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

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May 2021 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Happy Mother's Day on May 9!

NEWS

CAPAJA Member Survey Series

Thank you to everyone who completed our Initial Membership Survey. We received over 92 responses! CAPAJA and its committees will use the information provided internally to undertake projects and programs to serve our membership.

The survey revealed that CAPAJA has a talented, experienced, and diverse membership. The respondents had an average of over 10 years of experience on the bench and have held assignments in all the areas listed on the survey (appellate, criminal, civil, family law, juvenile, and probate) and many others not listed. CAPAJA's members are also experts in every one of the 22 categories listed on the survey and many more (DV, ethics, civil harassment, elder abuse, immigration, bankruptcy, administrative law, traffic, small claims, etc.).

In addition, CAPAJA members have served in just about every leadership role in the courts, including five presiding judges and numerous supervising judges of appellate, criminal, civil, family law, juvenile, traffic/infractions, mental health, DV, collaborative, asbestos, CEQA divisions, teams, and panels, as well as branch courts and districts. Please see the attached charts for more information.

This month's survey will be sent out separately. Please keep a lookout for it and fill it out so we can provide more targeted services to our members and the legal community at large. Special thanks to our Survey Committee co-chair Judge Nathan Vu for spearheading this effort.

CAPAJA Law School Committee

Our Law School Committee is working with the Education and Bar Association Committees on more programs for law students and young lawyers. If you are passionate about working with law school students and strengthening our API pipeline to the legal profession, please join this committee by emailing co-chairs Judge Jayne Lee (jlee@sjcourts.org) and Commissioner Terry Truong (TTruong@LACourt.org). Thank you, co-chairs, for spearheading this effort.

CAPAJA Website to Add Past Presidents Page

From Judge Pat A.Y. Cowett of San Diego in 1981 to Roberta Hayashi last year, CAPAJA has been led by amazing APA pioneers and illustrious members of the California judiciary. To preserve and celebrate that lineage, we will be adding a Past Presidents Page to the CAPAJA website at www.capaja.org, which will give brief biographies and pictures of our past leaders. We are in the process of gathering this information for posting. We have reached out to all Past Presidents on the attached list; as you can see, there are a few gaps, specifically 1989-91 between the terms of

Judge Cowett and Judge Vernon Nakahara, and 1997-2002, between the terms of Judge Mel Red Recana and Judge Nho Trong Nguyen. If you can fill in the names of CAPAJA's Presidents for those years, please email that information to [hfujie@lacourt.org](mailto:hfuje@lacourt.org) so we can complete the list.

CAPAJA especially thanks Judge Mel Red Recana, who produced a goldmine of CAPAJA history from his time as president in 1996-97, which we are using to complete the page of Past Presidents. Thank you also to Commissioner Pelayo Llamas for his invaluable assistance as CAPAJA's volunteer webmaster.

CAPAJA Members Contribute to "The Bench"

CAPAJA members are again well represented in CJA's monthly publication The Bench: Judges Elaine Lu and Curtis Kin collaborated on "The Importance of Proper Notice" for their regular column on civil law. Past CJA President Judge Tam Nomoto Schumann wrote "Behind the Scenes of the Virtual Mid-Year Conference" and published a book review on "Orphan X" by Gregg Hurwitz. Judge Rohanee Zapanta wrote a very helpful article on "Self-Assessment: Do I Need a Mental Reset?"

Judge Akemi Arakaki Honored

In February 2020, the Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance of Southern California (APAWLA) announced that LASC Dependency Division Supervising Judge and CAPAJA member Akemi Arakaki was being honored with its 2020 Public Service Award. Due to the pandemic, the event was postponed, but on April 22, 2021, APAWLA held its virtual installation and presented Judge Arakaki with her Award. CAPAJA member Judge Esther Kim presided over the installation and swearing-in of APAWLA's officers.

Justice Liu in ALI Reporter

Justice Goodwin Liu of the California Supreme Court appeared in a collage of photos of participants in the American Law Institute's Council Meeting on "Principles of the Law, Policing" in the Spring 2021 issue of the ALI's quarterly newsletter.

Survivors of American WWII Japanese Internment Camps Sought for Project

CAPAJA member Judge Johnny Gogo is working on a project to have survivors of the WWII Internment Camps sign a 48-star American flag that will be given to the San Jose Japanese American Museum. Judge Gogo has already succeeded in getting the flag signed by CAPAJA members and their relatives. He is arranging several other flag signing events throughout the state, including one held in Los Angeles on May 2 and another in Sacramento in June. Feel free to contact him at jgogo@scscourt.org if you know someone who might want to sign the flag.

Chinese American WWII Veterans Receive Congressional Gold Medal

All surviving Chinese American WWII veterans are entitled to claim a special Congressional Gold Medal. We have been notified of this program by CAPAJA members ALJs Dorothy Chou Proudfoot and Jennifer Gee (ret.). Although the time has passed for veterans to be given the medal free of charge, the organizers still seek to identify those who qualify for this program. For more information, go to the [Chinese American WWII Veteran Recognition Project](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAPAJA Hate Crimes Program on May 12

On May 12 at 5 pm, CAPAJA will present “What are Hate Crimes, and What Can AAPI Attorneys Do About Them?” CAPAJA co-chairs Judges Johnny Gogo, and Sunil Kulkarni will host and moderate a panel including Frances Delson, Equity Staff Attorney for the ACLU in San Diego County, Thienvu Ho, Assistant Chief District Attorney for Sacramento County, and Frances Prizzia, a criminal defense attorney from Orange County. For more information, go to <https://www.capaja.org/news>.

