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California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association

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April 2024 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Welcome to Spring, everyone! Here is the CAPAJA newsletter for April 2024.

NEW JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS

U.S. Senate Confirms CAPAJA Member to U.S.D.C. N.D. CA!

On March 20, the United States Senate confirmed CAPAJA Member Judge Eumi K. Lee to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Judge Lee was the first Korean American Judge to be appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court. In its announcement of the confirmation, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) noted that hers was the 34th confirmation of an AANHPI Article III judge nominated by President Biden, of whom 23 are women. CAPAJA notes proudly that many of those new API Article III judges have been CAPAJA members!

Governor Appoints Six New API Superior Court Judges

Please join CAPAJA in welcoming to the ranks of Superior Court Judges the following CAPAJA members, both new and current, who were appointed by Governor Newsom on March 12: Jesse Jen-Yen Hsieh to the Alameda County Superior Court; Commissioner Grace Kim to the Los Angeles County Superior Court; Sophia Choi to the Riverside County Superior Court; Renuka George to the Sacramento County Superior Court; ALJ Marlo Nisperos to the Solano County Superior Court; and ALJ Elizabeth Manassau Sanada to the Sacramento County Superior Court. Congratulations to our new and current members and congratulations to the State of California for gaining so many excellent new judges!

LASC Judges Elect New API Commissioner

On March 13, the Los Angeles Superior Court announced that the Judges have elected a new Commissioner, Amanda Park. Soon-to-be Commissioner Park has been welcomed to membership in CAPAJA and we look forward to her future involvement in CAPAJA's committees and activities.

CAPAJA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

CAPAJA Members to Speak to UCI law students

Supervising Judge Cheri Pham and Judge Deborah Servino will be speaking to UCI law students on April 4, 2024. This event is hosted by the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecution Association and the UCI APALSA. We are sure that Judges Pham and Servino will be an inspiration to these future lawyers!

The poster features the NAPIPA logo (National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association) at the top left, with a 'FREE LUNCH' badge. The APALSA logo (Asian Pacific American Law Students Association) is prominently displayed in the center, with 'UCI LAW' below it. The main title 'Conversations with Judges Pham and Servino' is written in a mix of bold and script fonts. Two small portrait photos of the judges are shown on the right. The event date and time, 'April 4th At 12:15 pm', are highlighted in a black banner. The UCI Law Career Development Office logo is in the bottom right. At the bottom, it states 'Hybrid Online and In-Person Event at UCI Law School Room EDU 1121 (Moot Court Room)' and provides a Zoom registration link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUodumgrjopHNX4PwhGZaCXBBUs4uc8_zBe

CAPAJA Member To Speak Before USC Law APALSA

On April 4, CAPAJA Past President Judge Holly Fujie will present the Keynote Address at the Annual End-of-Year Dinner of the University of Southern California Gould School of Law Asian Pacific American Law Students Association

CAPAJA Member to Speak on Applying for Judgeships

On April 17, CAPAJA Member Judge Christine Gonong will speak on a panel on “What’s Really Stopping You From Applying?: Part II: L.A. County Judicial Officers Discuss How They

Overcame Deterrents and Hurdles to Become a Judge.” The virtual panel will take place from noon to 1:30 and will include Secretary Luis Céspedes as well as LASC’s PJ and APJ. Your mentees can sign up for this program at:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=x8OU3Ei7_0CTBeRz_W9qFpYa9_zuQuZPvgP391puc65UM1FaNUJDWFBUVFdGwjlIIVE02MDY4SjhBTy4u

What’s Really Stopping You From Applying?

Part II: LA County Judicial Officers Discuss How They Overcame Deterrents and Hurdles to Become a Judge

Judicial Mentor Program Featured Speakers and Panelists:



OPENING REMARKS
Samantha P. Jessner
Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court



MODERATOR
Sergio C. Tapia II
Assistant Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court



Luis Céspedes
Judicial Appointments Secretary,
Office of Governor
Gavin Newsom



Helen Zukin
Associate Justice
California Court of Appeal
Second Appellate District, Div. 4 &
Judicial Selection Advisory
Committee Chair



Yvette Verastegui
Assistant Supervising Judge,
Criminal Division
Los Angeles Superior Court



Christine J. Gonong
Judge, Family Law
Los Angeles Superior Court



J. Christopher Smith
Judge, Juvenile Justice
Los Angeles Superior Court

April 17, 2024 | 12-1:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW: bit.ly/JMP2024

CAPAJA Member Speaks to the Public on Civil Courts

Judge Curtis Kin, CAPAJA Member and President of the Judicial Council of NAPABA, will speak at the Los Angeles Public Library in a series called “Judges in the Community: An Introduction to Los Angeles County Superior Courts” on April 19 from noon to 1 p.m. Judge Kin “will discuss the differences between criminal and civil cases; the distinction between limited and unlimited civil jurisdiction cases; the types of actions that are filed in civil courts and their distribution in the County; and settlements and alternative dispute resolution (ADR).” Judge Kin is the Assistant Supervising Judge of the LASC Civil Division (jointly with CAPAJA Past President Elaine Lu).

