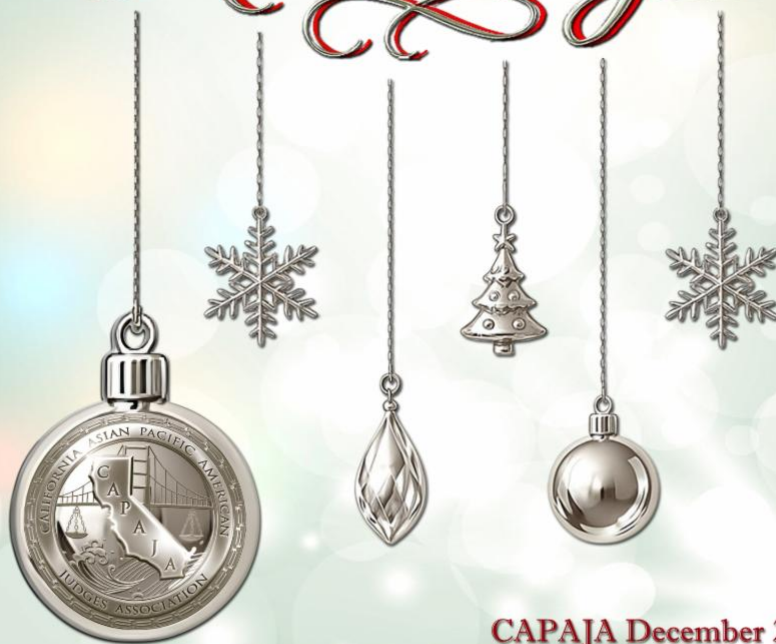




Happy Holidays



**CAPAJA December 2025
e-Newsletter Vol I, Issue 2**

President's Message



As the holiday season approaches and the year draws

to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work of our CAPAJA Board, Committees, and members. Behind the scenes, our Board and Committees work tirelessly to create educational and mentorship programs and provide support to our members. Our members, in turn, consistently contribute to their communities by volunteering, mentoring, and sharing their talent and wisdom. Our CAPAJA family has grown in membership, and our collective accomplishments have strengthened immeasurably.



Each month our newsletter proudly announces new members, displays the dedication and achievements of our existing members, and highlights the spirit of community that defines us. The recent gathering in San Francisco is just one example of the many occasions where new and experienced judges from diverse backgrounds and regions connected with one another and forged lasting memories and friendships. Some photos from that special weekend are included in the newsletter.

Thank you for being an essential part of our CAPAJA family! May you and your families have a wonderful holiday season filled with peace, happiness, and good health.

Hon. Jana M. Seng
CAPAJA President 2025-2026
Los Angeles County



New Judges



API Jones Day Partner Confirmed to the Ninth Circuit

On Wednesday, November 5, Jones Day partner Eric Chunyee Tung was confirmed as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. One of our newest CAPAJA Members is a graduate of the University of Chicago School of Law who clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Antonin Scalia, served as an

AUSA in the Central District of California and was an attorney in the Office of the Solicitor General before joining Jones Day. Welcome to the judiciary and to CAPAJA, Eric!

Photo source: <https://fedsoc.org/bio/eric-tung>.



CAPAJA Member Confirmed to the 4th DCA

On November 17, CAPAJA Member Corey Lee was unanimously confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments in her elevation from the San Bernardino Superior Court to the 4th District Court of Appeal, Division 2. Witnesses at the confirmation hearing testified that she was a “star from the start” of her career and praised her “legal acumen, resilience and character.” Corey specifically thanked CAPAJA for its support, and in particular, she acknowledged Judge Jayne Lee and Judge Terry Truong for their work in helping her nomination. CAPAJA applauds Corey’s elevation and her role as a mentor and role model to CAPAJA Members and API lawyers. Congratulations, Corey!



CA Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero administered the oath of office to now-Justice Corey Lee who was surrounded by family.





From left to right: Justice Carin Fujisaki, Justice Danny Chou, newly sworn-in Justice Corey Lee, Judge Jerry Yang, Judge Marisa Chun, and Judge Helen Yang.



Past CAPAJA Events



CAPAJA's Travel Committee Organized a Fun SF Weekend

What is it about traveling as a group that forges connections? Perhaps it is from the laughter shared over good food. Or maybe it is because of the 20,000+ steps we walked together as we explored Angel Island. Or possibly it is because of the deep conversations we had when our ferry was cancelled and we were stranded together on an island for almost 2 hours.

