



*November 2025 e-Newsletter
Volume I, Issue One*

President's Message




President's Message

"1% better every day". I saw this slogan on a wall, and it struck me how this could very well apply to CAPAJA. Last year's CAPAJA Board (pictured below), and the Committees did an amazing job of creating educational programs for our members and supporting quality candidates through our judicial endorsement process. This year's Board and the Committees will continue the hard work to improve CAPAJA, little by little.

One immediate and visual example of improvements is our new newsletter and email address system. You may have noticed that the emails are now from our "**@capaja.org**" account so that you immediately know that it is a CAPAJA email. In addition, our newsletter is in a digitally friendly format (thanks to our designer Judge Glenn Kim). Different look but same wonderful content. A big THANK YOU to Judge Holly Fujie who writes the newsletter with assistance from Judges Michelle Ahnn, Christine Gonong, and Glenn Kim.


This first digital newsletter is dedicated to the late CAPAJA Past President, Judge Howard Halm, who was a trailblazer and mentor to many of our CAPAJA members. Keep reading the newsletter to learn more about Judge Halm's legacy and see how our CAPAJA members are working hard to give back to their communities.

Hon. Jana M. Seng
CAPAJA President 2025-2026
Los Angeles County




2024 **2025**


**California Asian Pacific American
Judges Association**




HON. SUNIL R. KULKARNI
Treasurer
Santa Clara County




HON. JANA M. SENG
President-Elect 2024-2025
Los Angeles County




HON. JAYNE C. LEE
President
San Joaquin County




HON. NATHAN NHAN VU
President-Elect 2025-2026
Orange County




HON. MICHELLE ARINN
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Los Angeles County




HON. TERRY TRUONG
Immediate Past President
Judicial Appointments Co-Chair
Los Angeles County




HON. BENJAMIN T. REYES II
Judicial Appointments Co-Chair
Contra Costa County




HON. H. GLENN KIM
1st District Representative
Contra Costa County




HON. CHRISTOPHER LUI
2nd District Representative
Los Angeles County




HON. CHRISTINE GOHONG
2nd District Representative
Los Angeles County




HON. KARA UEDA
3rd District Representative
Santa Monica County



HON. COREY G. LEE
4th District Representative
San Francisco County




HON. VIBHAV MITTAL
4th District Representative
Orange County



HON. JEFF MANGAR
5th District Representative
Stanislaus County



HON. HANLEY CHEW
6th District Representative
Santa Clara County



HON. CHRISTINE DEMIR
Subordinate Judicial Officer Liaison
Placer County



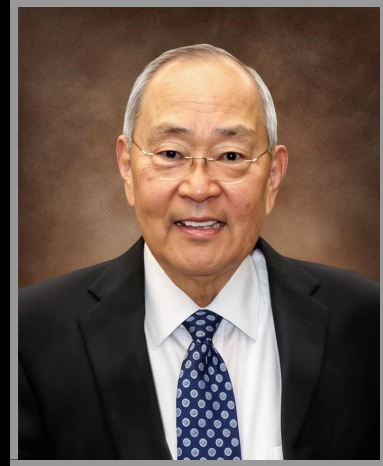
HON. DOROTHY OQUENDO-POUSSOT
ALJ Liaison
San Francisco Rent Board



In Memoriam

Howard Lee Halm
July 17, 1942 — October 1, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lee Halm (Ret. LASC) was born on July 17, 1942 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and passed away peacefully on October 1, 2025, with his children by his side, in Santa Monica, California. Howard had an impressive legal career and was a trailblazer for the Asian American community. Among his many distinctions, he was the first Korean American Deputy Attorney General in the State of California, he was elected the first non-Japanese American president of the Japanese American Bar Association, and he served as a judge of the LA Superior Court from 2009-2018.



More personally to CAPAJA, Howard was a former CAPAJA president from 2015-2016. Throughout his judicial career and even after retirement, he continued to support CAPAJA. He joined CAPAJA in Sept. 2024 on the South Korea trip and just two weeks prior to his passing, he attended the CAPAJA Dinner in Pasadena on Sept. 13, 2025. As you can see from the pictures below, we all enjoyed our time with Howard at these two events, talking about his post-retirement work as a mediator and arbitrator with ADR Services, his memories on the bench, and the books he was reading.

