



A California not-for-profit membership organization

Executive Board

President

Hon. Audra Ibarra
Santa Clara County

President-Elect

Hon. Sonny Sandhu
Stanislaus County

Immediate Past President

Hon. Holly Fujie
Los Angeles County

Secretary

Hon. Michelle Ahnn
Los Angeles County

Treasurer

Hon. Terry Truong
Los Angeles County

Judicial Appointments Committee

Hon. Richard Sueyoshi
Sacramento County

Hon. Lee Tsao
Los Angeles County

1st District Representative

Hon. Joni Hiramoto

2nd District Representatives

Hon. Christopher Lui
Hon. Jana Seng

3rd District Representative

Hon. Joginder Dhillon

4th District Representatives

Hon. Winston Keh
Hon. Nhan "Nathan" Vu

5th District Representative

Hon. Jeff Mangar

6th District Representatives

Hon. Frederick Chung
Hon. Johnny Gogo

**California Asian-Pacific
American Judges
Association**

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

July 2022 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

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

NEWS

New API Bench Officers Welcomed to CAPAJA!

June has brought good news for the appointment of new API bench officers. On June 3 we learned of the appointment of June An as a Commissioner by the judges of the Orange County Superior Court. Soon-to-be Commissioner An was the OCSC's Deputy General Counsel at the time of her appointment.

That same day brought news that Sandy Yu, a fellow Board Member with Judge Holly Fujie of the Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance of Los Angeles, has been appointed as an Administrative Law Judge for the California Department of Social Services State Hearing Division.

Also on June 3, Governor Newsom appointed two new API Superior Court Judges! Assistant Federal Public Defender Gia Kim was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court, and Commissioner and Superior Court Senior Legal Research Attorney Trisha Hirashima was appointed to the Placer Superior Court.

And on June 7, CAPAJA learned from Judge Paul Baelly of the Ventura County Superior Court that Dusty Kawai has been named as a Commissioner of the VCSC.

The June 7 election brought victory for three API candidates to the Superior Court: CAPAJA member and volunteer webmaster Pelayo Llamas won election to the Alameda County Superior Court which he currently serves as a Commissioner; CAPAJA member Jayne Chong-Soon Lee was elected unopposed to the San Joaquin Superior Court; and Deputy D.A. Sharon Cho was elected to the San Mateo Superior Court. Commissioner Llamas and Ms. Cho will take their judicial office in January 2023.

On June 9, the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Robert S. Huie, of counsel at Jones Day, as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of California.

On June 16, the Commission on Judicial Appointments, consisting of CAPAJA member Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and the first API Attorney General of California, Rob Bonta, together with Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez of the 4th DCA, confirmed the appointment by Governor Newsom of CAPAJA member and co-chair of CAPAJA's Education Committee, Joanne Motoike, as the newest Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division 3.

Lastly on July 1, Governor Newsom appointed two new API Superior Court judges in Riverside County - Mona Nemat, a partner at Best & Krieger and Jerry Yang, a Chief Deputy of the Riverside branch of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California since 2020!

All new bench officers have received or will receive email greetings from CAPAJA with offers of free membership to the end of 2022 and assignment of a CAPAJA judicial mentor. Please join us in giving a warm CAPAJA welcome to all our new bench officers!

CAPAJA Members Profiled in Daily Journal

On June 15, the DJ published a profile on Stanislaus County Judge Jeff Mangar, CAPAJA's District 5 Representative. The article was entitled "Judge Jeff Mangar studies, works and plays with intensity," and discusses Judge Mangar's journey to the bench as a child of Asian immigrants from South America.

On June 23, CAPAJA member Judge Julie Yap of the Sacramento County Superior Court was profiled in the DJ in an article entitled "Judge Julie G. Yap is a 'procedure nerd' dedicated to service." The article discussed her career in public service before her appointment to the bench and her participation in the Supreme Court fellowship program in the Administrative Office of the United States Courts in 2012.