CAPAJA's weekend in San Francisco from Nov. 14-16 was a huge success because we had all of these experiences.



Over 40 people participated in part, or all, of the activities during the weekend. Seven judges flew from SoCal to join in the fun, and we were able to get to

know three of our newest members - Ai Mori (San Francisco), Vivian Wang (San Mateo) and Cliff Tong (Stanislaus). Ai was sworn in a few weeks ago, and Vivian and Cliff will both take the bench in December.

There was a kickoff dinner on Friday night at a trendy Burmese restaurant. On Saturday, we went to Angel Island and learned about the detention of immigrants from 1910 to 1940, most of whom were from China. It is of particular note that some of the judges who went on this tour have family members who were detained and interrogated on Angel Island before being allowed into the US. It was an incredibly moving experience to hear from our knowledgeable guide about the immigrant experiences and to read the poetry etched into the walls by the detainees. That evening, we had a reception to warm up from the ferry ride and catch up with more judges who live near San Francisco. We ended the weekend on Sunday with a delicious dim sum brunch.

Huge thanks to Roberta Hayashi, Hanley Chew, Marisa Chun, Delbert Gee, Jacqui Duong, and Tracie Brown who worked together to organize a weekend full of good food and activities. The next CAPAJA trip is to Singapore and Malaysia which is sold out, but keep your eye out for announcements about future CAPAJA trips!

***Was Angel Island the point of entry
for your family?***

*If yes, please email us at **communications@capaja.org**.*

We will be writing an article for CJA about the immigrant experience at Angel Island and how it impacted your career to the bench. We would love to include your family's story.





Picture of some of the attendees at the Friday night dinner:

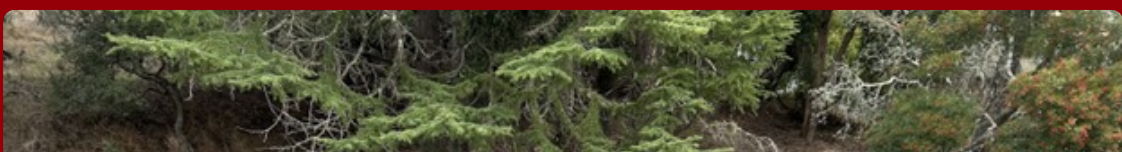
Left side from front to back: Judge Michael Mau, Judge (ret.) Carol Elswick, Carol Suzuki, Judge Margaret Fujioka, Judge Joni Hiramoto, Peter Baker, Billy Shin, Judge Gurjit Srail, and Judge Michelle Ahnn.
Right side from front to back: Judge Fred Chung, Soon-to-be Judge Vivian Wang, Judge Teresa Magno, Judge (ret.) Paul Suzuki, Judge Glenn Kim, ALJ Dorothy Chou Proudfoot, ALJ Kristin Rossi, ALJ Susan Lee, Judge Tammy Chung Ryu, and Judge Ann Park.



CAPAJA group at Angel Island.

Top row (standing) from left to right: Soon-to-be Judge Clifford Lee, ALJ Dorothy Chou Proudfoot, Judge Jeff Mangar, Judge (ret.) Delbert Gee, Judge Teresa Magno, Peter Baker, Judge (ret.) Carol Elswick, Justice Carin Fujisaki, Ranger Casey Lee, and Judge Marisa Chun.

Bottom row (kneeling/crouching) from left to right: Judge (ret.) Paul Suzuki, Carol Suzuki, Judge Billy Shin, Soon-to-be Judge Vivian Wang, Kevin Hayashi, Judge Ann Park, Judge Roberta Hayashi, Judge Michelle Ahnn, Judge Tammy Chung Ryu, and Judge Joni Hiramoto.

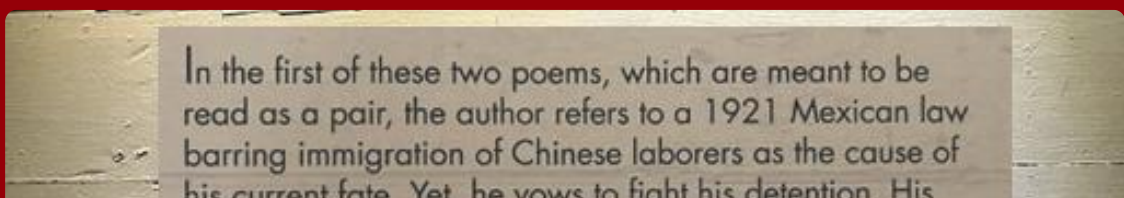




An area designed to look like the interrogation room with the detainee sitting alone on the left and the two immigration officials on the right. The table in between contained information about the examinations the immigrants were subjected to in order to enter the country.



