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American
Judges Association**

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May 2023 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Happy API Heritage Month! The skies have cleared and CAPAJA's Members are out and about! Here is the CAPAJA newsletter for May.

NEWS

CAPAJA General Meeting Held on April 12!

On April 12, CAPAJA held its Mid-Year General Meeting. Led by President Judge Sonny Sandhu and President-Elect Judge Terry Truong, over 50 judicial officers participated in the meeting, receiving updates on the activities of CAPAJA and its many extremely active committees. Congratulations to CAPAJA and its officers and Board on an excellent Mid-Year Meeting!

CAPAJA Membership Approves Process for Endorsing Candidates for the California Court of Appeals

At the CAPAJA April 12, 2023 Mid-Year Meeting, the membership voted unanimously to approve the board's proposed Guidelines for Endorsing Superior Court Judicial Officers for the Court of Appeals. These Guidelines build upon the success we've enjoyed in endorsing candidates for the superior court, and they advance our core mission of promoting excellence and diversity in the judicial branch. The endorsement process for the Court of Appeals is limited to candidates who are superior court judicial officers.

Candidates must initiate the endorsement process by submitting a written request to CAPAJA, together with all documents submitted to the Governor (including, but not limited to, a copy of the candidate's Personal Data Questionnaire). Unlike CAPAJA's process for endorsing candidates for the superior court, candidates for the Court of Appeals are not required to submit a letter from a Judicial Sponsor.

The CAPAJA board will consider those factors applicable to evaluating superior court candidates generally, with an emphasis on factors relevant to an appellate court appointment (e.g., intellectual capacity, writing ability, scholarship, collegiality, Court of Appeal pro tem experience, teaching experience, etc.). After the CAPAJA Board votes to endorse a candidate, the CAPAJA President will deliver a letter of endorsement to the Governor's Judicial Appointments Secretary and to the candidate.

The process of endorsing candidates for the Court of Appeals is confidential. CAPAJA may endorse more than one candidate for a District Court of Appeals. Requests for endorsement, together with all documents submitted to the Governor, should be emailed to capaja2020@gmail.com. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the co-chairs of the Judicial Appointments Committee, Judge Richard Sueyoshi (No. Cal) at SueyosR@saccourt.ca.gov or Judge Lee Tsao (So. Cal) at tsao@lacourt.org.

New API Superior Court Appointments

On March 30, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed three new API judges to the Superior Court. Palvir Kaur Shoker, who has been a member of CAPAJA since 2021 as a Commissioner, has been appointed to the Contra Costa County Superior Court. Ian Rivamonte has been appointed to the Monterey County Superior Court and Julie Weng-Gutierrez has been appointed to the Sacramento County Superior Court. Congratulations to Judges Shoker, Rivamonte and Weng-Gutierrez!

API Justices Confirmed to the Court of Appeal

On April 7, 2023, CAPAJA Member and now Presiding Justice Tracie Brown was unanimously confirmed to preside over the Fourth Division of the 1st District Court of Appeal. On April 17, CAPAJA Member Audra Mori (picture below) was unanimously confirmed as an Associate Justice of the 2^d District Court of Appeal, Div. Four, for the State of California. Seven and four appear to be API justices' lucky numbers! Congratulations, Presiding Justice Brown and Justice Mori!



Justice Audra Mori as she is sworn in as an Associate Justice of the 2nd District Court of Appeal, Div. 4.

New API ALJ Joins CAPAJA

Former Santa Clara County Deputy DA, Abraham Matsui, was sworn in as an Administrative Law Judge for the California Department of Social Services on Monday, April 17. ALJ Matsui has been welcomed to the membership of CAPAJA and introduced to the ALJ Committee. Welcome to the bench, Judge Matsui!

Join CAPAJA on an Amazing Trip to Japan!

CAPAJA is planning a fabulous trip to Osaka, Kyoto, Hakone and Tokyo, for November 1 through 10, 2023! We are coordinating several networking and educational activities in conjunction with Temple University Japan's LLM Program and the Tokyo Bar Association – Judges' Division. These include:

- Private tour of the Japan Supreme Court and informal lunch with Japan judicial officers
- Panel discussions (in English) of U.S. and Japan judicial officers comparing and contrasting the Jury Trial Systems between the two countries. Within the last ten years, Japan for

the first time began using citizen jurors to decide criminal cases – with a model based on the American jury trial. A hosted reception will follow.

- Optional networking opportunities with Japan Judicial officers.

The planners, led by Past CAPAJA Presidents Judges Roberta Hayashi and Teresa Magno, need to make sure that there are enough folks who can make the commitment for those dates and the costs of the planned itinerary. So please contact CAPAJA Past President Judge Teresa Magno (TMagno@LACourt.org) to find out more about the trip and to sign up to be a part of this wonderful opportunity!