Justice Mesiwala to Speak on Panel on RA Careers

If you have mentees who might be interested in applying for jobs as Research Attorneys in the Appellate Courts, let them know that Justice Shama Hakim Mesiwala will be a panelist on a webinar that discusses how to apply. The program will be on May 15 at Noon to 1:30 pm. Introductory remarks will be given by Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Céspedes.

Wednesday
MAY 15
12:00PM - 1:30PM
webinar

REGISTER BY FRIDAY, MAY 10
WWW.ZOOMGOV.COM

**RESEARCH ATTORNEY CAREERS
IN THE APPELLATE COURTS**
Pathways to an Inclusive Bench

Featuring introductory remarks by
Judicial Appointments Secretary
Luis Céspedes

Justice Teri L. Jackson
Moderator

Justice Victor Rodríguez
Panelist

Justice Shama Hakim Mesiwala
Panelist

Curious about becoming an appellate court
research attorney? Join this virtual Q&A with two
appellate justices! Hear about how their time as
research attorneys prepared them for the bench.
Also joining are two current research attorneys.

CAPAJA Member to Receive SCCLA Award

On May 30, Judge Curtis Kin of the LA Superior Court will receive the Judicial Service Award of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association at its 49th Anniversary Installation & Awards Banquet, to be held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel from 6-9 pm. Judge Kin is not only an active CAPAJA Member, but he is also the President of the NAPABA Judicial Council (for life, according to the CAPAJA Newsletter Editor...). If you want to join in the tumultuous applause for Judge Kin when he receives this prestigious award, RSVP at www.SCCLA.ORG – early bird pricing ends April 30.

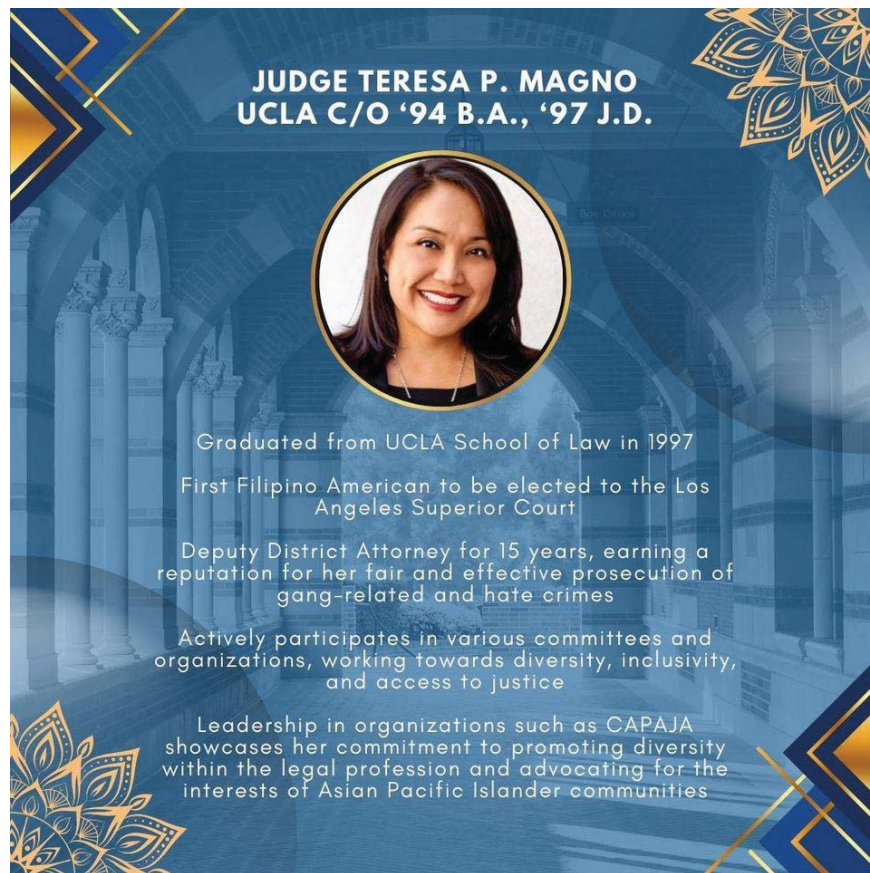


Past CAPAJA President and current CJA President Erica Yew Honored

Judge Erica Yew of the Santa Clara Superior Court received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Clara County Women's Leadership & Policy Summit. We are SO proud of you, Judge Yew!!