CAPAJA Members Contribute to Spring 2022 Edition of The Bench

The Spring 2022 edition of CJA's publication "The Bench" featured articles by and about a number of CAPAJA members. LASC Judges Elaine Lu and Curtis Kin continued their extremely helpful series on developments in Civil Law with an article on "Remedying 'Widespread Confusion'." Judge Bruce Chan of the San Francisco Superior Court was interviewed for the In Chambers column, revealing that if he were not in the law he would choose to be a collegiate athletic trainer or a high school lacrosse coach! Judge Tam Nomoto Schumann (Ret.) compiled the HearSay column on "Our first dance together at our wedding was to the song ___ because ___" and also wrote a review of "Young @ Heart" on Amazon Prime Video. SDSC Judge Rohanee Zapanta's article on "Decision Fatigue" gave helpful advice on how to identify and deal with decision fatigue in our lives. SFSC Judge Rita Lin co-wrote an article with Judge Christine Van Aken on how "Empirical Research Can Help Inform Pretrial Release Decisions."

NorCal CAPAJA Members Invited to In-Person Dinner in Emeryville

CAPAJA invites all NorCal CAPAJA Members to an in-person dinner on July 14 at 7 p.m. at [Hong Kong East Ocean Seafood Restaurant - 3199 Powell St, Emeryville - Full Menu and Reviews \(cafecityguide.website\)](#). This is where we had the event before the pandemic; it's a good compromise for people coming from north and south of the bay. Dinner will be \$45 per person, to be paid at the site. Please RSVP to Katie Ortega at kortega@alameda.courts.ca.gov by July 7.

SAVE THE DATE!!! 2022 Judicial College Dinner

On July 26, CAPAJA will host a dinner for all members attending Judicial College, to which all NorCal members are invited. Judge Joni Hiramoto – co-chair of CAPAJA's Community Engagement Committee – has kindly agreed to organize the dinner. If you are interested in attending, contact Judge Joni Hiramoto of the Contra Costa Superior Court at joni.hiramoto@gmail.com.

Cal APABA To Host Reception Honoring API Women Judges

On September 24, Cal APABA will hold a reception, co-hosted by CAPAJA, honoring API Women Judges at its annual membership meeting in San Diego. The reception will be held from 5-6:30 pm

between the conference panels and the gala dinner. Attached is the [flyer](#) for the Cal APABA Conference. Information on the reception will be sent to all CAPAJA members once plans are finalized.

Bench-Bar Coalition Looking for Leaders

The California Judicial Council has asked CAPAJA to spread the word about the search for candidates for three leadership positions in the Bench-Bar Coalition (BBC). The BBC is looking for a new Southern California co-chair, as well as two new executive committee members at large representing the Southern Region starting October 2022. Candidates must be BBC members for the Southern Region, which includes counties in the Second and Fourth Appellate Districts. Applications are due by July 15. If you are interested and want more information on these positions, feel free to contact Judge Holly Fujie (hfujiel@lacourt.org), who is a Past Southern California BBC Co-Chair. For more information and details on how to apply, see the attached documents.

CAPAJA Holds Panel on ‘Imposter Syndrome’

On June 29, over 50 CAPAJA members attended a Zoom panel for members only on the ‘Imposter Syndrome’ – the feeling that you are not as smart or competent as you actually are. The panel was moderated by Judge Sunil Kulkarni of the Santa Clara Superior Court, and featured Justice Tracie L. Brown of the 1st DCA, Div. 4, Judge R. Glenn Yabuno, Presiding Judge of the San Bernardino Superior Court and Judge Holly Fujie of the Los Angeles Superior Court. The extremely wide-ranging discussion addressed the issue of how the Imposter Syndrome affects API judges, how to combat the bad feelings it can cause and how to use the Syndrome to reach your full potential and make you a better judge and better person. Thanks to CAPAJA’s Education Committee – Judge Kulkarni, Justice Joanne Motoike and Judge Johnny Gogo -- for putting on this very helpful and timely program.

Membership Dues

Members appointed before August 2021 who are active bench officers, have a choice to [pay](#) either their annual membership dues of \$50 or a lifetime membership of \$500.

Members who are retired bench officers have a choice to [pay](#) either their annual membership dues of \$50 or a lifetime membership of only \$100.

We are asking all members to please stay current with your membership!

With CAPAJA’s best wishes to all its members for a healthy, productive July.

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, 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, and we will feature it in the next newsletter.