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**California Asian-Pacific
American Judges
Association**

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June 2022 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

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

NEWS

CAPAJA Member Elevated to 4th District Court of Appeal

Judge Joanne Motoike of the Orange County Superior Court, co-chair of CAPAJA's Education Committee, was nominated by Governor Gavin Newsom on May 2, 2022 to serve on California's Fourth District Court of Appeal. Congratulations, Justice-Elect Motoike!

LASC Chooses Another APA Commissioner

The Judges of the Los Angeles Superior Court recently selected Grace Kim as one of its new Court Commissioners. Until her selection, Commissioner Kim served as a Law Clerk to CAPAJA member Judge Dolly Gee of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Welcome to the bench, Commissioner Kim!

CAPAJA Members Profiled in Daily Journal

Judge Ricky Tripp of the Tulare County Superior Court was profiled in the May 3 issue of the DJ under the headline: " 'They're like me,' Judge Ricky Tripp says of defendants in his court." Judge Tripp, who was appointed by Governor Newsom in 2020, discussed his background, including how his father met his mother while stationed in South Korea.

LASC Judge Paul Suzuki (ret.) was profiled on May 13 in the DJ. Judge Suzuki recently retired from the bench and is now at ADR, and he is looking forward to enjoying at least some of his retirement on his boat!

San Diego Superior Court Judge and CAPAJA member C.J. Mody was profiled on May 31 in the Daily Journal in an article entitled "San Diego Judge C.J. Mody has spent career advocating for children." The article highlighted Judge Mody's devotion to his role in practice as "an advocate for those who are most vulnerable."

CAPAJA Leadership Praised by CAPAJA President and President-Elect

CAPAJA would like to thank its Leadership for this year, including: the Hon. Michelle Ahnn – Secretary; the Hon. Terry Truong – Treasurer; the Hon. Holly Fujie, Immediate Past President; the Hon. Joni Hiramoto – 1st Dist. Rep.; the Hon. Chris Lui and the Hon. Jana Seng – 2d Dist. Reps.; the Hon. Joe Dhillon – 3d Dist. Rep.; the Hon. Winston Keh and the Hon. Nathan Vu – 4th Dist. Reps.; the Hon. Jeff Mangar – 5th Dist. Rep.; the Hon. Fred Chung and the Hon. Johnny

Gogo – 6th Dist. Reps.; the Hon. Rick Sueyoshi and the Hon. Lee Tsao, Co-chairs – Judicial Appointments.

CAPAJA also wishes to thank two of its most active and enthusiastic committee co-chairs: Law School Outreach Committee Co-Chairs, the Hon. Jayne Lee of San Joaquin County Superior Court and the Hon. Terry Truong of the Los Angeles Superior Court. They have been very busy this year creating wonderful programs for CAPAJA, including the recent law school interviewing workshop featuring Judge Rich Lee of Orange County Superior Court. Thank you for all your hard work, Jayne and Terry!

CAPAJA Member Speaks on ABA Panel

On May 12, CAPAJA Immediate Past President Judge Holly Fujie spoke on an ABA Judicial Division panel for APPI Heritage Month on “Advancing a Diverse Judiciary – Soft Skills for a Hard Path.” Also on the panel were Judge John Chun of the USDC WDW, Justice Carla Wong McMillian of the Georgia Supreme Court and Judge Cathy Bissoon of the USDC WDW. The moderator was Judge Benes Z. Aldana, Chief Judge of the US Coast Guard (ret.), President of the National Judicial College.

CAPAJA Members Speak at LASC Annual Civil Bench Seminar

CAPAJA members featured prominently in the May 6 Annual Civil Seminar of the Los Angeles Superior Court. The Keynote Address was a Q&A with CAPAJA Member and 9th Circuit Judge Jacqueline Nguyen. Past CAPAJA President Elaine Lu co-presented the year’s Civil Law Update, CAPAJA Member Judge Wendy Chang spoke on a panel on Civility in the Courtroom, while CAPAJA Members Lawrence Cho and Judge Ruth Ann Kwan led Breakout Sessions on Evidence and Remote Proceedings, respectively. All in all, an excellent representation of CAPAJA Members at this important conference!