A re-creation of the room and bunks at the detention center at Angel Island. Some people were held here for a few weeks to months, but some were detained for several years.



defiance of the authorities is suggested by his reference to General Zu Di, who defended China around 300 A.D. The second poem describes the successful conclusion of the author's case. The elegant writing and the references indicate that he was likely an educated man.

大屋為留幾十天
所因墨例致牽連
可惜英雄無用武
只聽音來策祖鞭
從今遠別此樓中
各位鄉君眾歡同
莫道其間容西式
談咸玉砌變如籠

Detained in this wooden house for several tens of days,
It is all because of the Mexican exclusion law which implicates me.
It's a pity heroes have no way of exercising their prowess.
I can only await the word so that I can snap Zu's whip.

From now on, I am departing far from this building.
All of my fellow villagers are rejoicing with me.
Don't say that everything within is Western styled.
Even if it is built of jade, it has turned into a cage.

One of the best preserved poems etched into a wall of a building at Angel Island.





The weekend's main organizer, Judge Roberta Hayashi, and Kevin Hayashi who also put in a lot of work to make sure the activities went smoothly.



At the Sat. reception, Judge Victor Hwang (left), CAPAJA PAC's Board Member, greets Clifford Tong (right) who will be sworn in as a judge in December.





Stepping out from the Sat. reception are:

Top: Judge Tammy Chung Ryu.

Middle from left to right: Judge Audra Ibarra and Judge Michelle Ahnn.

Bottom: Judge Erica Yew, Judge Jacqui Duong, and Judge Ann Park.



Sunday Dim Sum brunch

Top row from left to right: Judge (ret.) Paul Suzuki, Young Cho, Carol Suzuki, Judge Sharon Cho, Judge Roberta Hayashi, Kevin Hayashi, Judge Teresa Magno, Soon-to-be Judge Vivian Wang, Judge Marisa Chun, Judge Ai Mori, Judge Michelle Ahnn, ALJ Dorothy Chou Proudfoot, Justice Tracie Brown, Judge (ret.) Carol Elswick, Justice Cynthia Lie, Judge Sunil Kulkarni, Peter Baker, and Arthur Lorenz.

Front row from left to right: Judge Peter Chang, Judge Tammy Chung Ryu, Judge Ann Park, Judge Billy Shin, Judge Rita Lin, Judge Jayne Lee, and Judge Joni Hiramoto.

Past Events

CAPAJA Member Honored as Judge of the Year by OC ABOTA

On October 15, CAPAJA Member Judge Deborah Chuang Servino of the Orange County Superior Court received the Judge of the Year Award from the Orange County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates at its annual Judges Night. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award, Deb!



Judge Deborah Servino and her proud husband Mark.



CAPAJA Members at Attorney General's Event

CAPAJA members and friends enjoyed an evening hearing Rob Bonta speak about his path to becoming California's first Filipino Attorney General at the Sacramento Filipino Bar Association's 7th Annual Gala on Oct. 28. His talk included a touching tribute to his parents' advocacy with farmers and laborers for better working conditions and their inclusion of him at protests against martial law in the Philippines. He also spoke in colorful terms about his continuing struggle with imposter syndrome, which includes from time to time still checking the Attorney General's official website to see that his picture really is on the front page!



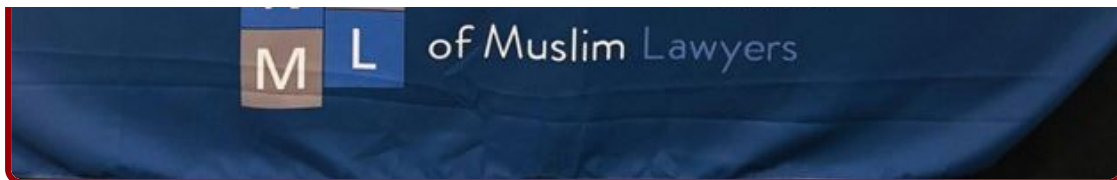
From left to right: Judge Jaya Badiga (Sacramento), retired Judge Russ Hom (Sacramento), Judge Kara Ueda (Sacramento), Judge Julie Weng-Gutierrez (Sacramento), Justice Ron Robie (3DCA), Attorney Rebecca Whitfield (Attorney at the 3DCA), and Justice Shama Mesiwala (3DCA).