On Nov. 1, there was a beautiful and loving service for Howard with Ret. LASC Judge Dan Buckley as the Celebrant. CAPAJA members in attendance laughed and cried as we heard from the his three children and other speakers about Howard's love for golf, gardening, and cribbage. His grandchildren showed immense strength when the oldest grandchild spoke on behalf of the four grandkids, and two of them performed musical pieces for him. The service was attended by many CAPAJA members, including those who went to South Korea with him. Howard will be greatly missed by CAPAJA.

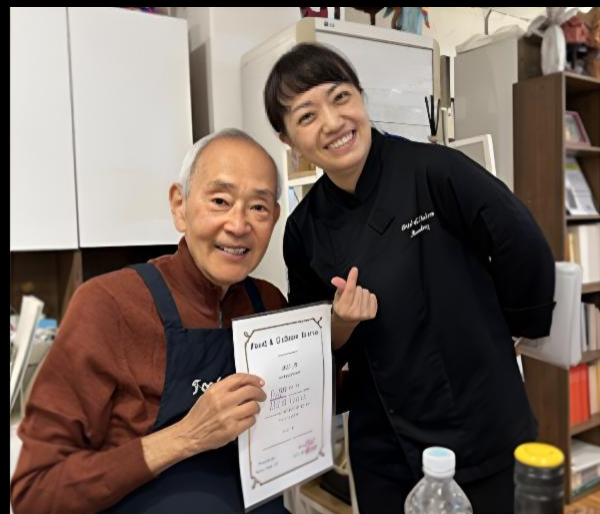
[Obituary Link](#)



Howard Halm (top row, 1st on the left) enjoying the first night of the CAPAJA South Korea trip in Sept. 2024.



Howard (top row, first from the right) with all the judicial officers on the CAPAJA trip on the steps of the South Korean Supreme Court.



Howard showing off his skills in Seoul during a cooking class where we learned to make japchae, a Korean noodle dish.



Howard (2nd from the right), joined us for the CAPAJA Dinner on Sept. 13, 2025.



Another picture of Howard (1st from the right) at CAPAJA's dinner on Sept. 13, 2025.

Upcoming CAPAJA Events

CAPAJA presents “Road to Supervising Judge” program

On Nov. 12, CAPAJA's Education Committee will present, “Road to Supervising Judge” which will feature Past CAPAJA President Jayne Lee (Supervising Civil Judge, San Joaquin County), Judge Ricardo Ocampo (Assistant Presiding Judge, Los Angeles County), and Judge Cheri Pham (Former Assistant Presiding Judge, Orange County).

The discussion will be moderated by Judge Diana Tsang. CAPAJA is dedicated to advancing the careers of our members, and we hope you will attend this zoom meeting even if you have never considered a leadership position in your court.



Road to Supervising Judge



Presented by CAPAJA Education Committee

Join us for an in-depth discussion on becoming a Supervising Judge

Date: November 12, 2025 - 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.



Judge Jayne Lee
Supervising Civil Judge
San Joaquin County



Judge Ricardo Ocampo
Assistant Presiding
Judge
Los Angeles County



Judge Cheri Pham
Orange County
Superior Court



Judge Diana Tsang
Los Angeles County
Superior Court
Moderator

Register for this event via email: education@capaja.org

Meeting ID: 899 2191 0894

Passcode: 520061

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89921910894?pwd=Rk5bcrYmL9k9EgPIJgehtgGlokRso2.1>



CAPAJA Student Scholarship



CAPAJA will again award \$2500 scholarships to deserving law students working as judicial interns.

Your generous donations make these scholarships possible. If you are a judge, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to our Scholarship Fund through our website.

[Click to Donate](#)

Thank you for your support!



New to the Bench



VIVIAN WANG **San Mateo County**

On October 22, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom announced his appointment of Vivian Wang, to serve as a Judge in the San Mateo County Superior Court.

