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#### California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association

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## November 2022 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

We hope everyone is having a happy, healthy and productive Autumn. October was a busy and successful month for CAPAJA members. Here is the CAPAJA news for this month.

### NEWS

#### CAPAJA Member Elected APJ in Orange County

CAPAJA member Judge Cheri T. Pham has been elected Assistant Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court. It is believed that when, as expected, she becomes Presiding Judge at the end of her term as APJ, she will be the first Vietnamese American to lead a court in California, if not in the country. Congratulations, APJ Pham!

#### Two APIs Appointed to California Superior Courts Last Month

On October 7, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Adrian Gidaya Roxas to the Los Angeles County Superior Court and Satnam Rattu to the Sacramento County Superior Court. Both have been sent a welcome e-mail with the news that they will have a free CAPAJA membership through the end of 2023 and an offer of a CAPAJA mentor. Congratulations to new Judges Roxas and Rattu!

#### New API Commissioner Appointed

Johanna Thai Van Dat was recently appointed as a commissioner in Santa Clara County. She has also been welcomed to membership in CAPAJA and joins the substantial CAPAJA membership on the Santa Clara County Superior Court. Best wishes to Commissioner Van Dat!

#### CAPAJA Past President Honored by Santa Clara Bar

Past CAPAJA President Judge Roberta Hayashi was honored on October 25 as the Santa Clara County Bar Association's Judge of the Year at the SCCBA's Annual Judge's Night. What a wonderful honor for Judge Hayashi and how well deserved!

#### CAPAJA Member Named Judge of the Year in Orange County

On October 12, the Orange County Bar Association awarded OCSC Judge and CAPAJA Member Deborah C. Servino its Judge of the Year Award at its Annual Gala. Congratulations Judge Servino!

#### CAPAJA's Education Committee to Present Webinar on Nov. 4, 2022 – "Life After the Robe Comes Off"

Please join us on Friday, November 4, 2022 from 12:15pm to 1:15pm as the CAPAJA Education Committee presents: "Life After the Robe Comes Off."

You will hear from three fantastic panel speakers who retired from the bench and have transitioned to new chapters:

- **Judge Katherine Lucero** who went from retirement from Santa Clara County to running a brand-new state government agency from scratch;

- **Judge Kirk Nakamura** who retired from Orange County and is currently with JAMS in Orange County and playing Pickleball; and
- **Judge Barbara Tam Nomoto Schumann** who retired from Orange County is still incredibly busy teaching, editing, and serving as a visiting judge.

Also, we will be joined by **California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye** who will share a few thoughts/comments with us as she transitions from her incredible career on the bench to her new role as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Public Policy Institute of California.

It is sure to be a fascinating panel and we hope you can join us. This is a CAPAJA member-only event and will be held over Zoom. To RSVP, please email Judge Sunil Kulkarni (Santa Clara) at [skulkarni@scscourt.org](mailto:skulkarni@scscourt.org) and he'll send you the Zoom link.

### **CAPAJA Members Profiled in DJ**

CAPAJA member Judge Bruce G. Iwasaki of the Los Angeles Superior Court was profiled in the October 13 edition of the Daily Journal. The article emphasized Judge Iwasaki's career in legal aid, and he is described by a lawyer who appears before him as "thoughtful, creative, soft-spoken, good-hearted, and smart." Sounds like the perfect judge!

And on October 19, CAPAJA member LASC Judge Susan Ser was profiled in the DJ under the heading "Judge Susan Ser had to learn unfamiliar area of law; lawyers say she was up to the task." The article highlighted the challenge Judge Ser faced in transitioning from her pre-appointment role as a Deputy DA to her current role presiding over a juvenile court.

Retired California Supreme Court Justice and CAPAJA Member Ming Chin was profiled in the Daily Journal on October 28 with a focus on his new role in dispute resolution at ADR Services, Inc. Justice Chin gave helpful advice to those mediating or arbitrating matters before him in the article, which was entitled "No Nonsense – Former Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin takes direct route to dispute resolution, lawyers say."

These profiles all showcase what amazing jobs our members are doing throughout the court system. Well done, Justice Chin and Judges Iwasaki and Ser.

### **CAPAJA Member Honored at NAWJ Convention**

CAPAJA Member Judge Tamila Ipema (Ret.) was honored by the National Association of Women Judges on October 22 at its Annual Convention in Detroit with the prestigious Joan Dempsey Klein Award. Judge Ipema is a Past President of NAWJ. The Joan Dempsey Klein Award is given each year by NAWJ to a judge who exemplifies the characteristics of Justice Klein in contributing to the advancement of the rule of law and encouraging the participation and success of women in the legal profession.

### **CAPAJA Members Speak on Panel at ABA Professional Success Summit**

CAPAJA Members Judge Wendy Chang and Judge Holly Fujie of the Los Angeles Superior Court spoke on "The Competitive Edge of a Diverse Trial Team: Tips from the Bench and Bar" at the American Bar Association's Professional Success Summit held in Los Angeles on October 26.

### **CAPAJA Members to Participate in NAPABA Convention**

NAPABA is holding its Annual Convention in Las Vegas from November 3 through 6 at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. CAPAJA members are active in the leadership of the NAPABA Judicial Council (NPAJC), including NPAJC President, LASC Judge Curtis Kin and Vice President, LASC Judge Holly Fujie. There will be a NPAJC Dinner held on November 4 from 8-10 pm at the Convention Hotel, the Cosmopolitan. Even if you do not register for the convention itself, you can still sign up for just the dinner at the following site: <https://web.cvent.com/event/346d9bf5-1d8e-4330-99f0-f599310b3fbe/summary>. We are also working with NAPABA to ask CAPAJA members to join the NPAJC.

### **CAPAJA Scholarship Information Being Given to Law Students.**

Judge Lucy Koh of the Ninth Circuit spoke before the Berkeley Law APALSA on October 7 and encouraged them to apply for CAPAJA scholarships. Law students can learn more about the scholarships at [www.capaja.org/student-scholarship](http://www.capaja.org/student-scholarship).

### **CAPAJA Establishes Strategic Partnerships with Key API Leaders**

CAPAJA's Strategic Partnership Committee established a connection with the New York Asian American Judges Association (NYAAJA) and met virtually to discuss common goals and potential collaborations. We have agreed to work together to promote each other's activities and to provide resources that are of mutual benefit.

CAPAJA has also established a connection with the California Legislature's Asian American Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (AAPI-LC). Working with AAPI-LC, CAPAJA President Judge Sandhu has helped streamline the process for CAPAJA endorsed candidates to also seek endorsement from the AAPI-LC.

### **CAPAJA Holds Dinner at Judicial College**

Thanks to the hard work of CAPAJA board member and Judicial College Seminar Leader, Joni Hiramoto, CAPAJA held a dinner with several judicial college attendees. The attendees had a great night of dinner and learned great information about CAPAJA and CAPAJA-PAC. Thanks Joni for a great turnout at the dinner! Pictures from the event are on the last pages of this newsletter.

With CAPAJA's best wishes to all its members for a healthy, happy and productive November.

Sonny Sandhu, CAPAJA President  
Terry Truong, 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](mailto:HFujie@LACourt.org), and we will feature it in the next newsletter.*











