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**California Asian-Pacific
American Judges
Association, Inc**

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July 2021 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Happy Fourth of July! Hope everyone is having a healthy and happy summer.

NEWS

Support Adding a CAPAJA Member to the CJA Board

The July 2021 CAPAJA member survey will be distributed soon and will be on the **CAPAJA Annual Meeting at the CJA Annual Meeting in Monterey** on September 23-26, 2021. **There will be a crucial vote at the CJA annual business meeting on Sunday morning, September 26, on whether CAPAJA and other affinity judge groups should have a seat on the CJA Board.** The vote requires a 2/3 majority to pass, and you must be present to vote. So CAPAJA needs its members to vote in person for a board seat. We are working to schedule the CAPAJA Annual Meeting for just before the CJA business meeting, so this will be a great opportunity to connect in person with your colleagues and friends from all over the State, and then vote on getting a CJA Board seat right afterwards!

Look out for this month's survey, which also covers a potential CAPAJA member dinner in Monterey on Saturday, September 25.

CAPAJA Mentoring Committee Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our mentoring committee survey. CAPAJA received over 56 responses, both from those who agreed to be mentors and those looking for mentors. The survey will allow our mentoring committee to match mentors with mentees. Many members are looking for mentors to help them in a wide variety of situations – as new judges, as judges starting new assignments, to discuss career development or other positions, and to serve as teachers or leaders in their communities. Fortunately, CAPAJA has many members who generously agreed to serve as mentors in all these capacities and for nearly every legal subject matter.

CAPAJA Law School Committee

Our law school committee is working with our education and bar association outreach committees on more programs for law students and young lawyers. If you are passionate about working with law school students and strengthening our API pipeline to the legal profession, please join this committee by emailing co-chairs Judge Jayne Lee and Commissioner Terry Truong. The committee will begin planning programming for the Fall Semester – providing in-person and remote events. CAPAJA's goal is for every APA law student to have the opportunity to meet at least one APA judicial officers before they graduate. Help make that happen!

CAPAJA Participates in Judicial Diversity Summit

CAPAJA President Holly Fujie, President-Elect Audra Ibarra and Judge Sonny Sandhu have been actively planning for the Judicial Diversity Summit sponsored by CJA and the California Lawyers Association. The Summit, which includes a kickoff fireside chat, "Judicial Diversity Yesterday" on August 4 at 5 pm, will host additional weekly

educational sessions on August 11, 18, 25, and September 1 and 8. The Summit itself will take place in three sessions at 4:30- 6 pm remotely. Summit Day 1 on September 14 will be opened by CAPAJA member Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. Summit Day 2, “Sharing What is Working – Side Bars,” will take place on September 21, and Summit Day 3, “Judicial Diversity Tomorrow,” will be held on September 28. We hope to see lots of CAPAJA members attending.

Governor Newsom Launches California Judicial Mentor Program

On July 1, 2021, the Governor kicked off his statewide judicial mentor program. The program is a joint undertaking between the executive and judicial branches to promote a diverse and inclusive judiciary that reflects California. The program includes both an Appellate Court Mentor Program and Trial Court Mentor Program to demystify the application process, improve transparency and develop a larger qualified and diverse applicant pool. The California Judicial Mentor Program’s executive committee is chaired by Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Céspedes and includes CAPAJA member Judge Erica Yew, representing large and medium counties.

LASC Commissioner Evan Kitahara Profiled in DJ

Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Evan Kitahara was the subject of a great profile in the Los Angeles Daily Journal on June 14. Its heading was “Empowered to Act,” with the sub-heading “Commissioner Evan Kitahara tries to balance fairness, compassion, and rehabilitation.”

LASC Judge Bryant Yang Takes on Two New Leadership Roles

Judge Bryant Yang was recently appointed Chair of the American Bar Association’s standing committee on legal aid and indigent defense (SCLAID), which is the ABA’s oldest standing committee. SCLAID works on delivering quality civil legal assistance and criminal defense services to the poor and persons of limited means. Judge Yang was also elected Chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

As one of our most recently appointed judges, he is taking leadership for APA judges on both the national and the local scenes to new levels.

Judge Wesley Hsu and Judge Steve Kim Elected to American Law Institute

LA Superior Court Judge Wesley Hsu and U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Steve Kim were elected to membership in the American Law Institute (ALI). The ALI, which creates the Restatements of the Law, the Model Codes, the Uniform Commercial Code, and Principles of the Law, selects only exceptional scholars, judges, and attorneys for membership, and vets nominated candidates based on professional achievement and demonstrated interest in improving the law. Congratulations, Wes and Steve!

UPCOMING CAPAJA EVENTS

Plan to attend the CAPAJA Annual Meeting, to be held in Monterey at the Monterey Plaza Hotel, the site of the CJA Annual Meeting. Details on registering for these meetings and the exact time of the CAPAJA meeting will follow, but hotel rooms are expected to be snapped up quickly. Reserve yours early by calling the hotel at (877) 862-7552 and asking for the CJA rate.

PAST CAPAJA EVENTS

CAPAJA ALJ Program

CAPAJA's administrative law judge committee held an extremely well-attended program on "Administrative Law Judges: What Do They Do? How Do I Become One?" CAPAJA ALJ committee co-chair ALJ Dorothy Chou Proudfoot moderated an interesting and informative program, with CAPAJA members ALJ Susan Lee, ALJ Jennifer Gee (ret.), and Chief ALJ Kristin Rosi speaking, together with Division Chief Presiding ALJ Susan Formaker. There were 127 registered attendees and over 100 views of the recording on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/0ZmeGQpq9mY>. Congratulations to Judge Proudfoot and her committee for this very successful program.

CAPAJA Program on Judicial Applicant Vetting Process

CAPAJA held its third program on the judicial application process via Zoom, entitled: "I've submitted. Now what? – The Judicial Vetting Process." With over 100 registered attendees, the program provided an in-depth discussion of the investigations, evaluations, and interviews judicial applicants undergo when seeking judicial appointment. The panelists were true insiders and provided lots of tips for applicants. The moderator was CAPAJA President-Elect Judge Audra Ibarra, a former JNE Commissioner. The panel featured Stella Ngai, JNE Chair, CAPAJA member Justice Tracie Brown, a member of the Northern California JSAC, and Kenneth Wang, a member of the LA County Bar judicial evaluation committee. Thank you, panelists, CAPAJA member Judge Johnny Gogo and education committee for helping produce this program.

With CAPAJA's best wishes for a great July,

Holly J. Fujie, CAPAJA President
Audra Ibarra, 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, please let us know, and we will feature it in the next newsletter.