has been a Commissioner of the LASC since 2022. Both are excited to start their new appointed positions and to being involved in CAPAJA projects. Congratulations, Janet and Tiffany!

MAKING AN IMPACT

Highlighting the Work of CAPAJA Members

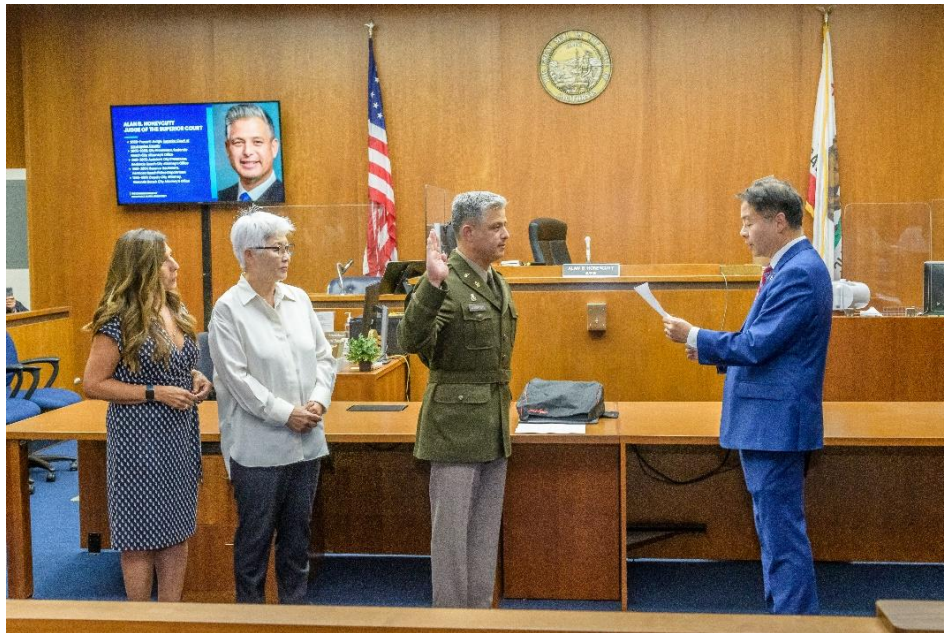
CAPAJA Member Takes Oath as Major in US Army Reserve

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge and CAPAJA member Alan B. Honeycutt, who serves as the Supervising Judge of the Torrance Courthouse, was sworn in by retired US Air Force Colonel and current US Congressman Ted W. Lieu on July 2 to his position. The Daily Journal published an article about this on its front page on July 5, 2024. Major (and Judge) Honeycutt responded to the well wishes of CAPAJA by stating: "I am incredibly humbled by the opportunity. It was almost a 2-year application process in part because I'm not 25 anymore. The

selection board is rigorous and through the U.S. Army JFK Special Warfare Center and School which manages and educates soldiers in the Army's three distinct special operations branches: Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations. I am assigned to an Airborne unit and will be attending Airborne Jump school within the year. My assignment to the Indo-Pacific is a natural fit as I will be visiting South Korea and other partner nations in the region.” Congratulations on your new dual role, Judge/Major Honeycutt! CAPAJA is incredibly proud of you!



From L to R: Judge Ricardo Ocampo, Judge Gary Tanaka, Judge Yvette Verastegui, Judge Gary Eto, Judge/Major Alan Honeycutt, Judge Esther Kim, and Judge Tony Cho.



*Judge/Major Alan Honeycutt with family
as he is being sworn in by US Congressman Ted W. Lieu*

CAPAJA Members Shine at L.A. Unity Bar Inauguration

The July 19 Inauguration of the Los Angeles Unity Bar, which featured video greetings from Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, L.A. Mayor Karen Bass and Senator Laphonza Butler included a Fireside Chat on the judicial selection process featuring CAPAJA Member Justice Audra Mori, Past Co-Chair of the L.A. Superior Court Judicial Mentoring Program. Justice Mori provided extremely valuable tips on applying to the bench. It was great to see Justice Mori on this program with Secretary Céspedes, encouraging applicants and potential aspirants to our courts. The Secretary and others also praised CAPAJA Member Justice Shama Mesiwala for her role in the formation and growth of Unity Bars statewide.



