



A California not-for-profit membership organization

### Executive Board

#### President

**Hon. Sonny Sandhu**  
Stanislaus County

#### President-Elect

**Hon. Terry Truong**  
Los Angeles County

#### Immediate Past President

**Hon. Audra Ibarra**  
Santa Clara County

#### Secretary

**Hon. Michelle Ahnn**  
Los Angeles County

#### Treasurer

**Hon. Sunil Kulkarni**  
Santa Clara County

#### Judicial Appointments Committee

**Hon. Richard Sueyoshi**  
Sacramento County

**Hon. Lee Tsao**  
Los Angeles County

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

**Hon. Joni Hiramoto**

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

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

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

**Hon. Kara Ueda**

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

**Hon. Corey Lee**  
**Hon. Nhan "Nathan" Vu**

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

**Hon. Jeff Mangar**

#### 6<sup>th</sup> District Representatives

**Hon. Frederick Chung**  
**Hon. Johnny Gogo**

### California Asian-Pacific American

#### Judges Association

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## October 2022 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

We hope everyone had a happy, healthy and productive summer. Here is the CAPAJA news for this month.

### NEWS

## CAPAJA Annual Meeting in San Diego Well-Attended

Over fifty enthusiastic CAPAJA members attended this year's CAPAJA Annual Meeting held at the CJA Annual Meeting in San Diego on Sunday, September 18. 2021-2022 CAPAJA President Judge Audra Ibarra, along with incoming President Judge Sonny Sandhu, discussed the very successful year CAPAJA has had and its exciting plans for next year. At the meeting, President Ibarra specifically thanked and celebrated those members of the Board who served in 2021-2022:

**President-Elect** - the Hon. Sonny Sandhu

**Secretary** - the Hon. Michelle Ahnn

**Treasurer** - the Hon. Terry Truong

**Immediate Past President** - the Hon. Holly Fujie

**1<sup>st</sup> District Representative** - the Hon. Joni Hiramoto

**2<sup>d</sup> District Representatives** - the Hon. Christopher Lui and the Hon. Jana Seng

**3<sup>d</sup> District Representative** - the Hon. Joe Dhillon

**4<sup>th</sup> District Representatives** - the Hon. Winston Keh and the Hon. Nathan Vu

**5<sup>th</sup> District Representative** - the Hon. Jeff Mangar

**6<sup>th</sup> District Representatives** - the Hon. Fred Chung and the Hon. Johnny Gogo

**Co-chairs of the Judicial Appointments Committee** – the Hon. Rick Sueyoshi and the Hon. Lee Tsao

Judge Ibarra also thanked the chairs of CAPAJA's Committees for 2021-2022:

**Education** – the Hon. Sunil Kulkarni, the Hon. Joanne Motoike and the Hon. Johnny Gogo

**Bar Association Outreach** – the Hon. Jeff Mangar and the Hon. Wes Hsu

**Surveys** – the Hon. Nathan Vu

**Travel** – the Hon. Roberta Hayashi

**Scholarships** – the Hon. Fred Chung and the Hon. Jana Seng

**Mentoring** – the Hon. Michelle Ahnn and the Hon. Erica Yew

**Law School Outreach** – the Hon. Jayne Lee and the Hon. Terry Truong

**Judicial Elections** – the Hon. Victor Hwang and the Hon. Tony Cho

**Website** – the Hon. Pelayo Llamas, Jr.

**ALJs** – the Hon. Dorothy Chou Proudfoot and the Hon. Minh Le Quang

**Community Engagement** – the Hon. Kawika Smith, the Hon. Joni Hiramoto and the Hon. Nathan Vu

**Social Activities** – the Hon. Raj Chatterjee and the Hon. Chris Lui

**Strategic Partnerships** – the Hon. Holly Fujie and the Hon. Johnny Gogo

The members voted on a new board slate. Congratulations to the new CAPAJA Board for 2022-2023:

**President** - the Hon. Sonny Sandhu  
**President-Elect** - the Hon. Terry Truong  
**Secretary** - the Hon. Michelle Ahnn  
**Treasurer** - the Hon. Sunil Kulkarni  
**Immediate Past President** - the Hon. Audra Ibarra  
**1<sup>st</sup> District Representative** - the Hon. Joni Hiramoto  
**2d District Representatives** - the Hon. Christopher Lui and the Hon. Jana Seng  
**3d District Representative** - the Hon. Kara Ueda  
**4<sup>th</sup> District Representatives** - the Hon. Corey Lee and the Hon. Nathan Vu  
**5<sup>th</sup> District Representative** - the Hon. Jeff Mangar  
**6<sup>th</sup> District Representatives** - the Hon. Fred Chung and the Hon. Johnny Gogo  
**Co-chairs of the Judicial Appointments Committee** – the Hon. Rick Sueyoshi and the Hon. Lee Tsao

