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California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association

11138 Del Amo Blvd. #453
Lakewood, CA 90715-1103
www.CAPAJA.org
capaja2020@gmail.com

February 2022 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

We hope everyone is having a happy, healthy, and productive beginning of the year. Lots of news about CAPAJA members.

NEWS

President Biden Nominates APA to the USDC for the Southern District of California

On January 19, 2022, President Joe Biden nominated Robert S. Huie to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Mr. Huie is Of Counsel at Jones Day San Diego and is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the SDCA, where he served as deputy chief of the Major Frauds and Public Corruption Section. Congratulations to Mr. Huie on his nomination and we look forward to his swift confirmation and to welcoming him to CAPAJA membership!

CAPAJA Members Profiled in DJ

On January 13, 2022, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Linda Sun was profiled in the *Daily Journal*. The article chronicled her journey to the bench as an immigrant from Hong Kong, and her mentors along the way, including Secretary of State and former Ambassador March Fong Eu to CAPAJA member Senior U.S. District Judge Ron Lew. The profile lauded Judge Sun for her excellent work ethic.

And on February 1, 2022, Judge Bryant Yang of the Los Angeles Superior Court was profiled with the headline "Judge Bryant Yang's family experience with persecution shapes his role on the bench." The article sets out his experience as an immigrant from Burma and the challenges he faced coming to the United States at 5 years old. On the lighter side, the article describes his having auditioned unsuccessfully during law school to be a back-up dancer for Destiny's Child!

Two wonderful articles on CAPAJA members!

Judge H. Glenn Kim Sworn into Contra Costa Superior Court

Judge Kim was kind enough to share the attached photos of his first day as a judge on January 10, 2022. He has been assigned to a misdemeanor calendar in the Contra Costa Court's Richmond Courthouse, and he hopes to have his ceremonial investiture later in the summer. Congratulations on taking the bench, Judge Kim!



CAPAJA President Speaks on Diversity & Inclusivity in Conversation for CJA

CAPAJA President Audra Ibarra spoke on January 26 on “Did That Really Just Happen?” a CJA program on scenarios where they have experienced implicit and/or explicit bias. A number of CAPAJA members also participated as leaders of breakout sessions.

Judge Ed Chen to Take Senior Status

On January 21, 2022, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California announced that U.S. District Judge Edward Chen has informed President Biden that he will take Senior status in May. Judge Chen, a 1979 graduate of the U.C. Berkeley School of Law, has been on the bench since 2001, when he was picked by the judges of that Court to be a Magistrate Judge. He was nominated by President Barack Obama to be an Article III judge in 2009 and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2011. While, in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor, Judge Chen is far too young to be a senior anything, CAPAJA extends

its congratulations and good wishes to Judge Chen on his new role for the Court.

Trailblazer API Judge Eric Nakata of the San Bernardino Superior Court Passes

The San Bernardino Superior Court announced the sad news of the passing of CAPAJA member Judge Eric Nakata:

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Judge Eric M. Nakata. Judge Nakata was appointed to the Municipal Court, Victorville Division, in October 1995 by Governor Pete Wilson, and elevated to the Superior Court in January 1998 by appointment from Governor Wilson.

Judge Nakata practiced law as a Deputy District Attorney from 1984 to 1995 and was in private practice from 1982 to 1984. He was admitted to the California State Bar in 1982. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from Southwestern University School of Law in 1982. He attended UCLA for two years then transferred to California State University at Northridge graduating in 1978 with a B.S. in Psychology.

Judge Nakata served the San Bernardino Superior Court in the Victorville District and Juvenile Court, handling a wide variety of calendars. He provided support and leadership for over 25 years presiding over the Annual Mock Trial competitions. He was a loyal and true UCLA and Raiders football fan.

Judge Nakata was a long-time friend and colleague in the District Attorney's office and on the Bench and will be deeply missed.

Judge Nakata is survived by his wife, Michelle, his son, Mark, daughter-in-law, Alexandra, granddaughters, Ava and Harper, and daughter, Lori. He was predeceased by his daughter, Emily, and father, Larry Nakata.

Services will be as follows:

- Date: Saturday, February 12, 2022
- Time: 10:00 AM
- Location: Sunset Hills Memorial Park, 24000 Waalew Road, Apple Valley, CA
- Reception to follow

In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to one of Judge Nakata's two favorite organizations

- Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire (www.apalie.org)
- San Bernardino County Bar Association (www.sbcba.org)

CAPAJA's deepest sympathy is extended to Judge Nakano's family, together with CAPAJA's great appreciation for his service to the judiciary and to CAPAJA.

CAPAJA Members Shine in January Issue of The Bench

The January issue of CJA's publication *The Bench* featured articles by a number of CAPAJA members: 1) LASC Judges Elaine Lu and Curtis Kin on "Reaffirming the Privette Doctrine"; 2) the Hon. Pelayo

Llamas of the Alameda Superior Court showed a talent for mixology with a recipe for “A Warm and Cozy Winter Beverage”; 3) Judge Danny Chou of San Mateo Superior Court reviewed “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings”; 4) Judge Rohanee Zapanta of the San Diego Superior Court added to her series of articles on well-being with “Meditation Check-In”; 5) Judge Shama Hakim Mesiwali of the Sacramento Superior Court informed readers about “Larry Itliong Day”; and 6) CAPAJA representative and Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Johnny Gogo wrote about his successful Flag Signing Project. The late Justice John F. Aiso, known locally in Los Angeles for having a street in Little Tokyo named after him, was also profiled in a column as a Notable Judge. CAPAJA members are really showing their importance to CJA and to the legal community!

Support the CAPAJA Scholarship Fund!

CAPAJA is proud to announce its first scholarship for law students intending to serve as summer judicial interns/externs for Summer 2022. We will be awarding at least two \$1,500 scholarships this year and hope our scholarships will continue to grow with your help. If you are a judge, please consider contributing here: www.capaja.org/student-scholarship

First CAPAJA Program of the Year A Success!

On January 20, 2022 at 5-6 pm by Zoom, CAPAJA’s Judicial Elections Committee presented our first program of the year: “Why I Decided to Run: Inspirational Stories of Elected APA Judges.” This fascinating program featured as speakers CAPAJA District Representative Judge Jeff Mangar of the Stanislaus County Superior Court, Judge Alana Robinson of the San Diego County Superior Court and Judge Sheila Lichtblau of the Marin County Superior Court. The panel was moderated by Judge Joanne Motoike of the Orange County Superior Court and gave great insight into the weighing of factors in deciding to run for judicial office. Congratulations to all participants on this excellent program which is one of if not the first of its kind!

EVENTS

The CAPAJA Law School Committee Needs You!

Thank you to those who have already signed up for the Speed Mentoring event with Southern California law students on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. If you haven’t yet, please consider volunteering - we still need more judicial officers. It’s a great way to share your story and advice with future APA lawyers!

RSVP at - <http://apaa.org/event-4608355>

Thank you in advance for your willingness to mentor API law students!

With CAPAJA’s best wishes to all its members for a healthy, productive Year of the Tiger!

Audra Ibarra, CAPAJA President

Sonny Sandhu, 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 send an email to Newsletter Editor Holly Fujie at HFujie@LACourt.org, and we will feature it in the next newsletter.