Justice Audra Mori, and Judicial Appointments Secretary Céspedes providing information and advice on the judicial appointments process at the LA Unity Bar Inauguration.

CAPAJA President Judge Terry Truong and Justice Shama Mesiwala at the LA Unity Bar Inauguration



CAPAJA Past President will Moderate a Unity Bar Event

CAPAJA Past President Judge Sonny Sandhu is moderating a zoom webinar for the Unity Bar on Tues, Sept. 3, 2024 at 12:15. This presentation is “Young-ism: Addressing Age Based Biases in the Legal Profession.” Please register for this informative program through the link on the flyer attached to the email or at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IrOUNZNJSKO2NbwpyD41rw#/registration

CJA ANNUAL MEETING IN SEPT.

SAVE THE DATE: CAPAJA Annual Meeting and Dinner at the CJA

After an extremely successful term, Judge Terry Truong of the Los Angeles Superior Court will hand over the gavel of the Presidency of CAPAJA to Judge Jayne Lee of the San Joaquin Superior Court at the CAPAJA Annual Meeting, to be held at the CJA Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 7 at 12:45 pm. Details on location will follow. Also, stay tuned for details on the CAPAJA Dinner at the CJA, to be held on Friday, September 6.

CAPAJA Members To Take Major Roles in CJA Annual Meeting

With CAPAJA Former President Judge Erica Yew celebrating the end of her very productive year as President of the California Judges Association, CAPAJA was always going to play a big part in this year’s Annual Meeting, which will take place at the Signia Hotel in San Jose on September 5-7. But many other CAPAJA Members also have significant roles in the Annual Meeting program. Judge A. Marisa Chun of the San Francisco Superior Court will be the moderator of a panel on Friday the 6th on “Judges and the Press: Building Trust in the Judiciary.” Judge Bryant Yang of the L.A. Superior Court will moderate a discussion on “From Decisionmaker to Peacemaker: How to Settle Civil Cases.” At the same time, a panel entitled “Care Court is Coming!” will feature Judge Michael Isaku Begert of the S.F. Superior Court. And because CAPAJA Members clearly make the best panel moderators, Judge Le Jacqueline Duong of the Santa Clara Superior Court will moderate a panel on Saturday - “Open Plenary: The Landscape of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Profession: Trends, Implications, and Ethical Considerations.” Way to represent, CAPAJA Members!

CAPAJA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

First Hmong Female Judge in California Profiled in DJ

CAPAJA Member Judge Pahoua C. Lor was profiled in the July 9 edition of the Daily Journal. Judge Lor, who sits in Fresno County, where she grew up, is the first Hmong female judge in California (the first Hmong male judge is CAPAJA Member Thomas Lo of the Orange County Superior Court). Judge Lor is only the third Hmong female judge in the entire country! The DJ noted that “Lor’s appointment to the bench has been a source of pride for the community. She

has inspired others to pursue careers in law and believes that she serves as a testament to her community's resilience and aspirations." Thanks for representing, Pahoua and congratulations on a great profile!

CAPAJA Members in the Summer Bench Magazine

As always, CAPAJA Members featured prominently in the California Judges Association's magazine The Bench. Los Angeles Superior Court Judges Curtis Kin and Elaine Lu wrote a great article for the Civil Law Column entitled "Wage and Hour Guidance From the Supreme Court." Past CJA President Judge Tam Nomoto Schumann (Ret.) did two interviews for The Bench: one on Judge Dean Hansell and one on Judge Jim Mize. The "CAPAJA Spotlight" featured LASC Judge Michelle Ahnn's article on Placer County's new API judicial officers. San Diego County Superior Court Judge Rohanee Zapanta contributed another wonderful "Summertime Self-Assessment" and photos featuring CAPAJA Members were included in the MidYear CJA Conference report.

Our Best Wishes for a Wonderful August!

Terry Truong, CAPAJA President
Jayne Lee, CAPAJA President-Elect

If you have news or know of any CAPAJA member who has been or will be honored, has spoken or will speak at an event, has written an article or is taking a new position, or if you learn of a new potential CAPAJA member or of an event that may be of interest to CAPAJA members, please send an email to Newsletter Editor Holly Fujie at HFujie@LACourt.org, and we will feature it in the next newsletter.