Wang has served as a Deputy Attorney General at the California Department of Justice since 2025 and from 2015 to 2022. She served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California from 2022 to 2025. Wang worked as an Associate at Berliner Cohen from 2013 to 2015 and as an Associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell from 2011 to 2013. She served as

a Law Clerk for the Honorable Diane Sykes at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit from 2010 to 2011. Wang received a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School.

CLIFFORD TONG **Stanislaus County**

In late breaking news, a CAPAJA endorsee was appointed to Stanislaus County Superior Court. On October 31, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom announced his appointment of Clifford Tong to serve as a Judge in the Stanislaus County Superior Court.

Tong has served as the Chief Deputy Alternate Defender at the Stanislaus County Alternate Defender's Office since 2022. He served as the Chief Deputy Public Defender at the Stanislaus County Public Defender's Office from 2021 to 2022, where he also served as a Deputy Public Defender from 2007 to 2021. Tong received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.



Upcoming Events Featuring CAPAJA Members



CAPAJA Members Speak on the Japanese American Internment

On November 5th from 4:30-6 pm, CJA will present a program on the World War II imprisonment of Japanese and Japanese Americans in a program originated by CAPAJA. Speaking will be CAPAJA Members Judge Charles Kobayashi (ret. Sacramento County Superior Court), Judge Johnny Gogo (Santa Clara County Superior Court), Judge Mike Madokoro (Los Angeles Superior Court) and Justice Mark Hanasono (2d DCA) and moderator Judge David Wolf (Kern County Superior Court).

[**Registration Link**](#)

UNDERSTANDING JAPANESE INTERNMENT



Program: Please join us on Zoom for an amazing presentation on the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The presenters are all California judicial officers who have some personal tie to the Internment. You'll also hear about what one judge has been doing to help memorialize, educate and heal.

Sponsored: This program was originally organized and presented by the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association (CAPAJA). Judge David Wolf attended the prior CJA program and was so impressed that he requested that a similar program be made available to all judicial officers and attorneys. What then started as a Kern/Tulare Elimination of Bias committee presentation quickly grew. Luckily, CJA volunteered to host the program, state-wide, for all judicial officers and attorneys. We owe our presenters, CAPAJA, and CJA a special "thank you" for providing this history, educational and very personal presentation.

Moderator: Hon. David Wolf, Supervising Judge, Kern County Superior Court, and Co-Chair of Kern/Tulare Elimination of Bias Committee, Co-Chair State-wide Civility Task Force, CJA Board Member.

Presenters:

- Hon. Charles Kobayashi (Ret.), Judge, Sacramento County Superior Court
- Hon. Johnny Gogo, Judge, Santa Clara County Superior Court
- Hon. Mike Madokoro, Judge, Los Angeles County Superior Court
- Hon. Mark Hanasono, Justice, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

Event Details:

Date: 11/5/2025

Time: 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

MCLE/JBEC: 1.5 Elimination of Bias

COST: \$25.00

REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/WEBINAR/REGISTER/JN.NGPIJR31TZGQEDU-UD.LLO](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/jn.NGPIJR31TZGQEDU-UD.LLO)





CAPAJA Members Present at Complex Courts Symposium

On November 6, CAPAJA Members Judge Somnath Raj Chatterjee (Alameda Superior Court) and Judges Bruce Iwasaki and Elaine Lu (LA Superior Court) will speak at the 2025 California Complex Courts Symposium. The program, which is open to all attorneys who practice in any of the complex civil courts in California, will give practitioners the opportunity to hear from judges on the complex courts throughout the state and then network with them. Below is the flyer and the link – feel free to circulate it among your complex court practitioners!

Registration Link |

Details

2025 CALIFORNIA COMPLEX COURTS SYMPOSIUM

Presented By: *The Litigation Section*

If you practice in any of the complex civil courts in California, plan to join us for this unique opportunity to meet the new complex judges throughout the state and hear from them across a variety of practice areas on issues relating to civility, case management, settlement approvals, and trials. An evening networking reception will follow with food and drinks.

