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California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association

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February 2024 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Hope everyone had a great beginning to the new year! Here is the CAPAJA newsletter for February 2024.

NEWS

Governor Appoints Three APIs to the Superior Court

On January 29, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed three new APIs to the Superior Court: Cristina Legaspi, a Senior Deputy County Counsel in the L.A. County Counsel's Office and an Adjunct Professor at the USC Gould School of Law to the LA Superior Court; Commissioner Bryan Clavecilla to the Orange County Superior Court; and Albert Hsueh, Supervising Deputy Public Defender in the San Bernardino County Public Defender's Office to the San Bernardino Superior Court. Welcome to the Superior Court, Judges Legaspi, Clavecilla and Hsueh!

Amador County Judges Elect County's Only API Judicial Officer!

Grace Pak has been appointed Commissioner of the Amador County Superior Court. Commissioner Pak was appointed in October of 2023; before her appointment she was a Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of Sacramento and held other positions in the public sector with the County of Placer, the County of Monterey and the County of Amador, and in the private sector at Diepenbrock & Cotter, LLP in Sacramento. Congratulations, Commissioner Pak!

CAPAJA Rep. to be Honored by JACL

Sixth District CAPAJA Representative, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge Johnny Gogo will be honored with the 2024 Distinguished American Award by the Japanese American Citizens League – Central California District Council. This prestigious award will be given to Judge Gogo at the JACL's Day of Remembrance Program in Fresno on February 10. Judge Gogo is being honored for his amazing flag signing project, in which he has traveled far and wide to get U.S. concentration camp survivors from World War II to sign an American flag. See the attached flyer for information on attending. A well-deserved honor for an outstanding jurist and community member!

CAPAJA Welcomes New ALJ to the ALJ Committee

Administrative Law Judge Elena Rivkin of the California Insurance Appeals Board, one of CAPAJA's newest members, has joined CAPAJA's extremely active ALJ Committee. Welcome to CAPAJA and to the ALJ Committee, ALJ Rivkin!

CAPAJA Member is a Met News Person of the Year

On Friday, January 26, the Los Angeles Metropolitan News honored CAPAJA Member Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ruth Kwan as one of its 2023 “Persons of the Year” at a black-tie dinner at a private club. The LASC API judges placed an ad in the program booklet to celebrate her selection. Congratulations on this great honor, Judge Kwan!



Judge Ruth Kwan at the Met News “Person of the Year” Dinner. She is displaying the ad from the LASC API judges congratulating her on the award.

CAPAJA Names New Board Members

CAPAJA is pleased to announce that the Board has voted to appoint Commissioner Tiffany Tai as its Subordinate Judicial Officer representative and ALJ Dorothy Chou Proudfoot as its ALJ representative. Both positions were created under the new Bylaws of CAPAJA, voted on by the membership at the last Annual Meeting. Welcome to the Board, Tiffany and Dorothy - we look forward to working with you!

CAPAJA Members Profiled in DJ

Riverside Superior Court Judge Mona Nemat, a CAPAJA Member, was profiled in the January 16 Daily Journal. The article, titled “Municipal land use fights taught Judge Mona Nemat how to problem solve” recounts Judge Nemat’s path to the bench as a partner in various law firms in the Inland Empire.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge and CAPAJA Member Adrian Roxas featured in a January 17 profile in the Daily Journal. Lawyers in his Compton Family Law courtroom praised Judge Roxas as “even-tempered but firm...very down-to-earth and matter of fact in how he handles matters.” Thanks for representing the best in CAPAJA members to DJ readers!

CAPAJA’s ALJ Committee To Hold its First Event of the Year

Save the date! The Administrative Law Judges Committee of CAPAJA will hold its next *How to Become an ALJ* panel on March 6, 2024, from 5-6 PM via Zoom. This fourth panel will feature ALJs who have worked for more than one agency. Our distinguished panel includes:

- Hon. Isabel Lallana (speaker), CA Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board;
- Hon. Elan Lambert (speaker), Alameda County Assessment Appeals Board;
- Hon. John Larsen (speaker), CA Public Utilities Commission;
- Hon. Kearse McGill (speaker), CA State Bar Court; and
- Hon. Kimberly Kim (moderator), CA Public Utilities Commission.

Be sure to let your friends and mentees who might be interested in an ALJ appointment know about this terrific program. To RSVP, please visit [here](#).