CAPAJA Members Speak at National Association of Muslim Lawyers

CAPAJA members were thrilled to speak on a panel about their paths to the bench at the National Association of Muslim Lawyers on November 1 in Irvine. It was great to reunite with friends from all around the country and see CAPAJA represented from both Northern and Southern California.





From left to right: Judge Osman Abassi (Los Angeles), Judge Elia Naqvi (Orange), Justice Halim Dhanidina (ret. 2DCA), Justice Shama Mesiwala (3DCA), and Administrative Law Judge Abraham Matsui.



The Launch of SABA-OC is Assisted by CAPAJA Members

The South Asian Bar Association launched its Orange County chapter with a dinner on Nov. 4. Their first Board was installed with CAPAJA Board Member Judge Vib Mittal administering their oath. CAPAJA looks forward to working with SABA-OC in the future!



Top Row: SABA OC Board Members.

Front row left to right: Judge Mehtab Sandhu, Judge Bryan Clavecilla, Judge Randy Ladisky, Judge Kay Watson, Judge Elia Naqvi, Judge (ret.) Glenn Mahler, Judge Vib Mittal, Judge Ami Sagel, and Judge Eric Wersching.





CAPAJA Members Shine at NAPABA Convention

At the 2025 Annual Meeting of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (Nov. 12-15, 2025), CAPAJA Members were everywhere! Judges Bryant Yang and Christine Gonong of the Los Angeles Superior Court spoke on a panel on AAPI First Gen Attorneys Forging a New Path. Justice Goodwin Liu of the California Supreme Court presented a luncheon Keynote on his Portrait Project. Judge Rupa Goswami of the LASC spoke on a panel on the use of interpreters in the courtroom. And at the Judicial Council meeting, many CAPAJA members gathered.

The Council is helmed by President Judge Curtis Kin of the LASC (who is, btw, President for Life, no matter what he says...). At the meeting, Judge Holly Fujie of the LASC stepped down as Vice President of the Council but CAPAJA remains well-represented on the Council since Judge Christine Gonong was elected Secretary at the meeting. The NAPABA Judicial Council dinner was well attended by CAPAJA Members, including Judge Jacqueline Nguyen of the Ninth Circuit and Judge (ret.) Tony Ishii of the Eastern District of California and many others. A good time was had by all!



Judge Yang (second from left) and Judge Christine Gonong (far right) speaking at a NAPABA Panel on AAPI and First Gen Attorneys: Forging a New Path.





Judicial Council meeting presided by President, Hon. Curtis Kin (third from right).



Ninth Circuit Judge Jacqueline Nguyen (left) and Judge Christine Gonong (right).



CAPAJA members gathered for a photo at the Judicial Council Meeting.

From left to right: Judge Christine Gonong, Judge Curtis Kin, Judge Holly Fujie, Judge Jacqueline Nguyen, Judge (ret.) Anthony Ishii, Judge Wendy Chang, Judge Helen Yang, Judge (ret.) Russell Hom, and US Magistrate Judge Peter Kang.



From left to right: Judge Janet Hong, Judge Wendy Chang, Judge Helen Yang, and Judge Christine Gonong.



CAPAJA Members Honored by JABA

On November 13, the Japanese American Bar Association of Southern California honored retired LASC judicial officers Judge Fumi Wasserman, Commissioner Robert Kawahara, Judge Fred Fujioka and soon-to-be-retired Judge Holly Fujie. All of the CAPAJA Members gave sage advice for lawyers as well as funny anecdotes from their long careers on the bench. Congratulations and best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement to you all!





From left to right - Emily Kuwahara, President of JABA, Judge Fred Fujioka (ret.), Judge Fumiko Wasserman (ret.), Susan Roe (recently retired from the L.A. Public Defender's Office), Judge Holly Fujie, Commissioner Robert Kawahara (ret.) and Gary Tokumori, President-Elect of JABA.



CAPAJA President-Elect is Named Judge of the Year

Our very own President-Elect, Judge Nathan Vu (Orange), was honored as *Judge of the Year* by the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Southern California at its 2025 Installation Gala on November 14th. Not only did the attendees get to recognize Nathan for his many contributions to the bench and community, they also enjoyed a seven-course meal and were entertained by a lion dance and fan dance by UCLA Vietnamese students, all of which made for a memorable evening. Congratulations, Nathan!