THURSDAY
NOV. 6, 2025

JW MARRIOTT LOS ANGELES
(PLATINUM BALLROOM)
900 W. OLYMPIC BLVD.
LOS ANGELES CA 90015



LACBA

GLE:
2 HRS GENERAL CREDIT
1 HR ETHICS CREDIT

2:00 - 2:30 PM Registration

2:30 - 6:00 PM Program

- **What's New?** Meet the New Judges
- **What's Different?** Pre-trial and Trial Practice in the Complex Courts/ How to Litigate Class Actions More Efficiently/ Lessons Learned from Asbestos Dockets Statewide
- **What's Right?** Ethical Approaches Unique to Complex Cases

6:00 - 7:30 PM Reception

SPEAKERS

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

- Hon. Somnath R. Chatterjee
- Hon. Patrick R. McKinney II

COUNTY OF ORANGE

- Hon. William D. Claster
- Hon. David A. Hoffer
- Hon. Layne H. Melzer

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

- Hon. Harold W. Hopp

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

- Hon. Lauri A. Damrell
- Hon. Jill H. Talley

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

- Hon. Katherine A. Bacal

COUNTY OF VENTURA

- Hon. Charmaine H. Buehner

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

- Hon. David S. Cunningham III
- Hon. Timothy P. Dillon
- Hon. William F. Highberger
- Hon. Bruce G. Iwasaki
- Hon. Samantha P. Jessner
- Hon. Carolyn B. Kuhl
- Hon. Elaine Lu
- Hon. Lawrence P. Riff
- Hon. Laura A. Seigle
- Hon. Theresa M. Traber

*confirmed speakers as of 10/8/25

Registration

Event:

Thu, November 6, 2025
2:00 PM - 7:30 PM PT

[Register Now](#)

Event Rates

Early Bird Rates

\$230.00	Litigation Section Member
\$230.00	Co-Sponsoring Section Member Rates
\$250.00	LACBA Member
\$290.00	Non Member Rate
\$1,125.00	Block of 5 Tickets
\$2,250.00	Block of 10 Tickets

Sponsorship

\$3,000.00	Program Sponsor
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Tell a Colleague!

Add to My Calendar

- [Outlook Calendar](#)
- [Google Calendar](#)
- [iCal Calendar](#)

Reminder: Adding to your calendar does not register you for the event.



CAPAJA President-Elect to be Honored by VABASC

CAPAJA President-Elect Judge Nathan Vu will be honored as Judge of the Year by the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Southern California on November 14. The VABASC 2025 Installation Gala will be held at 6 pm at Diamond Seafood Palace 1, 8058 Lampson Avenue, Garden Grove, CA.

See the attached flyer for ticketing information. The theme of the evening is "Honoring our Legacy; Inspiring our Future" – and Nathan fits that theme perfectly! Congratulations, Nathan!

Registration Link

VABASC.ORG



2025 Installation Gala

Honoring Our Legacy

Inspiring Our Future

November 14, 2025 at 6pm

Keynote Speaker : Justice Goodwin Liu



Diamond Seafood Palace 1

8058 Lampson Ave

Garden Grove, CA 92841

For questions, contact vabasc@gmail.com



CAPAJA Members Speaks on Gender Bias

On November 17 at 4:30 to 5:30 pm, a panel including CAPAJA Members Justice Shama Mesiwala (3d DCA) and Commissioner Cynthia Loo (Kern County) will present a CJA/Unity Bar program on “Identifying and Navigating Gender Bias Against Women in the Courtroom.” See the attached flyer for information on registering for this program.

