



A California not-for-profit membership organization

Executive Board

President

Hon. Audra Ibarra
Santa Clara County

President-Elect

Hon. Sonny Sandhu
Stanislaus County

Immediate Past President

Hon. Holly Fujie
Los Angeles County

Secretary

Hon. Michelle Ahnn
Los Angeles County

Treasurer

Hon. Terry Truong
Los Angeles County

Judicial Appointments Committee

Hon. Richard Sueyoshi
Sacramento County

Hon. Lee Tsao
Los Angeles County

1st District Representative

Hon. Joni Hiramoto

2nd District Representatives

Hon. Christopher Lui
Hon. Jana Seng

3rd District Representative

Hon. Joginder Dhillon

4th District Representatives

Hon. Winston Keh
Hon. Nhan "Nathan" Vu

5th District Representative

Hon. Jeff Mangar

6th District Representatives

Hon. Frederick Chung
Hon. Johnny Gogo

**California Asian-Pacific
American Judges
Association**

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October 2021 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Hope everyone is having a healthy and happy Fall!

NEWS

2021-2022 CAPAJA Officers and Executive Committee Unanimously Elected

At its Annual Meeting on September 26, CAPAJA's membership unanimously voted to elect a slate of Officers and Executive Committee members for 2021-2022:

Hon. Audra Ibarra (Santa Clara) – President
Hon. Sonny Sandhu (Stanislaus) – President-Elect
Hon. Holly J. Fujie (Los Angeles) – Immediate Past President
Hon. Michelle Ahnn (Los Angeles) – Secretary
Hon. Terry Truong (Los Angeles) – Treasurer
Hon. Joni Hiramoto (Contra Costa) - 1st Dist. Rep.
Hon. Jana Seng and Hon. Christopher Lui (Los Angeles) – 2d Dist. Reps.
Hon. Joe Dhillon (Sacramento) – 3d Dist. Rep.
Hon. Winston Keh (San Bernardino) and Hon. Nathan Vu (Orange) – 4th Dist. Reps.
Hon. Jeff Mangar (Stanislaus) – 5th Dist. Rep.
Hon. Fred Chung and Hon. Johnny Gogo (Santa Clara) – 6th Dist. Reps.
Hon. Lee Tsao (Los Angeles) – So. Cal. Co-Chair – Judicial Appointments Committee
Hon. Rick Sueyoshi (Sacramento) – No. Cal. Co-Chair – Judicial Appointments Committee

Jinsook Ohta Nominated by President Joe Biden for Federal Bench

President Biden nominated CAPAJA member Judge Ohta of the San Diego Superior Court for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California on September 30, 2021. When confirmed, she will be the first API woman to sit on that Court.

CAPAJA Members Named Supervising Judges in Santa Clara County

Judge Sunil Kulkarni, who serves as Co-Chair of CAPAJA's Education Committee, has been named Supervising Judge of the Santa Clara County Superior Court's Civil Division for next year, and Judge Daniel Nishigaya has been named Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division.

Judge Paul Baelly Profiled in the Daily Journal

CAPAJA member Judge Baelly of the Ventura Superior Court was profiled in the Daily Journal on September 16, 2021. Headlined “Judge Paul Baelly joins attorneys in thinking out loud to find solutions,” Judge Baelly discussed his approach to his traffic and misdemeanor assignments, saying that he is “trying to balance decorum and letting people get things off their chest.” He also recounted how he spends his weekends commuting to San Bernardino County to assist his mother in running the family store.

CAPAJA Welcomes New Judges

Governor Newsom appointed Judge Mark Singerton to the Riverside County Superior Court and Judge Kawika Smith to the San Bernardino County Superior Court on July 9, 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual CJA Town Hall on Representation for CAPAJA on the CJA Board

On October 7, 2021 at 4:30 pm, there will be a continuation of the CJA Annual Meeting by webinar to discuss whether CAPAJA and other affinity judge groups should each have a seat on the CJA Board. The electronic vote will be opened at the end of the meeting and will remain open for two weeks after that. Approval requires a 2/3 majority. So CAPAJA needs its CJA members to vote for CAPAJA to be given a CJA board seat.

Whether or not you can make the Town Hall, please remember to vote before October 21.

SAVE THE DATE for a Fireside Chat with Retired Judge and CAPAJA friend LaDoris Cordell on November 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm, hosted by fellow CAJAC member the California Association of Black Lawyers – Judicial Council. Judge Cordell wrote a fascinating book, “Her Honor – My Life on the Bench...What Works, What’s Broken, and How to Change It,” about her experiences with our justice system, published October 4. This is a great opportunity to hear from a true trailblazer in the California courts, interviewed by another icon of our bench and CAPAJA ally, Judge Brenda Harbin Forte (ret.).

PAST EVENTS

CAPAJA Annual Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of CAPAJA was held on September 26, 2021 in Monterey, in person and remotely. The night before, 20 CAPAJA members from all over the State met in person for dinner. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with colleagues after such a long pandemic-induced hiatus.

At the Annual Membership Meeting, CAPAJA presented outgoing President Judge Holly Fujie with an engraved crystal statute for her vision and leadership. CAPAJA thanked the outgoing board members, including Judge Fujie, Immediate Past President Judge Roberta Hayashi, and 1st District Representative Judge Somnath Raj Chatterjee, for their years of service and dedication to the organization. Incoming President Judge Audra Ibarra presented her plans for the coming

year, including many exciting new programs. It was wonderful to see so many of our friends and colleagues and learn about all the amazing work CAPAJA has been doing this year and the new board's plans for next year.

If you want to find out how you can get more involved with CAPAJA's many programs and projects, contact President Audra Ibarra at <redacted>.

CAPAJA Members Speak at CJA Annual Meeting

CAPAJA members featured prominently in the programs at the CJA Annual Meeting, held September 24-26, 2021 in Monterey. Former President Judge Roberta Hayashi spoke on Misogyny, 2020-2021 President Judge Holly Fujie and 2021-2022 President Judge Audra Ibarra spoke on "Unscripted Conversations on Diversity and Inclusivity," Judge Rupa Goswami interviewed Nobel Laureate Professor Daniel Kahneman on "Judging Fast and Slow," Judge Joni Hiramoto shared her insights in a program called "CJA Talks" and Judge Jack Lucky (ret.) spoke on "Realizing the 'New Normal.'" There were also Virtual, On-Demand Programs, including one on "Building a Better Juvenile Court," featuring Judge Roger Chan.

Judge Johnny Gogo's Flag-Signing Project Featured in the Media

A Los Angeles Times [article](#), on September 20, 2021, featured Judge Gogo's efforts to honor the Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II by having them sign antique American flags. In addition, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California presented an online program on September 29 called: "Tadaima: WWII Camp Survivor Memorial Flag-Signing Tour with Judge Johnny Gogo and Friends." Judge Gogo currently serves as the 6th District Co-Representative on the CAPAJA board and as Co-Chair of the Education Committee.

With CAPAJA's best wishes,

Audra Ibarra, CAPAJA President
Sonny Sandhu, 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 send an email to Newsletter Editor Holly Fujie at <redacted>, and we will feature it in the next newsletter.