CAPAJA Past President Receives Award from UCLA Law Pilipino Alumni

CAPAJA Past President Judge Teresa Magno of the LA Superior Court has been awarded the Distinguished Alumna/us Award by the Pilipino Alumni Association of the UCLA Law School. As you can see from the announcement, Judge Magno's leadership of CAPAJA played a substantial role in her being selected to receive this prestigious award. Congratulations, Judge Magno!



CAPAJA Dinner

Northern CA CAPAJA members rang in the Lunar New Year with a dinner on February 28, 2024, at Koi Palace in Daly City. The event was organized by CAPAJA's Social Activities Co-

Chair Judge Hanley Chew. The big smiles on everyone's face in the picture below show that the attendees had a great time kicking off the Year of the Dragon!



Pictured left to right: Justice Cynthia Lie, ALJ Dorothy Chou Proudfoot, Judge Vinita Bali, Judge Roberta Hayashi, Judge Erica Yew, Judge Edward Chen, Judge Delbert Gee (ret.), Judge Hanley Chew, Judge Renee Reyna, Justice Danny Chou, Judge Rita Lin, Judge Pelayo Llamas, Jr., Justice Shama Mesiwala, and Commissioner Heather Chang

LASC CAPAJA Member Profiled in DJ

On March 4, 2024, the Daily Journal published a profile of Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Warren Kato. The article, headed “Judge Warren Kato learned from convicts about good judicial conduct,” discusses his trip to San Quentin as part of Judicial College, where he discussed the convicts’ view of what constitutes good judging. Congratulations on the great profile, Judge Kato!

ALJ Committee Hosts First Event of 2024

Our diverse panel of administrative law judges presented an informative, engaging, and inspiring program on March 6, 2024. We also positively fostered CAPAJA’s relationship with the California Lawyers Association, our local bar associations such as Cal-APABA, AABA-Greater Bay Area, APABA-Los Angeles County, Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego and the California Attorneys, Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers in State Employment. Thank you to ALJ Susan Lee for organizing the panel of speakers!

CAPAJA Member Addresses New Lawyers

On March 12, CAPAJA's 5th District Representative, Judge Jeff Mangar, addressed the New Lawyers Reception of the Stanislaus County Bar Association at the Bank of Stockton Modesto Main Branch. Below is a photo from the event (Judge Mangar is to the far left).



CAPAJA Members Give Tips to New Lawyers and Law Students

On March 13, Judges Rita Badhan of the LASC and Vibhav Mittal of the OCSC spoke on a CJA panel on “Tips From the Bench for your First Job, Internship, court appearance, pleading.” CAPAJA Member Commissioner Jenny Chung Marino was involved in the planning of the webinar and was thanked in the introduction.

CAPAJA Member Receives Award at AABA Dinner

On March 21, the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area celebrated its 48th Annual Gala at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero and gave its 2024 Dale Minami Impact Award to the Hon. Ken Kawaichi (Ret.)

CAPAJA Celebrates APIs in Court Leadership

CAPAJA honored its many API leaders on the Los Angeles Superior Court at its Southern California dinner on March 21, 2024. Speaking at the dinner were CAPAJA 2nd District Representatives Judges Christopher Lui and Jana Seng, as well as CAPAJA President Judge Terry Truong and Assistant Supervising Judge Ricardo Ocampo, all of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Many of the newest CAPAJA Members from Southern California were present and introduced themselves to the group. LASC Presiding Judge Samantha Jessner was a special

guest, and she spoke on behalf of herself and LASC Assistant Presiding Judge Sergio Tapia, another special guest, in thanking CAPAJA Members for their service to the Courts.





CAPAJA OPPORTUNITIES

SAVE THE DATE!!! CAPAJA Mid-Year Meeting May 2 at Noon

CAPAJA will hold its Mid-Year Membership Meeting on May 2 at Noon at the CJA Mid-Year Conference in Indian Wells. Details will follow.