Registration Link |

CJA'S COMMITTEE ON ELIMINATION OF BIAS AND INEQUALITY
& THE CALIFORNIA UNITY BAR PRESENT:

A VIEW FROM THE BENCH

Identifying and Navigating Gender Bias Against Women in the Courtroom



Monday, November 17, 2025

4:30 - 5:30 pm

VIA ZOOM WEBINAR



Judge Laura
Walton



Justice Shama
Mesiwala



Judge Elizabeth
Bradley



Judge Amber Poston
CO-FOUNDER-UNITY BAR
ORANGE COUNTY



Cynthia Loo
CO-FOUNDER-UNITY BAR
KERN COUNTY



Angela Zanin
CO-FOUNDER-LOS ANGELES
UNITY BAR

- *Value of mentors* (Dr. Maya Angelou)
- *Overcoming sexism* (Billie Jean King)
- *Listening to the voice inside you* (Oprah Winfrey)
- *Value of courage* (Malala Yousafzai)
- *Being your authentic self* (Dolly Parton)

**FREE! BUT ADVANCED
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

1 hour elimination of bias
credit pending approval from the
State Bar of California



CAPAJA Member Speaks on 170.6

On November 20 at 12:15, 2022-23 CAPAJA President Sonny Sandhu will moderate a Unity Bar Zoom Workshop called “170.6: Judicial Safeguard or System Drain.” See the attached flyer for details.

[Registration Link](#)



UNITY BAR WORKSHOP #9

170.6 **JUDICIAL SAFEGUARD OR SYSTEM DRAIN?**

A candid discussion exploring the balance between protecting clients from bias and maintaining the effective administration of justice in the California courts

Tuesday

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

12:15-1:15 PM

VIA ZOOM WEBINAR



MODERATOR

**SONNY S.
SANDHU**

**PRESIDING JUDGE
STANISLAUS
SUPERIOR COURT**

**INTRODUCTIONS BY:
BRIAN LÓPEZ**

**FREE BUT
ADVANCED REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

**REGISTER
HERE**

**1 HR MCLE CREDIT PENDING
APPROVAL FROM THE
STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA**



DAN DOW

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SAN LUIS OBISPO**



KATHLEEN GUNERATNE

**ASSISTANT PUBLIC
DEFENDER ALAMEDA
COUNTY**



JUDGE RICK KING

**ORANGE COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT**



JUDGE DANIEL MAGUIRE

**YOLO
SUPERIOR COURT**



CAPAJA *Members in the News*

CAPAJA Member Honored by Judicial Council



The October 14 Daily Journal announced that CAPAJA Member Judge Bruce Chan of the San Francisco Superior Court will receive the Judicial Council's Judge Benjamin Aranda Access to Justice Award, which recognizes long-term efforts to expand access for low and moderate-income Californians.

Bruce is being honored for founding San Francisco's Young Adult Court, the first of its kind in the nation. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award, Bruce!



The Bench Features CAPAJA Members



In the Fall 2025 issue of CJA's publication The Bench, CAPAJA Members wrote a number of articles. Please read The Bench to see the contributions of our members!

LASC Judges Elaine Lu's and Curtis Kin authored their always interesting and timely Civil Law Column. This month, the article was on "Room for Excuse for Missing Arbitration Payment Deadlines."

Judge Rohanee Zapanta of the San Diego Superior Court contributed another thought-provoking article on Self-Assessment, entitled "Fall & Finances - Understanding Your Relationship with Money."

Judge Von Deroian, APJ of the Santa Barbara Superior Court recounted the story of how she heard about her appointment in this month's article on "The Call."

Judge Sophia Choi of the Riverside County Superior Court sent out a request for contributions for an article called "With All Due Respect." Sophia would like to hear from all judicial officers about situations they have faced where lawyers have not met their obligation to be civil in court!



Past Events

CAPAJA's Presentation "Mind the Record" Provided Helpful Information to our Members



MIND THE RECORD
Appellate Justices
Share What Matters Most

Join
California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association's
Mentoring Committee on

Thursday, October 9, 2025
12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

Virtual Meet & Greet and
Tips from Appellate Justices on Preserving the Record for a Successful Appeal



Justice
Truc T. Do
Fourth Appellate District



Justice
Shama Hakim Mesiwala
Third Appellate District



Justice
Danny Y. Chou
First Appellate District

Please Email CAPAJA's Mentoring Committee to RSVP and Submit Any Questions/Topics You Would Like Discussed
Hon. Stephanie J. Talaue - stalaue@dc-court.org
Hon. Tiffany W. Tai - ttai@lacourt.org
Hon. Adrian G. Roxas - aroxas@lacourt.org

On October 9, 2025, CAPAJA's Mentorship Committee presented "Mind the Record," a Question/Answer panel with Justices Truc Do, Danny Chou, and Shama Mesiwala. The Justices discussed common mistakes they see judges make, such as changing form jury instructions, misunderstanding appellate standards, and failing to make a record.

