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#### California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association

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## November-December 2021 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

It has been an extremely eventful and productive year for CAPAJA – Thanks to all who have worked so hard to accomplish so much for the organization! Here is CAPAJA's last newsletter for 2021.

### NEWS

#### Governor Newsom Appoints Five New API Superior Court Judges

On November 10, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed three new API judges to the San Diego (Mark Cumba), Santa Clara (Hanley Chew) and Contra Costa (Hanley Chew) Superior Courts. Then on November 29, 2021, Governor Newsom appointed two more APIs to the Superior Court, Assemblymember Ed Chau to the Los Angeles Superior Court and Andre Kazuo Campbell to the Sacramento Superior Court. All five new judges have been welcomed to membership in CAPAJA and invited to join in our activities. Congratulations to our new colleagues and CAPAJA members! We look forward to getting you involved in CAPAJA's many committees and activities.

#### ALJ Christelle Conanan Welcomed to Membership in CAPAJA

Christelle Conanan was recently appointed as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of California Department of Social Services. She has been welcomed onto the CAPAJA ALJ Committee by committee chair Dorothy Chou Proudfoot. Thanks to Judge Ben Reyes for alerting us of this great appointment. The Newsletter Editor appreciates being notified of all new API appointments ([hfujie@lacourt.org](mailto:hfujie@lacourt.org)) so we can include them in the newsletter and welcome them to the bench.

#### NAPABA Members Honored by Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County (APABA)

On October 28, 2021, APABA honored CAPAJA members 4<sup>th</sup> DCA Justice Truc T. Do and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Bryant Y. Yang as two of its 2021 Recent Trailblazers in the Law. The event featured a Zoom reception in honor of this year's recipients, followed by a virtual panel discussing the honorees' paths to success and contemporary challenges in the legal world. Judge Yang, the first Burmese judge to serve in the entire country, ably moderated a fascinating conversation with his fellow-honorees about their experiences as "firsts" in their communities. Congratulations, Justice Do and Judge Yang!

#### Governor Newsom Declares Larry Itliong Day

NAPABA member Judge Shama Mesiwala passed on the great news that Governor Gavin Newsom has declared October 25 Larry Itliong Day in honor of the great civil rights hero!

Itliong immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in 1929 at age 15 and immediately began working in the salmon canneries of Alaska and the agricultural fields of California. He was a powerful influence on Cesar Chavez

and instrumental in fighting for human rights and living wages for our farm workers.

Itliong's success in organizing Filipino grape workers led him to ask Chavez and Mexican farmworkers to join the grape strike. A year later, Itliong's organization and Chavez's organization merged to become the United Farm Workers.

### **Sad News of the Passing of Former CAPAJA President Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki**

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki (ret.) passed away on October 10 at the age of 85. He was born in Los Angeles, was incarcerated in Manzanar during World War II, and subsequently earned a Bachelor's degree from UCLA and a J.D. from UCLA Law School. He served as a deputy public defender for the Los Angeles County Deputy Defender's Office and in private practice. Judge Fujisaki was appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court by Governor Gerry Brown in 1977 and was elevated to the Superior Court in 1980. He retired from the bench in 1997. Judge Fujisaki presided over several high-profile cases involving celebrities like Jack Nicholson, Steven Segal, Gary Coleman, Elke Sommer, and Zsa Gabor, but he is best known for handling the OJ Simpson civil trial. He served as president of CAPAJA from 1984 to 1985. He was happily married to his wife Misako for over 64 years, and proud of his daughters, including CAPAJA member, the Honorable Carin Fujisaki, who was appointed by Governor Brown in 2018 to the First District Court of Appeal. For more information about his career please see his biography on the past presidents' [page](#) of the CAPAJA website.

### **CAPAJA Members Publish Part Two of Article on Anti-Asian Violence in Orange County: A Historical Perspective**

CAPAJA Past President and Immediate Past Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court Kirk Nakamura and Judge Deborah Servino published the second part of their article on Anti-Asian Hate in the Orange County Lawyer Magazine in its October 2021 issue. Here is the link to this fascinating article:

<http://www.virtualonlineeditions.com/publication/?m=15276&i=722645&p=30&pp=1&ver=html5>

### **Looking for Judges Fluent in Mandarin to Translate Judges in the Classroom Script**

Judges in the Classroom (JIC) connects public school teachers with volunteer judges for lessons on the role of the judiciary, the three branches of government, rule of law, and other areas of civics. The program is supported by the Chief Justice's Power of Democracy Steering Committee. Participating judges appear in classrooms in person or via zoom to present one of four grade-appropriate lessons. In an effort to provide access for ESL students, two lessons are now available in Spanish and one is available in Mandarin. There is great value in these translations because they are delivered by language fluent judges in immersion classes with non-English speaking students. JIC is seeking judges fluent in Mandarin to translate the script for the Salem Witchcraft Trials presentation. The script is read by students and vividly illustrates how trial procedures have changed from the 1600's to the present. The entire lesson plan is available at: <https://sites.google.com/view/judges-in-the-classroom/lessons/salem-witch-trials>. If you are interested in helping to translate the script into Mandarin, please contact Judge Lee Tsao (Los Angeles) at [ltsao@lacourt.org](mailto:ltsao@lacourt.org).

### **CAPAJA Members Teach Judicial Education Class to Superior Court Judges**

On November 19, CAPAJA members Judge Ashfaq Chowdhury and Judge Kim Nguyen taught an extremely well-received class to the Los Angeles and the Santa Clara Superior Court judges on Misdemeanor Calendar Management. They discussed how to approach calendar management, how applicable standards and canons can inform calendar management and what to do when you are “in the weeds.” Thanks to Judges Chowdhury and Kim for educating out colleagues on this important topic.

### **CAPAJA Treasurer Terry Truong Elected to LASC Executive Committee**

Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Terry Truong was elected by her fellow commissioners to be one of two Commissioner representatives to the 2022 LASC Executive Committee. Congratulations, Terry!

### **CAPAJA Member Profiled in Daily Journal**

On November 18, 2021, the Daily Journal published a profile on CAPAJA member, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Scott H. Yun. The article focused on Judge Yun’s handling of the Chapter 9 proceedings of Western Community Energy and praised his handling of this complex matter.

### **CAPAJA Members Speaking at NAPABA’s Convention in DC**

CAPAJA members Justice Goodwin Liu, Judge Jacqueline Nguyen and Judge Wendy Chang will be speaking at the NAPABA Convention, which will be held December 9-12. New CAPAJA member Judge Vibhav Mittal will also be recognized as a member of this year’s NAPABA Best 40 Under 40, and Judge Curtis Kin will preside over the annual meeting of the NAPABA Judicial Council as its President.

### **LAST SURVEY OF THE YEAR!**

Thanks to Survey Committee Member Nathan Vu, CAPAJA presents the last CAPAJA survey for 2021: The CAPAJA leadership and CAPAJA's many amazing committees are considering a number of programs and projects this coming year to help you maximize your career, to help other excellent APAs join the bench and to expose law students to APA judges. We need your input on what would be most meaningful to you, so please complete the survey to help us help our members and the APA legal community.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/583W6JZ>

With CAPAJA’s best wishes to all its members for a great end of the year,

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](mailto:HFujie@LACourt.org), and we will feature it in the next newsletter.*