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California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association

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March 2024 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

We hope all of our members had a Happy Lunar New Year! Here is the CAPAJA newsletter for March 2024.

APPOINTMENTS and NEW MEMBERS

Another API in the January appointment class!

Thank you, Judge Pelayo Llamas, Jr. for pointing out that we missed the appointment of an API by the Governor on January 26. Lowrie Mendoza from the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office was appointed to the LA Superior Court. Welcome to the bench and to CAPAJA, Judge Mendoza!

CAPAJA Welcomes New Members in Northern California

Magistrate Judge Peter Kang was selected by the Judges of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in March of 2023. CAPAJA has welcomed Magistrate Judge Kang to its membership and expressed its hope that he would join one or more of its committees and take part in its many activities. Welcome to CAPAJA, Magistrate Judge Kang!

Also joining CAPAJA as a new member is Commissioner Christine Suk Hi Dehr (Placer County). As a new CAPAJA Member, Commissioner Dehr has been given a free first-year membership and has been offered mentorship and assistance from her District Representative, Judge Kara Ueda, and from Subordinate Judicial Officer Representative, Commissioner Tiffany Tai. Congratulations on your appointment, Commissioner Dehr!

CAPAJA EVENTS

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 about this terrific program.

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).

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

Amazing Opportunity to Travel to Korea with CAPAJA in September!

The CAPAJA organized trip to South Korea from Sept. 20-30 has reached its maximum capacity! However, if you would like to be added to the waitlist, please contact Judge Teresa Magno at tmagno@lacourt.org or (310) 761-4340. (Flyer and itinerary attached to email).

CAPAJA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

CAPAJA Member Honored at the ABA Mid-Year Meeting

CAPAJA Member and Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California Dolly Gee was given the prestigious Spirit of Excellence Award by the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession at the ABA Mid-Year Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on February 3. The Spirit of Excellence Award celebrates the efforts and accomplishments of lawyers and judges who work to promote a more racially and ethnically diverse profession. Judge Gee received the

award with, among others, Friend of CAPAJA Judge Benes Aldana, President of the National Judicial College. Judge Gee gave a moving speech about her immigrant parents and her work to improve the judicial system and to diversify the profession. Present to cheer her on were CAPAJA members Judge Jacqueline Nguyen, Judge Holly Fujie and Judge Bryant Yang, who Judge Gee thanked for having been one of her nominators. Congratulations Judge Gee!



LASC CAPAJA Member Profiled in DJ

On February 9, 2024, the Daily Journal published a profile of Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ricardo Ocampo, Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division. The article, with the heading “LA Judge Ricardo Ocampo says he serves, not leads, 250 criminal court judges,” discussed his goals as SJ of the largest division in the LASC - “Optimize function. Reduce the form down to the essentials. Overcome the old to discover new and exceptional solutions.” Congratulations on the great profile, Judge Ocampo!

Orange County Korean Bars Celebrate Appointment of Judge An

On February 15, the Orange County Korean American Bar Association, U.C. Irvine Law’s Korean Law Center, the Korean American Bar Association – Southern California and KABA-San Diego all joined together to celebrate the historic appointment of Judge June An, the first Korean American female judge on the Orange County Superior Court bench.



OCAABA Hosted a Brown Bag Lunch with CAPAJA Member

On March 1, the Orange County Asian American Bar Association held a complimentary members-only Brown Bag Lunch with Justice Joanne Motoike at the Central Justice Center of the Orange County Superior Court. CAPAJA Member Justice Motoike discussed her path to the bench and provided advice to younger litigators and answered questions about her career.



Judge Erica Yew Hosted a Lunch for Law Students

On January 26, 2024, Judge Erica Yew hosted a lunch with the Vietnamese American Law Students (VALS) association from Santa Clara University School of Law. The VALS Students once again held a toy and book drive for children in court at SCU this winter holiday season. This is the 12th or 13th year that they have been giving to the children in court. This year, it is particularly important since we won't be getting toys from our past county-based source.

Eight SCU law students came to the lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory in downtown San Jose. Also in attendance were Judges Fred Chung, Johnny Gogo, Hanley Chew, Commissioner Johanna Thai Van Dat, and Judges Audra Ibarra and Carrie Zepeda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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@sescourt.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!

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. For more information, please press "CTRL" and click on the link: **[apply by Monday, April 15, 2024, 11:59 p.m.](#)**

OCKABA Hosts Roundtable with CAPAJA Member Judge Pham

On March 21, OCKABA will hold a Roundtable with CAPAJA Member and Assistant Presiding Judge Cheri Pham at the Orange County Superior Court courthouse in Santa Ana from Noon to 1:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, please register at: <https://ockaba.org/event-5607642>.

OCKABA Presents

A ROUNDTABLE WITH HON. CHERI T. PHAM

We are excited to offer this opportunity for an in-depth conversation with Assistant Presiding Judge Cheri T. Pham and brief tour of the Orange County Superior Court, Central Justice Center

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024
12 P.M.-1:30 P.M.

Lunch will be served.
Orange County Superior Court,
700 W. Civic Center, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Space is limited - Register Now!

REGISTER NOW!

\$15 for members
\$25 for non-members
\$5 for law school students

Our Best Wishes for a Productive and Enjoyable March!

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.