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## December 2023 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Hasn't this year gone by fast? Here is the last CAPAJA newsletter for 2023 – Happy Holidays, everyone!

### NEWS

#### CAPAJA Member Confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

On November 7, the United States Senate confirmed the nomination of CAPAJA member U.S. Magistrate Judge Kenly Kiya Kato to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. In an announcement by NAPABA, Judge Kato's confirmation was applauded, and she was praised for her "exemplary" record as a U.S. Magistrate Judge, as well as for "her commitment to public service and access to justice" as well as for being active in the AANHPI community. Congratulations, Judge Kato!

#### CAPAJA Member Honored by MBC of SF

On November 9, CAPAJA Member and San Francisco Superior Court Judge Vincent Hwang was honored with the 2023 Champion of Diversity Award by the Minority Bar Coalition of the San Francisco Bay Area, a network of diverse bar associations and law pathway programs dedicated to working in a unified manner to advance the cause of diversity in the legal profession. Congratulations on a well-deserved honor, Judge Hwang!

#### New CAPAJA Member Welcomed

Weiru Wang has been appointed as an ALJ for the Social Security Administration and has been welcomed to the ranks of CAPAJA members and to the very active ALJ Committee currently chaired by ALJ Kimberly Kim of the Public Utilities Commission and ALJ Sandy Yu of the Department of Social Services. Welcome to the bench, ALJ Wang!

#### Fall Issue of The Bench Features CAPAJA Members

The Fall issue of the Official Journal of the California Judges Association featured a number of CAPAJA members prominently. Leading the issue was CJA's President and CAPAJA Past president Erica Yew with her President's message "Nota Bene: Looking forward." Besides the article authors mentioned below, President Yew also highlighted CAPAJA Member Judge Stuart Hing as leading a "Web Gathering" on December 4 with Judge Carrie Zepeda about CJA's organized trips (she hints at a trip to Vietnam in the works!). Judges Elaine Lu and Curtis Kin of the LA Superior Court penned another column on Civil Law, entitled "Significant Workers' Rights Decisions." Retired Riverside County Superior Court Judge Jackson Lucky and Monterey County Superior Court Judge Ian Rivamonte were profiled, and Past CJA President Judge Tam Nomoto Schumann (ret.) provided a fascinating interview with Uganda's Chief Magistrate of Wildlife Court, Gladys Kamasanyu. SDSC Judge Rohanee Zapanta provided insights on "The Gratitude Attitude," giving an 8 part test on assessing our gratitude. As always, CAPAJA members shone in The Bench this issue!

### **CAPAJA Organizes Amazing Tour of Japan**

The inaugural travel tour sponsored by CAPAJA was a great success! Under the leadership of CAPAJA Travel Committee Co-Chairs and Past Presidents, SCSC Judge Roberta Hayashi and LASC Judge Teresa Magno, 16 active or retired California judicial officers and some of their family members visited Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Hakone and Tokyo between November 1 – November 11, 2023. The activity-packed tour included a welcome lunch with the U.S. Consul to Osaka-Kyoto, a Judicial Symposium at Temple University School of Law – Japan Campus, sightseeing in Kyoto and Hakone, a visit to Japan’s Supreme Court, and a farewell dinner on a river boat on the Sumida River. Judge Shingo Hidaka (introduced to us by Judge Holly Fujie) was our host at the Supreme Court as well as the organizer for an informal reception in Shibuya. Thanks to our CJA affiliate status, CJA helped publicize the tour and provided JEC and MCLE credit for attendees at the symposium, at which Judges Magno and Hayashi spoke on two of the panels, and CAPAJA member Judge Sabina Helton moderated a panel on jury trials in Japan and California. Judge Magno worked closely with our tour coordinator, Jia Xie of Be Abroad, who was introduced to us through CJA. Jia did a wonderful job and exceeded expectations. The program was universally lauded as a complete success and is a wonderful beginning to what is hoped will be an annual trip abroad for CAPAJA.







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](mailto:HFujie@LACourt.org), and we will feature it in the next newsletter.*