CAPAJA Member Speaks on Women in Leadership Panel

On April 12, CAPAJA Member and Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Christine J. Gonong spoke on a zoom panel sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Association and 14 other bar associations on “Women in Leadership: Applying for Public Commissions and Boards.” In a fascinating presentation, Comm. Gonong discussed her former position as a Trustee of the California State Bar, appointed by the California Supreme Court. Thanks for representing CAPAJA, Comm. Gonong!

Alert Your Mentees to this Panel on Becoming an ALJ

The flyer is titled "JOURNEYS TO BECOMING AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE." It features a central illustration of a judge in a blue robe holding a gavel. Below the title, it says "PLAN YOUR PATH MAY 4/5PM/ZOOM". The flyer is divided into several sections: "MEET THE SPEAKERS." which lists five speakers with their photos and titles: Hon. Demetrius Shelton (California Dept. of Social Services), Hon. Elicazar Aramburo (California Dept. of Social Services), Hon. Michael Cabotaje (Social Security Administration), Hon. Mark Wio (US Dept. of Health & Human Services), and Hon. Dorothy Chou Proudfoot (San Francisco Rent Board (Moderator)). "WHAT YOU WILL LEARN." lists three topics: "The types of work done by ALJs and tips for appealing before an Administrative Law Judge", "The filing processes and skills required to be a successful ALJ from the perspectives of current Judges working in state and federal agencies", and "The importance of diversity in the Administrative Judiciary". It also notes "This program is approved for one hour of MCLE credit." The "THANK YOU SPONSORS!" section includes logos for Queen's Bench - The Admiralty, California Lawyers Association, Asian American Bar Association, and LGBTQ+ Judges. At the bottom, there is a small disclaimer and the text "OFFICIAL CO-SPONSOR OF LGBTQ+ Judges".

ALJ Committee co-chair, the Hon. Dorothy Chou Proudfoot, will moderate a panel sponsored by CAPAJA on “Journeys to Becoming an Administrative Law Judge” on Thursday, May 4 at 5 pm on Zoom. Also speaking will be, among others, new CAPAJA member the Hon. Michael Cabotaje of the Social Security Administration. Here is the [registration link](#) for you to send your interested mentees. The full size flyer is attached to the email.

Strategic Partnerships Committee Helps Set More Meetings with Japanese Judge

Judge Sho Mizutani was mentioned in last month’s newsletter as having met with a number of CAPAJA members and other judges in Los Angeles to gather information on bail processes and remote hearings and trials. This month, he has met with even more CAPAJA members. He met with Judge Garrett Wong,

former PJ of the San Francisco County Superior Court, as well as with Judge Raj Chatterjee of the Alameda County Superior Court and was extremely grateful for the tremendous help he was given. And demonstrating the reach of this Newsletter, Presiding Judge Glenn Yabuno of the San Bernardino Superior Court read about Judge Mizutani's meetings in LA and reached out to Judge Mizutani to offer to host him in his Court to show him how his Court addresses bail and OR release on his Pre-Trial release calendar and how they use remote video to conduct arraignments. Thanks to all who volunteered to meet with Judge Mizutani – just one more way that CAPAJA Members are contributing to world-wide jurisprudence and court administration!

CAPAJA Member Reviews Book for CJA Magazine

In the Spring 2023 issue of CJA's The Bench publication, CAPAJA Member and 1st DCA Div. 4 Presiding Justice Tracie Brown presented a book review on "A Little Life" by Hanya Yanagihara, which she describes as "an epic story of four male college friends as they make their way into adulthood." While admitting that the book is "not an easy read...long, disturbing, and devastatingly sad," Justice Brown recommends it because "the characters are compelling and the writing is so breathtaking that I frequently found myself thinking, 'Man, I wish I could write like that.'"

Justice Liu to Chair Board of Academy

CAPAJA Member and California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin H. Liu will be the next chair of the American Academy of Arts and Science's Board of Directors, effective July 1, according to this month's Court News Update. The Academy recognizes global leaders across diverse fields who are addressing societal challenges and advancing the public good.

CAPAJA Past President Featured at Women Lawyers Event

On April 20, CAPAJA Past President Judge Holly Fujie was honored at an event sponsored by the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles called "Meet and Greet Women of the Bench!"

Thanks for Helping CAPAJA Reach its Scholarship Fundraising Goal!

CAPAJA's Scholarship Committee would like to thank the generous donors who contributed to the Student Scholarship fund. Our March Student Scholarship fundraising drive was a success thanks to you! We raised \$4,600 and met our goal of maximizing the generous matching challenge grant by the Takasugi Fellowship. We will now begin the work of reviewing the student applicants and look forward to awarding scholarships to our recipients in June.

There is still time to make a donation to the scholarship fund! If you are a judge, please consider making a tax-deductible donation of \$150, or any amount with which you feel comfortable, to our Scholarship Fund via our website at www.capaja.org/student-scholarship. Thank you for your support!

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, and we will feature it in the next newsletter.