They also gave useful tips, such as writing out your decision in advance of ruling orally so that the reasoning is clear, reporting the results of any action taken off the record, and using scripts when possible. Finally, the

justices described a typical work day and briefly went over some tips for judges who want to apply to the appellate bench. After the panel, all three justices indicated they are open to follow-up questions and invited members to contact them should the need arise.



CAPAJA Members Celebrate at APAWLA's Annual Dinner

CAPAJA members enjoyed a fun evening at the Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance (APAWLA) Annual Dinner Reception on Oct. 9, 2025.



From left to right: Judge Tim Saito, Judge Holly Fujie, Judge Janet Hong, Judge Jana Seng, Judge Bryant Yang, Judge Esther Ro, Judge Christine Gonong, and APAWLA President Grace Pak.



CAPAJA Member Attend Red Mass

Many of our CAPAJA members attended the Red Mass for Legal Professions on Oct. 14, 2025 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angeles.



Left to right: Judge Mike Madokoro, Judge Adrian Roxas, Judge Helen Yang, Judge Alex Sario, LASC APJ Judge Ricardo Ocampo, Commissioner May Santos, Judge Cristina Legaspi, Commissioner Jenny Cheung Marino, Judge Christine Gonong, and Judge Ramiro Cisneros.



CAPAJA Member Mentors Judicial Candidates

On October 16, CAPAJA Member Judge Bryan Clavecilla was a panel speaker for the Orange County Superior Court Judicial Mentor Program's presentation, "Ask Your Last Minute Questions Before Pressing Send!" Thank you Bryan for your commitment to helping attorneys become judges!



The Judicial Mentor Program Presents:

Ask your last minute questions

BEFORE PRESSING SEND!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

12:15-1:30 PM

REMOTE & IN PERSON

DEPARTMENT C9

LINK WILL BE SENT THE DAY BEFORE THE EVENT

ADDRESS:
CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER
700 W. CIVIC CENTER DR.



[REGISTER HERE](#)
OR SCAN QR CODE



Still on the fence about submitting your judicial application? Have questions you would like answered before pressing send?

The Judicial Mentorship Committee is here to help!

Join us for an engaging panel discussion and a robust Q & A session.

PANEL



Hon. Elizabeth Macias



Hon. H. Shaina Colover



Hon. Julie Swain



Hon. Olga Giller



Hon. Juliet Macaulay



Hon. Eileen Solis



Hon. Bryan Clavecilla



Pasadena Bar Association Judge's Night

On Oct. 16, the Pasadena Bar Association held its Judges' Night which was well attended by our members!



Left to right: Judge Grace Kim, Judge Tiffany Tai, Judge Helen Yang, Judge Jana Seng, Judge Christine Gonong, and Commissioner Jenny Cheung Marino.



AABA Celebrates CAPAJA Members

On October 16, the Asian American Bar Association of Northern California held a dinner honoring API Judges in Northern California. Almost 30 CAPAJA Members attended, and participated in a moderated discussion focused on how to defend the rule of law, as well as how to increase AAPI representation in the judiciary. See the attached article and photo below from the Oct. 2025 AABA Newsletter.

AABA Hosts Judges Dinner



On October 16, 2025, AABA hosted a dinner to honor active members of the federal and state judiciaries in the Bay Area. Nearly 30 judges joined members of AABA's board and Judiciary Committee at Osha Thai in San Francisco for a reception and dinner.

AABA Board Member Kevin Yeh, who helped organize the event, gave introductory remarks. Later, all attendees participated in a moderated discussion focused on how to defend the rule of law, as well as how to increase AAPI representation in the judiciary. AABA President Kelly Matayoshi gave concluding comments.

