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American  
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## March 2023 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

This may have been a short month, but CAPAJA Members have made a lot of news in it! Here is the CAPAJA newsletter for March.

### NEWS

#### March is CAPAJA's Scholarship Fundraiser Month!

Last year, we awarded two scholarships to deserving law student clerks: Allen Sin (UC Hastings) and Jean Fang (Pepperdine). This was only made possible thanks to your generous donations. We hope to grow our scholarship fund with your help and offer scholarships to two more worthy students this year. Please help us reach our goal! If you are a judge, please consider making a tax-deductible donation of \$150, or any amount you feel comfortable, to our Scholarship Fund via our website at [www.capaja.org/student-scholarship](http://www.capaja.org/student-scholarship) (scroll to the bottom of the page to make a donation). Thank you for your support!

#### Save the Date for the CAPAJA General Meeting

CAPAJA will hold a **General Meeting** of its membership on **April 12, at 12:15**. Zoom information and an agenda will be circulated in the near future.

#### CAPAJA Member Honored by Bar

On January 26, 2023, CAPAJA Member and Co-Chair of the ALJ Committee, Judge Dorothy Chou Proudfoot received the Distinguished Service Award (Bench Officer) at the Alameda County Bar Association's Installation and Distinguished Service Awards Dinner, held at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center. Congratulations, Judge Proudfoot!

#### Justice Ming Chin (Ret.) to be Interviewed for BHBA Bench Stories

On Friday, March 3, CAPAJA Member and Supreme Court Justice (Ret.) Ming Chin will be interviewed about his illustrious career for the Beverly Hills Bar Association Litigation Section's "Bench Stories." To learn more and to sign up for this interesting live webinar, go to [www.bhba.org](http://www.bhba.org).

#### CAPAJA President-Elect Sworn in as Judge of the LA Superior Court

On February 16, CAPAJA President-Elect Terry Truong was sworn in by LA Superior Court Presiding Judge Samantha Jessner as a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge at a ceremony attended by friends and family, including many CAPAJA Members. Attached is a photo of the CAPAJA members who attended and her being sworn in as a judge.

#### CAPAJA Member To Be Honored by Western San Bernardino County Bar

On March 2 at 5 pm, San Bernardino County Superior Court Presiding Judge Glenn Yabuno will be honored as Judicial Officer of the Year by

the Western San Bernardino County Bar Association. The ceremony will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton located at 222 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, California. See the attached flyer for details. Congratulations, PJ Yabuno!

### **Governor Newsom Announces New API Judicial Appointments**

On February 17, the Governor announced the appointments of three new API jurists:

**Judge Danny Chou** of the San Mateo County Superior Court has been nominated to serve as an Associate Justice of the First District Court of Appeal, Division Five. Soon-to-be-Justice Chou has been on the Superior Court since 2018 and his new position requires confirmation by the Commission on Judicial Appointments.

**Gary Eto** has been appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court. This appointment is particularly welcomed as he is filling the vacancy created by the retirement of CAPAJA Member Fred Fujioka.

**Joseph Kang** has been appointed to the Orange County Superior Court. This is another welcome appointment, as he fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Past CAPAJA President Kirk H. Nakamura!

Welcome to the bench, Soon-to-Be-Judges Eto and Kang and congratulations on your elevation, soon-to-be-Justice Chou!

### **Justice Mesiwala Confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments**

On February 14, CAPAJA Member and Past CAPAJA-PAC Co-Chair Shama Hakim Mesiwala was unanimously confirmed as an Associate Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal by the Commission on Judicial Appointments. The new Justice was confirmed by the three-member commission, which included Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, Attorney General Rob Bonta and Acting Presiding Justice Ronald Robie. Congratulations on your confirmation, Justice Mesiwala!

### **CAPAJA Board Representative Featured in CJA Publication**

CAPAJA District 5 Representative, Judge Jeff Mangar of the Stanislaus County Superior Court was profiled in the February 23 edition of The Voice, a publication of the California Judges Association. Judge Mangar was profiled as the District 2 Representative on CJA's Executive Board. The article outlined his background before his appointment to the bench and extolled his professional and judicial activities as a judge. Excellent profile, Judge Mangar!

### **CAPAJA Co-Sponsors Program Supporting API Women Lawyers**

On February 9, CAPAJA, CalAPABA and the California State Bar co-sponsored a rousingly successful program entitled "Disparities in Advancement of API Women in the Law: Evidence and Action Planning." In an innovative Zoom session for which over 120 law students and lawyers signed up, 27 successful API women lawyers and judges gave advice in small break-out groups on how to reach their career goals. These group discussion leaders included many CAPAJA Members, including Immediate Past President Judge Audra Ibarra, Commissioner Tiffany Tai, Commissioner Christine Gonong, Judge Kim L. Nguyen, President-Elect Judge Terry Truong, Past President Judge Holly Fujie, and Judges Wendy Chang, Esther Kim, Ann Park, Gia Kim, Linda Sun, Secretary Judge Michelle Ahnn, Judge Anne Hwang, Commissioner Grace Kim and Judge Shirley Watkins. The program developed a number of great ideas to enhance the leadership skills of API women lawyers. Thank you to all participating CAPAJA Members – your advice and mentoring will continue to make a difference in the careers of the young lawyers for many years to come!

