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Feb. 2021 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Happy Lunar New Year! Here's our news for February.

More New API Judges

We apologize for inadvertently omitting two new API judges from last month's newsletter. Judge Michelle Tong was elected to the San Francisco Superior Court. Judge Alana Wong Robinson was elected to the San Diego Superior County. Her colleague Judge Selena Dong Epley reports they now have nine API judges, "a new high for us!"

Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Judges Tong and Robinson to the bench and CAPAJA!

Judge Dana Sabraw Becomes Chief Judge of District Court in San Diego

CAPAJA congratulates member Judge Dana Sabraw on beginning his term as Chief Judge of the United States District Court in the Southern District of California.

CAPAJA Mid-Year Membership Meeting on Zoom on Saturday, March 6

Save the date: CAPAJA will hold its mid-year membership meeting in conjunction with the CJA mid-year meeting. The meeting will be via Zoom on March 6 at 12:30 p.m. Zoom information will be circulated to all members as soon as it is available. Anyone wishing to have an item placed on the agenda should contact President Judge Holly Fujie (hfujie@lacourt.org) at least two weeks before the meeting.

One of the agenda items will be the approval of proposed amended by-laws prepared by the CAPAJA By-Laws Revision Committee, including Hon. Tracie Brown, Carin Fujisaki, Tammy Ryu, Lee Tsao, Dorothy Chou Proudfoot and Fumiko Wasserman, working together with President Holly Fujie and President-Elect Audra Ibarra. The proposed amended by-laws are attached to this newsletter.

Judge Kirk Nakamura Honored by Orange County Trial Lawyers Association

Judge Kirk Nakamura was honored with the Judicial Excellence in Leadership Award at OCTLA's 58th Annual Installation & Awards Program on January 28. The Award is presented each year to an outstanding jurist in the Orange County legal community whose career reflects judicial integrity, compassion and civility. Judge Nakamura, who just completed his term as Orange County Superior Court Presiding Judge, was honored for his "strong and steadfast leadership during this most unprecedented year of sickness, distress, court closures and slow and careful re-openings, and the constant

uncertainty of what each day will bring with it.” Congratulations on this well-deserved award Judge Nakamura!

CAPAJA Celebrates Justice Nathan Mihara

On January 19, CAPAJA celebrated its former president Justice Nathan Mihara in honor of his retirement last year. CAPAJA hosted an event which brought together Justice Mihara’s friends and admirers, including members Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and retired Justice Ming Chin, to thank him for his many years of service to the bench and especially on the 6th District Court of Appeal. CAPAJA presented Justice Mihara with a book of letters of congratulations and appreciation from bench officers throughout the state. Justice Mihara accepted the post of Honorary President Emeritus of CAPAJA for life! President-Elect Audra Ibarra put together the special book and event. If you would like to see a recording of the reception, send an email to hfujie@lacourt.org.

CAPAJA’s Book for Justice Ming Chin in California Judicial Center Archives

Last year CAPAJA presented a book to Justice Ming Chin in honor of his retirement, including letters of congratulations and appreciation from judicial officers throughout the state. An electronic copy of the book has been included in his section of the California Judicial Center Archives. The book is available for public viewing by appointment.

CAJAC Reception for New Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Céspedes

On January 27, CAPAJA joined with the California Affiliate Judges Association Coalition for a virtual meet-and-greet with Governor Newsom’s new Judicial Appointments Secretary, Luis Céspedes. Many CAPAJA members attended the reception, and President Holly Fujie expressed CAPAJA’s strong support for Secretary Céspedes’ work to further the Governor’s goal of increasing diversity on the bench. Secretary Céspedes indicated his appreciation for this support and for the support of the other minority judges associations.

CAPAJA Hosts Meet and Greet for New LASC Judges with new PJ and APJ

On January 28, CAPAJA hosted a Zoom reception introducing the nine newest Los Angeles Superior Court APA judicial officers to new Presiding Judge Eric Taylor and Assistant Presiding Judge Samantha Jessner. The new PJ and APJ got the chance to “meet” and learn the backgrounds of our new judicial officers, and they expressed their appreciation for the contribution of CAPAJA members to the court. Both Judges Taylor and Jessner particularly singled out member Judge Ruth Kwan for her longstanding support of their work and the court.