AABA is committed to ensuring the diversity of the judiciary and encouraging its members to apply to become judges. Our judicial mentorship program pairs individuals interested in judgeships with a sitting judge to provide advice on career development and enhancing applications. AABA's Judiciary Committee is also active in evaluating and endorsing candidates for the bench. Please reach out to members of AABA's board or Judiciary Committee with any questions about these programs.



CAPAJA Members Enjoy an Evening at the Unity Bar Gala

CAPAJA judges joined Unity Bar leaders on Oct. 18 from up and down the state to celebrate the second anniversary of the formation of the Merced Unity Bar. The hallmark of its Unity Bar is the robust participation of the UC Merced pre-law students who have organized educational programs and outings to introduce their students to leaders in law from the local Merced region and beyond, including the Governor's Office in the Capitol, Sacramento.

The gala featured keynote speaker Tulare Superior Court Judge Syliva Hanna detailing her family's journey as Christian immigrants from Egypt to California in pursuit of the American dream.



From left to right: Judge Jaya Badiga (Sacramento), Judge Vinita Bali (Santa Clara), Justice Shama Mesiwala (Third District), Presiding Judge Sonny Sandhu (Stanislaus)



CAPAJA's ALJ Committee Launches Roundtable Series

The first of the lunch time roundtable series by CAPAJA ALJ Committee was held on Oct. 27 to support CAPAJA members. The topic was “Effective Use of ADR Techniques to Boost Your Judging.” Those in attendance had a robust practice discussion regarding how best to use the ADR skills in the courtrooms. Members stayed beyond the allotted time for extra practice questions. The ALJ Committee hopes to provide similar support to the practice of ALJs and Judges in future roundtable series.



CAPAJA AFFINITY DINNER AT THIS YEAR'S OCTOBER WITKIN JUDICIAL COLLEGE

On October 28, during this year’s October Witkin Judicial College, CAPAJA organized a warm and collegial affinity dinner bringing together both members and supporters of CAPAJA. Newly appointed judges shared the table with longtime members of the bench, creating an evening marked by connection, mentorship, and shared commitment to advancing Asian Pacific American representation in the judiciary. It was a wonderful opportunity to build community, celebrate our newest colleagues, and strengthen relationships across the bench.



CAPAJA Committee Educates Judicial Hopefuls

On October 29 at 5-6:30 pm, the CAPAJA Judicial Elections Committee, together with the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, presented a panel on “Pathways to the Bench: Ins and Outs of Running in a Judicial Election.”

CAPAJA Members Judge CJ Mody (San Diego County Superior Court), Judge Linda Liu-Sun (LA Superior Court), Judge Pelayo Llamas (Alameda County Superior Court) and Judge Brian Kim (Solano County) discussed their insights on the judicial election process.

Thanks to the Judicial Election Committee for putting together this innovative and fascinating program.

The poster features the logos of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association and the California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association at the top. The title "PATHWAYS TO THE BENCH: INS AND OUTS OF RUNNING IN A JUDICIAL ELECTION" is prominently displayed. Below the title, it invites participants to join a panel of judges. Four circular portraits of the judges are shown: Judge CJ Mody (San Diego County), Judge Linda Liu-Sun (Los Angeles County), Judge Pelayo Llamas (Alameda County), and Judge Bryan Kim (Solano County). The event is scheduled for 5 PM - 6:30 PM on October 29, 2025. Registration information is provided, including the website www.sccla.org and a QR code to scan. A list of co-sponsors is shown at the bottom, including various legal and community organizations. A "SCAN ME" button with a QR code is also present.



CAPAJA Members Celebrate New Judge Osman Abbasi

CAPAJA members supported one of LASC’s newest appointees - Judge Osman Abbasi - by attending his investiture on Oct. 29.



*Newly sworn in Judge Osman Abbasi along with CAPAJA Members.
From left to right: Judge Bryant Yang, LASC APJ Judge Ricardo Ocampo, Judge Christine Gonong,
Judge Osman Abbasi, Judge Jana Seng, Judge Tiffany Tai, and Judge Mike Madokoro.*



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CAPAJA | 11138 Del Amo Boulevard, #453 | Lakewood, CA 90715 US

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