Thanks to those who will be chairing CAPAJA’s extremely active committees this year:

**Education** – the Hon. Hanley Chew, the Hon. Joanne Motoike and the Hon. Johnny Gogo  
**Bar Association Outreach** – the Hon. Jeff Mangar and the Hon. Wes Hsu  
**Surveys** – the Hon. Nathan Vu  
**Travel** – the Hon. Roberta Hayashi  
**Scholarships** – the Hon. Fred Chung and the Hon. Jana Seng  
**Mentoring** – the Hon. Michelle Ahnn and the Hon. Charles Lee  
**Law School Outreach** – the Hon. Jayne Lee and the Hon. Terry Truong  
**Judicial Elections** – the Hon. Pelayo Llamas, Jr. and the Hon. Tony Cho  
**Website** – the Hon. Pelayo Llamas, Jr.  
**ALJs** – the Hon. Dorothy Chou Proudfoot and the Hon. Minh LeQuang  
**Community Engagement** – the Hon. Kawika Smith, the Hon. Joni Hiramoto and the Hon. Nathan Vu  
**Social Activities** – the Hon. Raj Chatterjee and the Hon. Chris Lui  
**Strategic Partnerships** – the Hon. Holly Fujie and the Hon. Johnny Gogo

The San Diego APA Judges thoughtfully planned and generally hosted a wonderful dinner at the Lotus Thai Restaurant. The dinner was enjoyed by 27 CAPAJA members and guests – as was the CAJAC Reception, which was similarly well-attended by CAPAJA members. Pictures from the dinner are attached to the email.

### **CJA Congratulates CAPAJA Members on Successful Annual Meeting**

The CJA 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting was held in San Diego and was widely recognized as an excellent gathering. CJA has expressed its appreciation for those on the CJA Annual Meeting Committee, including CAPAJA Members Judge Audra Ibarra, Judge Jackie Duong, Judge Sonny Sandhu and Judge Rohanee Zapanta.

### **Governor Newsom Appoints More APAs to the Superior Court**

On August 8, the luckiest day of the year, Governor Brown selected Commissioner and Judge-Elect Pelayo A. Llamas Jr. of Alameda County, already an active member of CAPAJA, for an interim

appointment as Judge of the Superior Court for Alameda County. This allows Judge Llamas, who had been endorsed by CAPAJA, to immediately commence his work in the seat to which he was elected and would otherwise start occupying in January 2023. The act is personally meaningful to Judge Llamas and to CAPAJA because it is the judicial seat of Judge Delbert Gee, who will be retiring this year after 20 years of service on the Superior Court bench.

Also appointed on August 8 was Raymonn DeJesus, who received CAPAJA's endorsement for appointment to the Placer County Superior Court, and Pahoua Lor, who was appointed to the Fresno County Superior Court. What a great day for API judge appointments!

### **Judge Charles J. Lee Profiled in Daily Journal**

Fresno Superior Court Judge Charles J. Lee was profiled in the September 15 edition of the Daily Journal. The title of the article was "Judge Charles J. Lee encourages minority lawyers," and it highlighted his background as the son of Korean immigrants who came to the U.S. in the early 1970's. Judge Lee stated in the article that "one of the reasons he decided to apply for a judgeship was a chance to make the bench more reflective of the region's demographics. Congratulations on a great profile, Judge Lee!

### **Looking for Judges Fluent in Mandarin to Translate Judges in the Classroom Script**

Judges in the Classroom (JIC) connects public school teachers with volunteer judges for lessons on the role of the judiciary, the three branches of government, rule of law, and other areas of civics. The program is supported by the Chief Justice's Power of Democracy Steering Committee. Participating judges appear in classrooms in person or via zoom to present one of four grade-appropriate lessons. In an effort to provide access for ESL students, two lessons are now available in Spanish and one is available in Mandarin. There is great value in these translations because they are delivered by language fluent judges in immersion classes with non-English speaking students. JIC is seeking judges fluent in Mandarin to translate the script for the Salem Witchcraft Trials presentation. The script is read by students and vividly illustrates how trial procedures have changed from the 1600's to the present. The entire lesson plan is available t: <https://sites.google.com/view/judges-in-the-classroom/lessons/salem-witch-trials>. If you are interested in helping to translate the script into Mandarin, please contact Judge Lee Tsao (Los Angeles) at [ltsao@lacourt.org](mailto:ltsao@lacourt.org).

With CAPAJA's best wishes to all its members for a healthy, happy and productive October.

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 of a new potential CAPAJA member, 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.*