



A California not-for-profit membership organization

#### Executive Board

*President*

**Hon. Holly Fujie**  
Los Angeles County

*President-Elect*

**Hon. Audra Ibarra**  
Santa Clara County

*Secretary*

**Hon. Michelle Ahnn**  
Los Angeles County

*Treasurer*

**Hon. Terry Truong**  
Los Angeles County

*Immediate Past President*

**Hon. Roberta Hayashi**  
Santa Clara County

*Judicial Appointments Committee*

**Hon. Richard Sueyoshi**  
Sacramento County

**Hon. Lee Tsao**

Los Angeles County

*1<sup>st</sup> District Representative*

**Hon. Raj Chatterjee**

*2<sup>nd</sup> District Representatives*

**Hon. Christopher Lui**  
**Hon. Jana Seng**

*3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative*

**Hon. Joginder Dhillon**

*4<sup>th</sup> District Representatives*

**Hon. Winston Keh**  
**Hon. Nhan "Nathan" Vu**

*5<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

**Hon. Sonny Sandhu**

*6<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

**Hon. Frederick Chung**

**California Asian-Pacific  
American Judges  
Association, Inc**

11138 Del Amo Blvd. #453  
Lakewood, CA 90715-1103  
[www.CAPAJA.org](http://www.CAPAJA.org)  
[capaja2020@gmail.com](mailto:capaja2020@gmail.com)

## April 2021 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Happy Easter on April 4!

### CAPAJA Member Survey Series

The results are in! We received over 90 responses to our inaugural survey. Thank you to all those who responded. We will be following up on your suggestions and inquiries.

We are running a series of surveys to help us better serve our members. The surveys are 10 questions or less and should take three minutes or less to complete. This month's survey focuses on mentorship, which is an important mission of CAPAJA. Please help us with this mission by completing the April survey here:

[request the survey link at capaja2020@gmail.com](mailto:capaja2020@gmail.com)

Thank you to our Survey Committee co-chair Judge Nathan Vu for spearheading this effort, and thanks to all of you for completing this important survey of our membership.

### CAPAJA Program on Judicial Appointment Process

We are hosting two programs on judicial appointments featuring Judicial Appointment Luis Céspedes and local CAPAJA member judges.

The next program is moderated by Justice (ret.) Halim Dhanidina with Secretary Céspedes, Judge Paul Baelly of Ventura, and Judges Michelle DeCasas and Bryant Yang of Los Angeles. It will be held on Zoom on April 7 at 5:15 pm. Please spread the word. Anyone interested in an appointment to the trial court should register at:

<http://bit.ly/judge-event-4-7>.

With over 150 attendees, our first event was one of the best-attended programs held recently on appointment. This session, which highlighted CAPAJA's new Judicial Applicant Mentoring Program, featured a fascinating presentation by Secretary Céspedes and key information from Judge Kara Ueda of Sacramento and Judge Jayne Lee of San Joaquin, with the skillful moderation of Judge Johnny Gogo of Santa Clara.

Thank you to our speakers, our Education Committee co-chairs Judges Gogo, Sunil Kulkarni, and Joanne Motoike, and our Outreach Committee co-chairs Judges Eumi Lee and Wes Hsu on a very successful program.

### **CAPAJA Program on Judicial Applicant Vetting Process on June 23**

We are hosting a program on the interviews and investigations judicial applicants go through called “I’ve submitted. Now what? – The Judicial Vetting Process.” The moderator will be former JNE Commissioner and CAPAJA President-Elect Audra Ibarra. The panel will feature Stella Ngai, vice-chair of JNE; Justice Tracie Brown, a member of the Northern California JSAC; and Kenneth Wang, a member of the LA County Bar Judicial Evaluation Committee. The program will be on Zoom on June 23 at noon. Please spread the word. Anyone interested in an appointment to the trial court should register at:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7HwrUYiVS9OiFBmAOi\\_67A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7HwrUYiVS9OiFBmAOi_67A).

Thank you to our speakers and our Education Committee co-chairs for producing this program.

### **CAPAJA Law School Committee**

Our Law School Committee was launched this month. Its goals will include serving as our liaison to California law schools and their API student groups, serving as a clearinghouse for API students looking for a judicial internship, and ensuring every API law student meets an API judge before graduation.

If you are passionate about working with law school students and strengthening our API pipeline to the legal profession, please join this committee by emailing the co-chairs Judge Jayne Lee ([jlee@sjcourts.org](mailto:jlee@sjcourts.org)) and Commissioner Terry Truong ([TTruong@LACourt.org](mailto:TTruong@LACourt.org)).

Thank you, co-chairs, for spearheading this effort.

