



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

Aug. 2022 CAPAJA Newsletter

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

NEWS

CAPAJA Talk with Việt Thành Nguyễn - 8/10/22 at 4:45 pm

Please join us for a special *CAPAJA members-only* talk with Pulitzer-winning and NYT's best-selling author Việt Thành Nguyễn on Wednesday, August 10 at 4:45 pm via Zoom. RSVP and receive link by contacting Judge Raj Chatterjee, CPAJA social activities committee co-chair, at

schatterjee@alameda.courts.ca.gov.

Việt Thành Nguyễn's novel *The Sympathizer* won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. His most recent publication is the sequel to *The Sympathizer*, *The Committed*. His other books are *The Refugees*; *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War*; and *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America*. He has also published *Chicken of the Sea*, a children's book written in collaboration with his son, Ellison. He is a University Professor, the Aerol Arnold Chair of English, and a Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California. He is also a recipient of fellowships from the [Guggenheim](#) and [MacArthur](#) Foundations, and a Fellow of the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#). He is a regular contributor as an [op-ed](#) columnist for *The New York Times*, covering immigration, refugees, politics, culture and South East Asia, and also serves as cultural critic-at-large for [The Los Angeles Times](#).

He was born in [Ban Mê Thuôt, Vietnam](#) in 1971, the son of [refugees from North Vietnam](#) who moved south in 1954. After the [fall of Saigon](#), in 1975, his family fled to the United States. His family first settled in [Fort Indiantown Gap](#), Pennsylvania, which was one of four American camps that accommodated refugees from Vietnam. After living in [Harrisburg, Pennsylvania](#) for three years, Professor Nguyễn and his family moved to [San Jose, California](#), where they opened up a Vietnamese grocery store, one of the first of its kind in the area. After receiving his [Ph.D.](#) in English from Berkeley in May 1997, he moved to Los Angeles for a teaching position as an assistant professor at the [University of Southern California](#) in both the English Department, and in the American Studies and Ethnicity Department. In addition to teaching and writing, Professor Nguyễn is the co-founder of the [Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network](#).

President Biden Nominates CAPAJA Member Rita F. Lin to U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

On July 19, 2022, President Joe Biden nominated CAPAJA Member and San Francisco Superior Court Judge Rita F. Lin as a District Judge of the Northern District of California. When confirmed, Judge Lin will be the first Chinese American woman to serve as an Article III judge in that District.

Judge Lin was appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court in 2018. Before her appointment, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney and a partner at Morrison & Foerster. In 2017 she received NAPABA's Best 40 Under 40 Award.

Congratulations to Judge Lin and CAPAJA's best wishes for a speedy confirmation.

Chief Justice Announces Retirement From the Judicial Branch

On July 27, CAPAJA Member Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye announced that she would not be seeking re-election to the Supreme Court and would retire from public service with the Judicial Branch as of January 1, 2023. The Chief, who was the second woman and the first API and woman of color to serve as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, the most influential State Supreme Court in the country, has provided outstanding leadership throughout her 32-year judicial career, and most significantly in her past twelve years as Chief Justice. CAPAJA has been extraordinarily proud to count her among its members and wishes her luck in the next stage of her life and career.

NorCal CAPAJA Members Enjoy In Person Dinner in Emeryville

CAPAJA held a successful in-person dinner on July 14 for NorCal members at [Hong Kong East Ocean Seafood Restaurant](#). Over twenty bench officers and guests enjoyed an excellent dinner and the chance to mingle in person with our colleagues. Thanks to CAPAJA President-Elect Judge Sonny Sandhu for organizing this event – a good time was had by all!

CAPAJA Hosts Virtual Judicial College Cocktail Hour

Because of an outbreak of Covid which prevented the holding of the long-awaited in-person Judicial College, the CAPAJA Dinner was quickly turned into a Zoom Cocktail Hour held on June 26, where new and seasoned judicial officers gathered to learn about CAPAJA's activities, past and present. We celebrated the addition of many new CAPAJA members through appointment and election this year. Thanks to Judge Joni Hiramoto for organizing the dinner and the Zoom event!

Attend the CAPAJA Annual Meeting in San Diego!

The CAPAJA annual meeting will be **Sunday, September 18, 7:30am-8:30am** in San Diego. If you are coming in person and would like breakfast, please arrive around 7:15. If you are joining us remotely, here's the Zoom information:

Topic: CAPAJA Annual Meeting

Time: Sep 18, 2022, 07:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<REDACTED – contact capaja2020@gmail.com

Anyone wishing to plan a Cocktail Party, Dinner or other gathering for CAPAJA members present in San Diego should contact Judge Sonny Sandhu (Sonny.Sandhu@stanct.org) or Judge Audra Ibarra (aibarra@scscourt.org) to discuss.

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. Information on the reception will be sent to all CAPAJA members once plans are finalized.

Former CAPAJA President Judge David I. Doi (ret.) Passes Away

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of retired Judge and Former CAPAJA President David I. Doi on July 6, 2022. He was a beloved brother to retired Justice Kathryn Doi Todd, who is also a Former CAPAJA President. Judge Doi will be dearly missed by those of us who knew him and valued his friendship.

Judge Doi began his career on the bench in 1983 when then-Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed him to the Los Angeles Municipal Court. Judge Doi's first assignment was in traffic court, and then he served as the presiding judge at the Central Arraignment Court. He was later elevated by unification to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2000. Judge Doi was assigned to central civil and two years later, he was reassigned to the Edelman Children's Court and handled dependency cases until 2005. In 2006, Judge Doi sat in juvenile court in Compton until he retired on March 3, 2006. For information on Judge Doi's life and career, I have his [obituary](#) published in the Los Angeles Times. Our deepest condolences to Justice Doi Todd and Judge Doi's family.

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 t: <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.

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

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.