CAPAJA Members to Present Panel on ADR

On April 25 at 12:15 pm, CAPAJA will present a Zoom panel on “Culturally Competent Alternative Dispute Resolution.” The panel will be moderated by CAPAJA President-Elect Judge Jayne Lee of the San Joaquin County Superior Court. The panelists will include Judge Russell Hom (ret.), now a mediator and arbitrator with Judicate West. The program will discuss how culture impacts outcomes in dispute resolution. Flyer below and attached to the email. Register for free at www.sccla.org, and the zoom link is provided upon registration.

California Asian Pacific American Judges Association (CAPAJA) presents

Culturally Competent Alternative Dispute Resolution

Event qualified for 1.0 hour of
Implicit Bias MCLE credit
SCCLA is a State Bar-approved MCLE provider

Join our distinguished panelists in a discussion on how culture impacts
outcomes in dispute resolution.
Learn about cultural context and competence in mediation and arbitration.

Thursday, April 25, 2024
12:15pm-1:15pm PT
Zoom (link provided upon registration)

Moderator:
HON. JAYNE C. LEE
San Joaquin County Superior Court

Panelists:

HON. RUSSELL L. HOM, RET. Judicate West Former Presiding Judge, Sacramento County Superior Court	SHIRISH GUPTA JAMS Award-Winning Mediator and Arbitrator
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Register for free at
www.sccla.org

Co-Sponsored by the
Southern California Chinese Lawyers
Association (SCCLA) 

CAPAJA Calls for Ideas for Community Engagement and Support

The Community Engagement Committee is gathering activities and projects that would be of interest to CAPAJA members and allow them to engage with the community in a relevant and meaningful manner consistent with the Code of Judicial Ethics. The committee plans to review these activities and projects and publicize them to all CAPAJA members. If you are aware of any activities or projects that our members should know about, please e-mail the details to committee co-chairs Hanley Chew (hchew@scscourt.org), Kawika Smith (ksmith@sb-court.org), or Nathan Vu (nvu@occourts.org).

Judges – Please Give Generously to the CAPAJA Scholarship Fund!

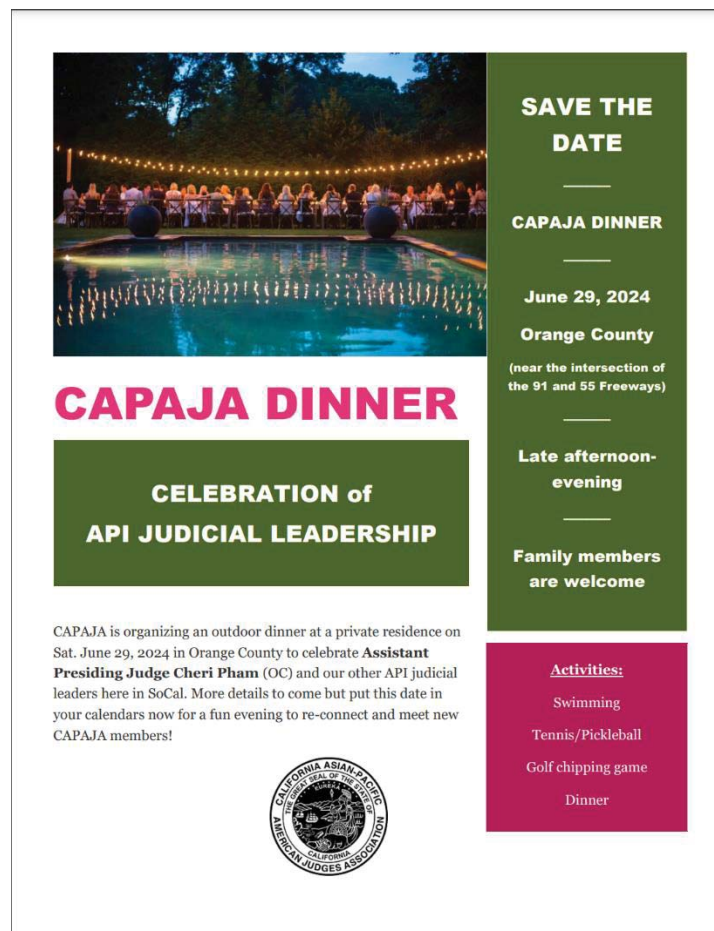
MAKE A SCHOLARSHIP DONATION: The CAPAJA Student Scholarship is only made possible thanks to your generous donation. If you are a judge, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to our Scholarship Fund via our website at www.capaja.org/student-scholarship. Thank you for your support!