Justice Ming Chin (Ret.) Speaks on APA Vets

On May 18, Retired California Supreme Court Associate Justice Ming Chin spoke on a panel called “Veterans’ Voices: A Discussion About the Experiences of Asian/API Americans in the U.S. Armed Forces.”

CAPAJA Past President Presents on CJA Webinar

On May 6, Judge Erica Yew spoke at the session on “The Power of Gratitude” held by webinar for CJA Wellness Week. Judge Yew led an extremely helpful discussion of the benefits of expressing gratitude in our daily and professional lives.

Chief Justice Presents Keynote Address at PABA

On May 31, 2022, CAPAJA Member Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye presented a stirring Keynote Address at the 2022 Installation Gala of the Philippine American Bar Association of Southern California (PABA), held at the California Yacht Club in Marina Del Rey. At the Gala, PABA honored CAPAJA Member Judge Rick Ocampo of the Los Angeles Superior Court with the PABA Distinguished Jurist Award and CAPAJA Member LASC Commissioner Christine Gonong received the PABA Leadership Award.

Past CAPAJA President Owen Lee Kwong Mourned By LASC

Retired Judge Owen Lee Kwong passed away on April 29, 2022. Judge Kwong was President of CAPAJA from 1994-1995 and retired from the Los Angeles Superior Court on April 30, 2015. Judge Kwong began his career when he was appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1989. He was elevated to the Superior Court in 1993 and sat in assignments in Compton, Mosk, Monterey Park, Pomona and Central Civil West in criminal, juvenile, general civil, complex civil and settlement courts. Judge Kwong was known for his remarkable record on settling complex and difficult cases through tough and persuasive argument. He will be very much missed by his former colleagues on the LASC and by all CAPAJA members.

CAPAJA Presents Panel on The Imposter Syndrome for Members

Surveys show that many APA attorneys suffer from "imposter syndrome," where you believe that you aren't as smart or competent as you actually are. And imposter syndrome affects APA judges, too. Understanding and combating this syndrome is crucial for CAPAJA judges to reach their full potential.

Come join 3 distinguished CAPAJA members as we discuss this syndrome, how to recognize it, what effects it can have on you, and how to address it. They will also answer audience questions. Our panelists are:

- Justice Tracie L. Brown (1DCA, Division 4)
- Judge R. Glenn Yabuno (presiding judge of San Bernardino Superior Court)
- Judge Holly Fujie (Los Angeles Superior Court)
- Moderator: Judge Sunil R. Kulkarni (Santa Clara Superior Court)

The program will be conducted via Zoom and **will be limited to CAPAJA members** (so as to help everyone talk frankly). It will occur on Wed, June 29, 2022 from 12:15-1:15 pm.

Please RSVP to Judge Kulkarni at skulkarni@sescourt.org, and he will send you the Zoom link.

This event is presented by the CAPAJA Education Subcommittee.

The State Bar Call for Volunteer Judges

The State Bar of California is excited to share the following appointment opportunities and welcomes CAPAJA members' applications:

Application deadline: **Wednesday, June 1, 2022**

Consulting Group on the Establishment of a Legal Specialization in Privacy Law 13

vacancies (open to practitioners, judges, business experts, and others with expertise in Privacy Law)

Application deadline: **Friday, June 24, 2022**

Board of Trustees 2 **vacancies** (open to active licensees of the State Bar who have their principal office in California.) **Trustees Nominating Committee fact sheet.**

Application deadline: **Friday, July 1, 2022**

Committee of Bar Examiners 2 **vacancies** (one for California judicial officer and one for an attorney admitted to practice within the last three years)

For more information please visit the [Appointments webpage](#).

We kindly ask that you share these appointment opportunities with your network or any other channels available to you. You can also follow the State Bar on social media and share their posts: [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#).

For questions, please contact Appointments@calbar.ca.gov.

Northern California CAPAJA Members – SAVE THE DATE!

Please Save the Date for the long-awaited Northern California CAPAJA Dinner, scheduled to take place on the evening of July 14 at [Hong Kong East Ocean Seafood Restaurant - 3199 Powell St, Emeryville - Full Menu and Reviews \(cafecityguide.website\)](#). This is where we had the event before the pandemic; it's a good compromise for people coming from north and south of the bay. Hope to see you there!

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

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, 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.