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## June 2021 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

This has been a very active month for CAPAJA members!

### NEWS

#### CAPAJA Member Survey Series

Thank you to everyone who completed our May Survey on law student mentoring and outreach. There is still time to fill it out using the link below, which will help CAPAJA to better to serve California's APA law students: <emailed directly to members> Special thanks to our Survey Committee co-chair Judge Nathan Vu for ensuring we have great surveys for our members.

#### CJA Debates Expanding Board to Include CAPAJA Representative

CJA is considering expanding its Board to include one representative from each of the four California diversity judge organizations, including CAPAJA. If you are a CJA member and have an opinion as to whether the CJA Board should include a representative from CAPAJA, you can vote in the poll in the most recent issue of The Voice at <emailed to members>

#### 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](mailto:jlee@sjcourts.org)) and Commissioner Terry Truong ([TTruong@LACourt.org](mailto:TTruong@LACourt.org)). The committee will begin planning programming for the (hopefully in-person) Fall Semester – providing in-person and remote events. CAPAJA's goal is for every APA law student to have the opportunity to meet at least one APA judicial officers before they graduate. Help make that happen!

#### API SCSC Judges Commemorate AAPI History Month

The Santa Clara County Superior Court posted on its website an amazing short public service announcement. In it, CAPAJA members Judges Roberta Hayashi, Carrie Zepeda, Dan Nishigaya, Fred Chung, Erica Yew, Drew Takaichi, Audra Ibarra, Jacqueline Duong, Sunil Kulkarni, Johnny Gogo, and Jacqueline Arroyo speak of their Asian Pacific American experiences and "the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States." Judges Hayashi and Yew were instrumental in writing this incredible video and bringing it to the public.

*Click on the link to visit the Court's YouTube page and view the film.*

**I Am An American**

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cc7\\_-TkXNpU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cc7_-TkXNpU))



**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.

**Past CAPAJA President Kirk Nakamura Profiled in The Voice**

Judge Nakamura, Immediate Past Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court, was the subject of a significant profile in the most recent issue of the Voice, the magazine of the CJA. The article is attached.

**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](mailto:jgogo@scscourt.org) if you know someone who might want to sign the flag. An article by Judge Gogo on his project can be found at:

<http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/journal/2021/5/27/flag-signing-project/>

**Co-Chair of CAPAJA's Education Committee Publishes Open Letter to BigLaw Litigation Partners**

An excellent article was published in the Daily Journal by Judge Sunil Kulkarni of the Santa Clara Superior Court, encouraging BigLaw Litigation Partners to have women and minority attorneys play significant and visible roles in trials, motions, and other court appearances. A

screen shot of the article is attached, and the article was published in The Daily Journal on May 25, 2021.

### **CAPAJA Past President Helps Lead Statewide Judicial Mentoring Program**

CAPAJA Past President and SCSC Judge Erica Yew will Co-Chair the Trial Court Working Group of the new California Judicial Mentoring Program (CJMP). She has been helping spearhead the effort to make judicial mentors available to potential judicial candidates throughout the state to increase and diversify the pool of candidates for the Superior Court. CAPAJA congratulates Judge Yew on leading this critical effort and encourages all CAPAJA members to join the CJMP initiative.

### **CAPAJA Members Honored By Philippine American Bar Association**

On May 27, 2021, PABA held a zoom program entitled “Fil-Ams on the Bench: Celebrating Filipino-American Judicial Officers in Southern California.” Among those featured were Judges Lisa Mangay Chung, Bernie LaForteza, Teresa Magno, Richard Ocampo, Rafael Ongkeko, Julian Recana, Rob Villeza, and May Santos of the LASC, Judge Winston Keh of the San Bernardino Superior Court, Judge Godofredo (OG.) Magno of the San Bernardino Superior Court, Judges Sheila Recio and Deborah Servino of the Orange County Superior Court, and Judge Rohanee Zapanta of the San Diego Superior Court. Congratulations to All!

### **Judge Winston Keh Speaks on CJA Program**

On May 19, 2021, CAPAJA Board Member Judge Winston Keh of the San Bernardino Superior Court spoke on a CJA panel “Conversation #4: Unbroken – Persevering Through Trauma.” Judge Keh recounted a fascinating story of his path to the bench.

### **Justice Liu Keynote at LA Superior Court Civil Seminar**

On May 13, 2021, CAPAJA member Justice Goodwin Liu gave an hour-long Q&A at the Los Angeles Superior Court Annual Civil Seminar, addressing a wide range of issues, including Asian Americans in the law, the role of trial judges, and his path to the state’s highest court. The LASC’s over 150 civil judicial officers greatly appreciated his honesty and wit.

### **CAPAJA Members Honored by Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Southern California**

On May 6, 2021, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Southern California (APABA) held its Annual Installation and Awards Reception in conjunction with seven other API bar associations. At the Reception, APABA honored CAPAJA Members Judge Ruth Ann Kwan and Judge Sam Ohta with its Public Service Award, and CAPAJA Member Judge Bryant Yang swore in the Board of Governors of APABA. At that same event, CAPAJA Member Judge Rupa Goswami gave the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California keynote address. Congratulations to all!

### **Hon. Frank Chen Profiled in DJ**

May 20’s LA DJ featured an article entitled “More than the Bottom Line – Commissioner Frank W. Chen relishes tackling the breadth of issues in child support court.” In the article, CAPAJA Member Chen described how his having emigrated with his family from Taiwan to New York informs his work in the LA Superior Court Child Support Court.

## UPCOMING CAPAJA EVENTS

### **CAPAJA Officers Speak on Pathways to the Judiciary on June 3**

CAPAJA President Judge Holly Fujie will moderate a panel about seeking judicial office, 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 or running for judicial office, please send them here for more information <https://cmcp.org/event/ptj-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 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](https://9eef7e85-96f0-4df4-bd17-698a9be34dba.filesusr.com/ugd/82a008_de29aa0196284a229f507943133391e5.pdf).

## PAST CAPAJA EVENTS

### **CAPAJA Presents Program on Hate Crimes**

On May 12, 2021, 126 attorneys and judges were registered to attend an informative and vital program on "What Are Hate Crimes, and What Can AAPI Attorneys Do About Them?" CAPAJA member Judge Sunil Kulkarni moderated three very knowledgeable panelists, Melissa Deleon, Equity Staff Attorney for the ACLU in San Diego, Thienvu Ho, Assistant Chief DA of Sacramento County and Frances Prizzia, a criminal defense attorney in Orange County.

With CAPAJA's best wishes for a great June,

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.*