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

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Oct. 16, 2020

Dear Fellow California APA Judge:

The California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association (CAPAJA) is proud to represent the interests of over 200 active and retired California APA judicial officers. In the past nine years, we have supported and applauded the appointment and election of over 75 new APA judges in California, and we are planning to expand our efforts in this regard in the coming year. All of us on the Board of CAPAJA appreciated the large showing at our first Zoom Annual Meeting on September 22 – it was great to see so many smiling judicial faces!

CAPAJA News

We are starting a new practice of reporting CAPAJA news to our members every month or so. Send us any news of CAPAJA member events, such as speeches, honors, appointments and life events. Here is the news for this month:

- CAPAJA congratulates its member Orange County Superior Court Judge Douglas Hatchimonji, who was named the Wilmont Sweeney Juvenile Court Judge of the Year for 2020 at the CJA Annual Meeting on September 24, 2020. This prestigious award is presented annually by juvenile court judges to a California juvenile court judge who “exemplifies innovative dedication to California’s youth.” In CJA’s press release, Judge Hatchimonji is described as “a longtime advocate of finding alternatives to detention centers for juveniles, such as rehabilitation and counseling.” CAPAJA celebrates this well-deserved honor given to Judge Hatchimonji.
- CAPAJA also congratulates member Judge Samuel Feng, who has been elected Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court. He will succeed member Judge Garrett Wong in that position. CAPAJA supports and celebrates the increasingly important role of APAs in Court leadership throughout the state.

- CAPAJA mourns the loss of its member Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Vincent H. Okamoto, who died September 27. A member of the Court since 2002, Judge Okamoto was the most highly decorated Japanese American soldier in the Vietnam War. After graduating from USC Law, he became a Deputy District Attorney and then a law partner of Ron Wasserman, husband of our member Judge Fumiko Wasserman. His accomplishments were many and varied, and he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and fellow-members of CAPAJA. If you are interested in participating in an as-yet-undetermined memorial for Vince, let President Holly Fujie (hfujie@LACourt.org) know and she will pass on information to you as we receive it.
- Your Board has been working hard to bring more services and benefits to you, our members. Thanks to the excellent work of the Hon. Pelayo Llamas and the Hon. Jana Seng, the CAPAJA website is now up and running – go to www.capaja.org and take a look!

Membership Dues

This month, we will be contacting those of you who are not Lifetime Members about renewing your membership. Pelayo, Hon. Terry Truong and Hon. Nathan Vu have been working hard to make renewal easier for you. Through links in the renewal email, you will be able to (1) enroll as a Life Member of CAPAJA for a one-time payment of \$500; or (2) sign up for automatic renewal of your annual membership each year; or (3) pay for one year's membership online. Annual membership remains at \$50 per year.

Anyone who pays their 2020 dues by the end of this year will receive the benefits of membership through the end of 2021! And for all members who have already paid dues for 2020, your annual membership will also be good through December 31, 2021. For those bench officers who were appointed or elected this year, Congratulations! Your membership is free through the end of 2021; let us know if you want to sign up for lifetime membership or for automatic renewal starting with the 2022 year.

Get Involved

The Board is planning some great activities and opportunities for involvement, such as a mentoring program, education programs and training to improve the APA judicial pipeline. All judicial officers, whether you were just appointed or you retired years ago, are welcome. If you are interested in becoming more involved with CAPAJA in these new projects or in existing programs such as judicial candidate evaluation, reply to this email and we will contact you to discuss what you can do to help.

We appreciate your past support and look forward to working with you in the future. We are proud of the achievements of our California APA judicial officers and will work hard to serve you this year.

Sincerely,

Judge Holly Fujie and Judge Audra Ibarra