### **CAPAJA Mid-Year Membership Meeting**

It was great to see so many CAPAJA members at the Mid-Year Membership Meeting this month on Zoom. Thanks to the remote platform, we may have had our largest Mid-Year and possibly our best-attended meeting ever, with over 70 members. There were reports from each of our committees: Outreach, Education, Survey, Judicial Appointments, Judicial Elections, Mentorship, Administrative Law Judges and Scholarship, as well as from each district representative.

The membership also approved amended by-laws proposed by the By-Laws Revision Committee. The new API judges in California, many of whom attended the meeting, were highlighted.

Thank you to our speakers and members for a fun and interesting meeting.

### **CAPAJA and CAJAC's Statement Against Rising Attacks on Asians**

At the Mid-Year Meeting, our membership voted for CAPAJA to issue a statement condemning the increase in violence against APIs. All our fellow members of the California Affinity Judges Association Coalition -- the Association of African American Judicial Officers, the California Black Lawyers Association Judicial Council, the California Latinx Judges Association, and LGBT Judges of California -- joined in the statement. The statement was posted on the California Judges Association website and featured in its online newsletter, *The Voice*. Please feel to post and share the statement, which can be seen here:

[https://9eef7e85-96f0-4df4-bd17-698a9be34dba.filesusr.com/ugd/82a008\\_6bf4571e33494991b49a4eddf85696ad.pdf](https://9eef7e85-96f0-4df4-bd17-698a9be34dba.filesusr.com/ugd/82a008_6bf4571e33494991b49a4eddf85696ad.pdf).

Thanks to Judge Sonny Sandhu, Judge Jana Seng, and Commissioner Terry Truong for drafting the powerful statement.

### **CAPAJA Member Justice Ming Chin Speaks at CJA Mid-Year Meeting**

California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin (ret.) was interviewed in a fascinating fireside chat with his former colleague, Justice Josh Groban, at the CJA Mid-Year Meeting. In addition, Judges Kirk Nakamura, B. Tam Nomoto Schumann, and Wes Hsu gave excellent presentations.

### **Assemblymember Rob Bonta Nominated for California Attorney General**

Congratulations, Rob Bonta! Governor Newsom has chosen him to be the next Attorney General of California, subject to the legislature's confirmation. Assemblymember Bonta would be the first Filipino American California Attorney General and is the first Filipino American legislator in California. California is lucky to have his continued leadership and service.

### **CAPAJA Member Judge Russell Hom Honored**

Congratulations, Russ Hom! The Board of Directors of the Sacramento County Bar Association (SCBA) selected him as the SCBA 2021 Judge of the Year. He is currently the Sacramento County Superior Court Presiding Judge and will receive this well-deserved award at the SCBA Bench-Bar Reception on May 27 at 6 pm. You can register here:

<https://sacbar.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1484025&group=>.

### **CAPAJA Member Judge Teresa Magno Honored**

Congratulations, Teresa Magno! Past CAPAJA President Teresa Magno will be honored by the Philippine American Bar Association of Los Angeles as its 2021 Distinguished Jurist at PABA's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation and Awards Gala on April 6 at 6 pm. You can register here:

[http://philippineamericanbar.org/?page\\_id=1048](http://philippineamericanbar.org/?page_id=1048).

### **CAPAJA Endorsed APA Judges Appointed**

Congratulations Susan Ser and Warren Kato! Governor Newsom appointed them to the Los Angeles Superior Court. Both are from the LA District Attorney's Office. And both were endorsed by CAPAJA.

Thank you to our Judicial Appointments Committee co-chairs, Judges Lee Tsao and Rick Sueyoshi, as well as our hard-working members who helped vet the candidates.

### **CAPAJA Members Profiled in Daily Journal**

Judge Tammy Ryu was featured in a Daily Journal Profile which highlighted her impact as a Korean American judge sitting in the Compton Courthouse. The Daily Journal reported that the Governor of Guam recommended to President Biden that Judge Johnny Gogo be nominated for U.S. Attorney of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Finally, the Daily Journal profiled Judge Julie Tang (ret.) and her success as a mediator.

### **CAPAJA Member Judge Bryant Yang Swore in New Bar Admittees**

Judge Bryant Yang swore in new admittees to the California Bar at a ceremony arranged by the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA) of Los Angeles County and co-sponsored by six other APA bar associations. Judge Yang was president of APABA in 2016.

### **First Chinese American Lawyer in United States Honored on April 14**

Columbia Law School is holding an event to honor Hong Yen Chang, class of 1886, the first Chinese graduate of Columbia Law School and the first Chinese American admitted to practice law in the United States. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 1888 by a special act of legislation of the New York State legislature, but denied admission to the California bar. He was posthumously admitted to the California Bar in 2015. The event is on April 14 at 5 pm EDT. You can register at:

<https://mailchi.mp/law.columbia.edu/hongyenchang2021?e=2c65e19f2f>

With CAPAJA's best wishes,

Holly J. Fujie, CAPAJA President  
Audra Ibarra, 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 or is taking a new position, please let us know, and we will feature it in the next newsletter.*