CAPAJA Members Co-Hosted Re-Election Campaign Event for CAPAJA Member Challenged for Election in San Francisco

CAPAJA Member Judge Michael Isaku Begert is being challenged in his re-election race for San Francisco County Superior Court. CAPAJA Members Judge Margaret Fujioka (Alameda County) and Judge Joni Hiramoto (Contra Costa) co-hosted a “Re-Elect Judge Michael Begert Campaign Kick-Off Reception” on Wednesday, January 10. Judge Begert, who was appointed in January of 2010, is being supported by numerous API community leaders.

CJA’s The Voice Features CAPAJA Members

The January 2024 issue of The Voice, in addition to CJA President (and CAPAJA Past President) Erica Yew’s monthly video, “Yew Tube,” announces a panel on Judicial Independence and Elections on January 30 that will be moderated by Judge Yew. The View also announced a CJA “First Monday” Member Gathering on February 5, with the subject “CARE Court”, at which CAPAJA President Elect Jayne Lee will speak. This issue also presents information on the CAPAJA trip to South Korea (details below).

CAPAJA Member Speaks on Diversity

CAPAJA Member Judge Alicia Y. Blanco of the Los Angeles Superior Court spoke on a panel presented by the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Diversity in the Profession Section on “Implicit Bias and the Promotion of Bias Reducing Strategies” on January 31.

CAPAJA Hosts Panel of APA Judges for USC Law APALSA

On January 17, CAPAJA teamed with USC's APALSA to present a well-attended and much appreciated event. Judge Lee Tsao put together a great panel, consisting of CAPAJA Members Judge Anne Hwang, Judge Holly Fujie and Commissioner Grace Kim, together with two of the Los Angeles Superior Court Supervising Research Attorneys. The panel led a lively discussion on subjects such as judicial clerkships, paths to the bench and imposter syndrome. After the panel, many of the students stayed to talk to the panel members, and some have contacted CAPAJA members on the panel to request to be considered for externships this summer. An extremely successful and high-profile event for CAPAJA!



left to right at the table: Judge Holly Fujie, Judge Anne Hwang, Commissioner Grace Kim (standing), and two LASC Supervising Research Attorneys

Amazing Opportunity for Travel to South Korea with CAPAJA in September!

From the CAPAJA Travel Committee, which organized the incredibly successful CAPAJA Trip to Japan in 2023, comes another fabulous travel and educational opportunity for you to participate in a one-of-a-kind trip to South Korea, designed specifically for judicial officers. The trip will be from Sept. 20-30, 2024. BE Abroad, who worked with us on our amazing trip to Japan, will coordinate this trip. The flyers attached include details of location, pricing, trip details, how to reserve your spot, and deadlines. Highlights include:

- 7 nights in Seoul, 2 nights in Busan, with stays in five-star hotels, and day excursions to famous palaces and local fishing villages
- Visit to Korean Supreme Court and Seoul District Court
- Legal seminars at the Seoul National University Law School and The Constitutional Court of Korea (JEC and MCLE credit)
- Visit to the Korean Demilitarized Zone at the 38th Parallel

Seats are “first come, first served” and we expect the program to sell out quickly. Registration is now open to all California bench officers. Please contact Judge Teresa Magno at tmagno@lacourt.org or (310) 761-4340 if you have any questions.

Your CAPAJA Travel Committee:
Judge Roberta Hayashi, Santa Clara County, Co-Chair
Judge Teresa Magno, Los Angeles County, Co-Chair
Judge Esther Kim, Los Angeles County
Judge Ann Park, Los Angeles County,
Judge Tammy Ryu, Los Angeles County

Judicial Council Calls for Volunteers

CAPAJA Member Justice Carin Fujisaki passed along the following announcement: The Judicial Council of California is conducting two different solicitations for nominations: (1) nominations to Judicial Council itself (**due Feb. 23, 2024**); and (2) nominations to Judicial Council advisory bodies and education committees (**due March 20, 2024**).

Justice Fujisaki encourages our CAPAJA members to nominate themselves or others if they are interested. Self-nominations are welcome and taken as seriously as when a person is nominated by another. Unlike the out-of-cycle nomination notice sent last October, these solicitations provide a greater opportunity for appointment to a broader range of leadership positions and advisory bodies and committees. Explanatory memos and nomination forms are attached.

CAPAJA encourages its members to apply for these prestigious positions so that we are represented at the table!

Have a Productive and Enjoyable February!
Terry Truong, CAPAJA President
Jayne Lee, 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 if you learn of a new potential CAPAJA member or of an event that may be of interest to CAPAJA members, please send an email to Newsletter Editor Holly Fujie at HFujie@LACourt.org, and we will feature it in the next newsletter.