### **CAPAJA Member Honored By Southeast District Bar**

On January 28, 2023, CAPAJA Member LASC Judge Roger Ito received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeast (LA) District Bar Association at its 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation of Officers and Trustees Awards Gala. Congratulations to Judge Ito for this recognition of his life-long dedication to the rule of law and his long and successful tenure on the bench.

### **CAPAJA Member Profiled in Daily Journal**

San Diego County Superior Court Judge Mark T. Cumba was featured in a Daily Journal profile on February 17. The article is titled “Judge Mark Cumba aims for dignity in interactions with parents in dependency court” and reports Judge Cumba’s comment “I think it’s great to be able to hear both sides and make a decision. That is how I am serving the community: making fair and impartial rulings based on evidence.” Congratulations on a great profile, Judge Cumba!

### **CAPAJA Members Speak on Podcast**

CAPAJA Member Orange County Superior Court Judge Richard Lee discusses the ethical and unconscious bias issues that judges face when using social media in a *Ten Minute Mentor* episode available in a CJER program. Also, on the panel discussing these issues is CAPAJA Member and LASC Judge Alicia Blanco. This extremely helpful and timely program considers how to navigate thorny social media scenarios. Thank you for sharing your wisdom, Judges Lee and Blanco!

### **CAPAJA Hosts Speed Mentoring Event March 22**

CAPAJA will hold a virtual Speed Mentoring event together with APABA-LA, APAWLA and SCCLA for API Law Students to meet and connect with API judicial officers throughout the state on Wednesday, March 22 at 5:30 pm. Please see the attached flyer. We encourage all CAPAJA members to sign up by March 15 to speed mentor students at [www.apaba.org/event-5159083](http://www.apaba.org/event-5159083).

### **CAPAJA Past President Profiled in Daily Journal**

On February 7, LASC Judge and CAPAJA Newsletter Editor Holly Fujie was featured in a profile in the Daily Journal. The article highlighted Judge Fujie’s role in state and federal judicial selection, mentioning her view that aspiring judges should have “excellent judicial demeanor, good legal and life experience, intelligence, ethics, community involvement and good character.” Sounds like an accurate description of a typical CAPAJA member!

### **CAPAJA Members To Speak at CJA Conference**

The California Judges Association is holding its Mid-Year/Retired Judges Conference in Monterey on March 16-18. Speakers will include Past CAPAJA President Judge Roberta Hayashi (on a panel on “Do’s & Don’ts of Remote Appearance Technology in the courtroom”), Judges Von Deroian and Winston Keh (on “Transition to the Bench: Tips and Strategies for New Judges”) and Judge Tam Nomoto Schumann (Ret.) (on a panel called “In Our New Season of Life: Retirement Options for Every Judge”). Come see our members shine in these programs and get together in-person with our members!

### **CAPAJA President Speaks at Joint Inaugural Unity Bar Event in Fresno County**

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> the Black Lawyers Association of Central California, Central Valley Pridelaw Association and the South Bar Association of Central California hosted a joint inaugural event. This event featured guest speakers Sonny Sandhu, CAPAJA President, Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Cespedes and the Honorable Martin J. Jenkins, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California.

CAPAJA President Sonny Sandhu spoke about the importance of these unity bar events and working with together with affinity associations. He also spoke about the work CAPAJA is doing to ensure we have a judicial branch that is reflective of the community it serves.

### **Affinity Judge Organization to Meet at CJA Mid-Year**

On Friday, March 17, CAJAC, the California Affinity Judges Association Coalition, will hold a reception with a no-host bar at the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa in the Dolphins Ballroom during the California Judges Association Mid-Year Meeting. Anyone who has been at a CAJAC reception before will tell you what fun they are, with the opportunity to socialize with your friends from AAACJO, CAPAJA, CABL-JC, CLJA, LGBT-JOC and CJA from throughout the state. No need to RSVP, just show up! See the attached flyer.

With CAPAJA's best wishes to all its members for a healthy, happy and productive Spring!

Sonny Sandhu, CAPAJA President  
Terry Truong, 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, please send an email to Newsletter Editor Holly Fujie at [HFujie@LACourt.org](mailto:HFujie@LACourt.org), and we will feature it in the next newsletter.*