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

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## **Jan. 2021 CAPAJA Newsletter**

Dear CAPAJA Member:

We hope you all had a great holiday season as we leave 2020 behind and start the new year. Finally! Here is the CAPAJA news for January.

### **New APA Judges**

On December 9, 2020, Governor Newsom appointed two new APA Superior Court judges. Keith Fong was appointed to the Alameda Superior Court and Jinsook Ohta was appointed to the San Diego Superior Court.

That same day, the Governor appointed CAPAJA Member San Diego Superior Court Judge Truc Do as the first APA woman on the 4th District Court of Appeal, and the first Vietnamese American to serve on any of the California State Courts of Appeal.

This month these APAs who were elected in 2020 will start their judicial careers: Lana Kim (LASC), Scott Yang (LASC), Linda Sun (LASC), Jeff Mangar (Stanislaus SC) and CJ Mody (SDSC).

The new judges have received complimentary inaugural CAPAJA memberships through 2021 and will soon be actively involved in our organization.

Congratulations to all!

### **Justice Ming Chin Honored by CLA**

Member and California Supreme Court Justice (ret.) Ming Chin was given the California Lawyers Association's highest honor, the Bernard E. Witkin Medal in a virtual award ceremony. Congratulations to Justice Chin on receiving this well-deserved and very prestigious honor.

### **CAJAC Reception for Justice Martin Jenkins**

On December 9, 2020, CAPAJA co-sponsored a CAJAC (California Affinity Judges Association Coalition) Zoom Celebration of the Appointment of Martin Jenkins to the California Supreme Court (filling the seat vacated by Justice Chin). President Holly Fujie spoke on behalf of CAPAJA about Justice Jenkins' career and thanked him for his role in Governor Newsom's appointment of 16 APAs to the Superior Courts and Justice Do's appointment that day to the DCA.

### **LA Superior Court Orientation for New APA Judges**

On December 2, 2020, CAPAJA's LA Superior Court judges held an informal orientation and welcome Zoom conference for the newest APA judges elected and appointed to the LASC. They got to "meet" the LA area CAPAJA officers as well as their 2d District representatives, Judges Jana Seng and Christopher Lui. The new judges expressed interest in becoming involved in CAPAJA's activities and appreciated the opportunity to get to know CAPAJA's leaders.

### **LA Superior Court CAPAJA Reception for New PJ and APJ – January 28**

2d District CAPAJA Representatives Judge Jana Seng and Judge Christopher Lui and Secretary Judge Michelle Ahnn have planned a Zoom Reception for CAPAJA members on the LASC to meet our new Presiding Judge Eric Taylor and Assistant Presiding Judge Samantha Jessner. It will take place on January 28, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Contact Jana at [jseng@lacourt.org](mailto:jseng@lacourt.org) if you did not receive the invitation and wish to attend.

### **New Judicial Appointments Secretary**

On December 10, 2020, Governor Newsom announced the appointment of his new Judicial Appointments Secretary, Luis Céspedes, Esq. of Sacramento. The announcement included a quote from CAPAJA member Russell L. Hom, Presiding Judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court, praising Mr. Céspedes' "deep sense of community" and his work "to improve the legal profession and the judiciary."

CAJAC is holding a Zoom meeting with Mr. Céspedes on Wednesday, January 27 at 4:30 p.m., to support his efforts to diversify the California judiciary. CAPAJA members are encouraged to attend. We will send all members the Zoom information as soon as it is available.

### **Judge Gogo Honored for Work with Veterans**

Judge Johnny Gogo of the Santa Clara County Superior Court has been honored for his work tracking down and traveling to meet with Battle of Saipan World War II veterans to personally thank them for liberating his native Guam.

### **Judicial Applicant Mentoring Program Launched by the LA Superior Court**

The LA Superior Court has created a Judicial Applicant Mentoring Program under the auspices of the Governor's office to help lawyers seeking appointment by the Governor to a judicial position by providing them with a Judge-Mentor to encourage and assist them in the process. Lawyer-Mentees must be members of the California bar in good standing for at least ten years and within two years of intending to apply for a judicial appointment. Judge-Mentors will provide advice and guidance on the process of applying and on what candidates can do to improve their chances of appointment. The program is not meant for those who have already submitted their applications. CAPAJA member Judge Audra Mori is co-chair of the LASC

Mentor Program Outreach Sub-Committee. If you know of any great potential mentees seeking appointment to the LA Superior Court, direct them to the court's website ([www.lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org)) where they can click on the "Judicial Mentor Program" bar on the home page to sign up. If you are an LASC Judge interested in becoming a mentor to judicial candidates, contact Presiding Judge Eric Taylor at [etaylor@lacourt.org](mailto:etaylor@lacourt.org) to apply. If you are a judge in another county interested in creating a similar program in your court, contact Judge Helen Zukin at [hzukin@lacourt.org](mailto:hzukin@lacourt.org).

### **Fred Korematsu Day in Santa Clara County**

CAPAJA Immediate Past President, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge Roberta Hayashi, invites all CAPAJA members to attend the online celebration of Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution sponsored by the SCSC, together with other community groups and Santa Clara University. The event will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2021 starting at 11 a.m. Register to attend at <http://bit.ly/3aPN8sq>. For details on the program, see the attached flyer.

### **Openings for Central District of California Judge and U.S. Attorney**

Senator Dianne Feinstein's Judicial Advisory Committee for the Central District of California is seeking excellent applicants for U.S. Attorney and federal judge positions in the District. The Senator has expressed interest in applicants from diverse backgrounds. For more information and to access the applications for these positions, go to: <https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/applications-jud>

With CAPAJA's best wishes for a Safe and Healthy 2021,

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 on a new position, please let us know and we will feature it in the next newsletter.*