Articles in The Bench

CAPAJA members were well-represented in the January issue of CJA’s publication, The Bench, including Judges Elaine Lu and Curtis Kin’s article on the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act, Judge Rohanee Zapanta’s two articles on Law School Wellness and Self-Performance Evaluations, Judge Tamila Ipema’s article on Global Judicial Leadership, and

Judge Erica Yew's article (with Judge Paul Bacigalupo) on CJA's New Mindfulness and Wellness Website. All excellent articles on timely topics – Well done!

CAPAJA Committee Activities:

Education: Judges Sunil Kulkarni (skulkarni@scscourt.org), Joanne Motoike (jmotoike@occourts.org) and Johnny Gogo (jgogo@scscourt.org) have planned two programs for lawyers called “Appointment to the California Superior Court: The Nuts and Bolts.” Both will be on Zoom – one geared toward a Northern California audience (March 10 at noon) and the other geared toward a Southern California audience (April 7 at 5:15 p.m.). Secretary Céspedes will attend to discuss what the Governor is looking for in judges, and our judicial mentorship and endorsement programs will be highlighted. The Education Committee is also busy planning other programs for judges, such as “The Path to Leadership in the Courts,” “The Court of Appeal – What is the Job About and How to Get There” and “How to Be a Good Judicial Applicant Mentor.” They are also thinking about a program for lawyers on the JNE/County Bar Process. If you are interested in working on any of these programs, contact one of the co-chairs, and please share the attached flyer with attorneys who are interested in applying for the bench.

Judicial Elections: The committee has a multi-stage plan and will begin by monitoring judicial elections and mentoring newly elected judges. The committee welcomes new members – if you are interested, contact one of the co-chairs Judge Vincent Hwang (vhwang@sftc.org) or Judge Tony Cho (tcho@lacourt.org).

Mentoring: Co-chairs Judges Lee Tsao (ltsao@lacourt.org) and Erica Yew (eyew@scscourt.org) have been matching new CAPAJA judges to experienced judicial mentors. They have prepared a comprehensive plan to provide mentors not only to new judicial officers, but also to members seeking subject matter mentors and to those seeking mentors on advancement in the judicial system.

Outreach: Co-chairs Judges Eumi Lee (eklee@alameda.courts.ca.gov) and Wes Hsu (whsu@lacourt.org) and their committee have created contact lists for all APA bar associations and APALAs and are sending out emails to bar association presidents, introducing CAPAJA, offering our assistance, and informing them of our two upcoming programs on becoming a judge.

Scholarship: CAPAJA is creating a scholarship program for summer judicial law clerks. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact one of its co-chairs Judge Fred Chung (fchung@scscourt.org) or Judge Jana Seng (jseng@lacourt.org).

Survey: Co-chairs Judges Audra Ibarra (aibarra@scscourt.org) and Nathan Vu (nvu@occourts.org) are preparing multi-part mini surveys for our membership to improve our services. Each survey will take 3 minutes or less. The first such survey, seeking basic

information so we can serve you and our membership better, can be accessed by scanning the code below. **Please take a minute to fill out and submit this survey:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HMH28LP>



Lifetime Membership

CAPAJA membership dues support all of the CAPAJA programs and scholarships to law students described above. Due to the pandemic, the CAPAJA Board voted to extend membership of those who paid 2020 annual dues through the end of 2021, so this is the ideal time to sign up for Lifetime membership in CAPAJA for a one-time payment of \$500. Our member and website guru, the Hon. Pelayo Llamas, has set up an easy payment button on our website, www.capaja.org. Just go to the membership tab and scroll to the bottom of the page to make the last CAPAJA dues payment you will ever need to make!

With CAPAJA's best wishes,

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.