CAPAJA Member Speaks at CLA Appellate Summit on May 21

The California Lawyers Association will hold its Litigation and Appellate Summit online on May 14 and May 21. Judicial Appointment Secretary Luis Céspedes will deliver the keynote speech. Sessions include “Nuts and Bolts: Best Practices for Persuasive Writing” for appellate specialists and litigators. Panelists include Justice Kathleen M. Banke, CAPAJA President-Elect Judge Audra Ibarra, Paul Crane, Glenn Danas, and moderator Matthew Scherb. For more information, go to <https://pheedloop.com/2021summit/site/>.

CAPAJA Officers Speak on Pathways to the Judiciary on June 3

CAPAJA President Judge Holly Fujie will moderate a panel on “Pathways to the Judiciary,” featuring CAPAJA President-Elect Judge Audra Ibarra and Judges Colin Bowen, Daniel Flores, and Gary Roberts. The California Minority Council Program will host the event on June 3 at 5:30 pm. If you know anyone interested in applying for the bench, please send them here for more information <https://cmcp.org/event/pttj-06032021/>.

CAPAJA ALJ Program on June 10

CAPAJA’s Administrative Law Judge Committee will hold a program on “Administrative Law Judges: What Do They Do? How Do I Become One?” on June 10 at 5 pm. CAPAJA ALJ Committee Co-Chair ALJ Dorothy Chou Proudfoot will moderate, CAPAJA members ALJ Susan Lee and ALJ Jennifer Gee (ret.) will speak, together with Division Chief Presiding ALJ Susan Formaker and Chief ALJ Kristin Rosi. Spread the word to your mentees with the attached flyer! They can sign up at <https://bit.ly/3nH9YH8>.

CAPAJA Program on Judicial Applicant Vetting Process on June 23

Please spread the word about CAPAJA’s program: “I’ve submitted. Now what? – The Judicial Vetting Process.” The program will provide an in-depth discussion of the investigations, evaluations, and interviews judicial applicants undergo when seeking judicial appointment. The moderator will be former JNE Commissioner and CAPAJA President-Elect Judge Audra Ibarra. The panel will feature Stella Ngai, the 2021 JNE Chair; CAPAJA member Justice Tracie Brown, a member of the Northern California JSAC; and Kenneth Wang, a member of the LA County Bar Judicial Evaluation Committee. The program will be on June 23 at noon. For more information, go to https://9eef7e85-96f0-4df4-bd17-698a9be34dba.filesusr.com/ugd/82a008_de29aa0196284a229f507943133391e5.pdf.

PAST EVENTS

Second CAPAJA Program on Judicial Appointment Process

On April 7, CAPAJA put on its second program on judicial appointments featuring Judicial Appointment Luis Céspedes and local CAPAJA member judges. The program had 178 registrants and over 110 attendees – some of whom were repeat fans from our first program. This program was moderated by Justice (ret.) Halim Dhanidina with invaluable information provided by Secretary Luis Céspedes, and Judges Paul Baelly, Michelle DeCasas, and Bryant Yang. It was a lively, candid, and helpful discussion.

Thank you to our speakers, our Education Committee co-chairs Judges Johnny Gogo, Sunil Kulkarni, and Joanne Motoike, and our Outreach Committee co-chairs Judges Eumi Lee and Wes Hsu, and congratulations on a very successful program.

Santa Clara’s AAPI Bench Officers Present Their Stories to Their Court

On April 12, all thirteen AAPI bench officers on the Santa Clara County Superior Court presented a crucial conversation. Under the leadership of Judge Jacqueline Duong, who co-chairs that court’s Equality and Social Justice Committee with Judge Shelyna Brown, the AAPI judges shared their personal experiences with discrimination against them and their families.

It was a rich and powerful conversation that ranged from the sharing of immigration stories to the incarceration of Japanese American families during WWII to intersectionality with gender and multi-cultural ancestry, to childhood bullying and more. These stories were told against a backdrop provided by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, who opened the discussion with a video message about the importance of personal stories. Overlaying these stories were photographs of the judges as children.



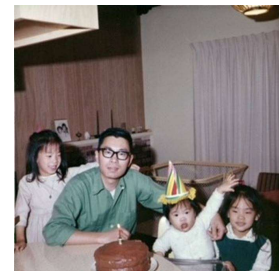
Frederick Chung



Roberta Hayashi



Audra Ibarra



Erica Yew

The judges who participated were Jackie Arroyo, Thang Barrett, Frederick Chung, Jacqueline Duong, Johnny Gogo, Roberta Hayashi, Audra Ibarra, Sunil Kulkarni, Cynthia Lie, Daniel Nishigaya, Drew Takaishi, Carrie Zepeda, and moderator Erica Yew.

CAPAJA Members Speak Statewide

On April 14, CAPAJA member Justice Halim Dhanidina (ret.) spoke on the CJA Diversity and Inclusivity Committee’s Conversation Series, Part II, Intersectionality – “Firsts on the Bench.” Justice Dhanidina spoke of his experience as the first Muslim judge appointed to the superior court and then to the court of appeal.

On April 13, Judge Bryant Yang made welcoming remarks on *Unprecedented Crimes: Defending & Prosecuting CARES Act Fraud Cases* before the Criminal Justice Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and on April 24, he gave the keynote speech and swore in the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association at its 2021 General Membership Meeting.

With CAPAJA's best wishes,

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