Law Student Outreach Survey

The Law Student Outreach Committee is compiling a database of judicial externship and post-graduate/post-bar employment opportunities statewide (trial court, appellate court, administrative agency). Our goal is to create a resource not only for interested students, but also for any counties or agencies looking for templates or best practices to organize their own programs. Please fill out this short survey by April 26, 2024, identifying the best contact person for your county or agency so that our Committee members can follow up with them to collect further information: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HHXHNGR>. If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to reach out to our co-chairs, Anne Hwang (AHwang@lacourt.org) or Dorothy Chou Proudfoot (dcproudfoot@gmail.com).

CAPAJA Dinner for SoCal Members

On June 29, 2024, CAPAJA will be celebrating Judge Cheri Pham (APJ of OC) and all of our API judges in leadership roles in the Southern CA courts. Save the date in your calendars, and more information will be sent out next month for this fun dinner event! (Flyer attached to email).



The flyer is a vertical rectangular graphic with a dark green background. At the top left is a photograph of an outdoor dinner at night, with people seated at tables around a swimming pool, illuminated by string lights. Below the photo, the text 'CAPAJA DINNER' is written in large, bold, pink letters. Underneath that, in a dark green box, it says 'CELEBRATION of API JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP' in white. To the right of the photo, there is a dark green vertical column containing the text 'SAVE THE DATE', 'CAPAJA DINNER', 'June 29, 2024', 'Orange County', '(near the intersection of the 91 and 55 Freeways)', 'Late afternoon-evening', and 'Family members are welcome'. At the bottom left, there is a paragraph of text and a circular seal of the California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association. At the bottom right, there is a pink vertical column listing activities: 'Swimming', 'Tennis/Pickleball', 'Golf chipping game', and 'Dinner'.

SAVE THE DATE

CAPAJA DINNER

June 29, 2024

Orange County
(near the intersection of the 91 and 55 Freeways)


Late afternoon-evening

Family members are welcome

CAPAJA DINNER

**CELEBRATION of
API JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP**

CAPAJA is organizing an outdoor dinner at a private residence on Sat. June 29, 2024 in Orange County to celebrate **Assistant Presiding Judge Cheri Pham** (OC) and our other API judicial leaders here in SoCal. More details to come but put this date in your calendars now for a fun evening to re-connect and meet new CAPAJA members!



Activities:

- Swimming
- Tennis/Pickleball
- Golf chipping game
- Dinner

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

CAPAJA Recruiting For Judges to Assist with API Women’s Workshop!

CAPAJA is making a call for its members to volunteer to assist with a program to be held on April 10 from 11:30 to 1 pm on Zoom, co-sponsored with Cal-APABA and the California State Bar, called “Advancing API Women in the Law: A Workshop to Help you Stay and Succeed.” This workshop will follow the format of last year’s successful program, in which the State Bar presented the statistics on API women in the profession, followed by two short panels, moderated by CAPAJA President Terry Truong and Past President Holly Fujie, on surviving and thriving in the profession, each of which will end with breakout groups to be led by judicial officers and senior lawyers, to discuss action plans for success in the legal profession. All CAPAJA members are invited to lead small discussion groups in this wonderful program. Judges Truong and Fujie can tell you what wonderful conversations we had with these law students and young lawyers last year, and how we all were able to assist them in preparing for successful futures in the law.

Register now at <https://bit.ly/AAPIWorkshop>

In the comments section of this site, please state “Volunteering to lead a discussion group.”

**ADVANCING
API WOMEN IN THE LAW:**
A WORKSHOP TO HELP YOU STAY & SUCCEED.

APRIL 10, 2024 11:30-1:00 VIA ZOOM

Register now at :
<https://bit.ly/AAPIWorkshop>

EVENT QUALIFIED FOR 1.0 HOUR OF GENERAL MCLE CREDIT
SCCLA IS A STATE BAR APPROVED MCLE PROVIDER

Apply for State Bar Committees!

The deadline to apply for the State Bar of California committees is April 15 at 11:59 pm. Current appointment opportunities for judicial officers are on the Commission on Judicial Nominations Evaluation (JNE) and on the Council on Access and Fairness. This is a unique opportunity for CAPAJA Members to contribute actively to the legal profession and to the State Bar's public protection mission. See attached announcement.

Our Best Wishes For a Productive and Enjoyable April!

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.