From left to right: Judge Huy Nguyen, Judge Nathan Vu, Judge Terry Truong, Judge Phu Nguyen, Justice Tracie Brown, Judge Christine Gonong, Judge Mike Madokoro, and Judge Hoa Hoang.



CAPAJA *Members in the News*



CAPAJA Member to be Honored by California Judges Foundation



On December 1, CAPAJA Member Judge Bruce E. Chan of the San Francisco Superior Court will receive the prestigious Aranda Access to Justice Award at a ceremony and reception to be held at 455 Golden Gate Avenue, in the Judicial Council Board Room starting at 3 pm. Bruce is a founding member and past Chair of Asian American Recovery Services, formerly the largest provider of substance abuse services to APAs in California. He is the founding judicial leader of San Francisco's Young Adult Court, and was also a member of the task force that established a drug treatment court in the San Francisco juvenile court.

Bruce, CAPAJA is proud of your accomplishments and applauds your work and your contribution to increasing access to justice.



CAPAJA Members Profiled in DJ

On November 14, CAPAJA Member Judge Sumako McCallum was profiled in the Daily Journal in an article entitled: "Judge Sumako McCallum brings generational resilience to dependency court." In the article, Sumako noted: "When there's a tough call I have to make, I'll tap into my Japanese grandma for strength." She also noted that CAPAJA Member and Dependency Court

Presiding Judge Akemi Arakaki encouraged her to apply to the bench. That's the CAPAJA way! Congratulations on an inspiring profile, Sumako!

On November 18, CAPAJA Member Judge Jaya Badiga of the Sacramento County Superior Court was profiled in an article entitled "Judge Jaya Badiga's nontraditional path shapes approach to complex family law." Attorneys and Judges attested to Jaya's excellent demeanor and her strong command of family law - not unexpected as she is one of the few family law judges who is a Certified Family Law Specialist! An excellent profile, Jaya - you make CAPAJA proud!



Sumako McCallum

Los Angeles County Superior Court

Career Highlights: Appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court by Gov. Gavin Newsom, June 18 2025; Commissioner, Los Angeles County Superior Court, 2024-2025; senior deputy, Office of the County Counsel, Los Angeles, 2014-2024; staff attorney, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, 2003-2014; Morrison & Foerster LLP, 2000-2002

Law School: UCLA School of Law, 2000

Source: dailyjournal.com/judicial_profile/10869



Jaya Badiga

Sacramento County Superior Court

Career Highlights: Appointed Sacramento Superior Court judge by Gov. Gavin Newsom, May 3, 2024; commissioner, Sacramento County, 2022-24; sole practitioner, 2018- 22; attorney, California Department of Health Care Services, 2020; attorney, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, 2018; managing attorney, WEAVE Inc., 2013-18; attorney adviser, Galaxy Architects & Infrastructure, 2010-13; staff counsel, California Employment Development Department, 2009-10.

Law School: Santa Clara University School of Law, 2008

Source: dailyjournal.com/judicial_profile/10870



CAPAJA *Calendar of Events*



December

Due Process in Administrative Hearings

Date: December 9, 2025 (*Note: New date)

Location: Webinar
Hosted by: ALJ Committee
Contact: Annie Greenleaf and Kristin Rosi



January 2026

The New Rules on Exercising Peremptory Challenges, California Code of Civil Procedures § 231.7

Date: January 27, 2026, 12:15 - 1:30 pm
Location: Zoom
Hosted by: Education Committee
Contact: Judge Joseph Kang



February 2026

CAPAJA Malaysia Singapore 2026 (sold out)

Date: February 10 - 21, 2026
Location: Malaysia, Singapore
Hosted by: Travel Committee
Contact: Judge Teresa Magno



Pending Events (*dates to be determined)

Alternative Dispute Resolution Skills Workshop

Date: TBA
Location: Webinar
Hosted by: ALJ Committee
Contact: Annie Greenleaf and Kristin Rosi



CAPAJA Student Scholarship



CAPAJA will again award \$2500 scholarships to deserving law students working as judicial interns.

Your generous donations make these scholarships possible. If you are a judge, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to our Scholarship Fund through our website.

[Click to Donate](#)

Thank you for your support!



[Home](#)

[Membership](#)

[News](#)



11138 Del Amo Boulevard, #453
Lakewood, CA 90715
(213) 369 4147

[Website](#)



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email



CAPAJA | 11138 Del Amo Boulevard, #453 | Lakewood, CA 90715 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!