



A California not-for-profit membership organization

Executive Board

President

Hon. Jayne Lee
San Joaquin County

President-elect 2024-2025

Hon. Jana Seng
Los Angeles County

President-elect 2025-2026

Hon. Nhan "Nathan" Vu
Orange County

Immediate Past President

Hon. Terry Truong
Los Angeles County

Secretary

Hon. Michelle Ahnn
Los Angeles County

Treasurer

Hon. Sunil Kulkarni
Santa Clara County

Judicial Appointments Committee

Hon. Benjamin Reyes
Contra Costa County

Hon. Terry Truong
Los Angeles County

1st District Representative

Hon. Glenn Kim

2nd District Representatives

Hon. Christine Gonong
Hon. Christopher Lui

3rd District Representative

Hon. Kara Ueda

4th District Representatives

Hon. Corey Lee
Hon. Vibhav Mittal

5th District Representative

Hon. Jeff Mangar

6th District Representatives

Hon. Hanley Chew

SJO Representative

Hon. Chirstine Dehr
Placer County

Admin. Law Judge Representative

Hon. Dorothy Chou Proudfoot

California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association

11138 Del Amo Blvd #453
Lakewood, CA 90715-1103
www.CAPAJA.org
capaja2020@gmail.com

March 2025 CAPAJA Newsletter

Dear CAPAJA Member:

We hope everyone had a great Lunar New Year! Here is the CAPAJA news for March of 2025.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Four New API Judges Appointed by Governor Newsom

On February 14, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed seven new judges to the Los Angeles Superior Court, four of whom are API! Our new CAPAJA Members are Mike Madokoro, Phu Nguyen, Helen Yang, and Jacob Yim. Their profiles from Governor Newsom's website are below (original source: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/02/14/governor-newsom-announces-judicial-appointments-2-14-25/>).

Jacob, Mike and Phu were endorsed by CAPAJA. Good job, CAPAJA Judicial Endorsements Committee! The Valentines Day Four were treated to lunch by CAPAJA members Judge Holly Fujie and Judge Wendy Chang. Photo below. Welcome to CAPAJA, Jacob, Mike, Phu and Helen!



From left to right: Mike Madokoro, Jacob Yim, Helen Yang, Phu Nguyen, Judge Wendy Chang, and Judge Holly Fujie



Mike Madokoro, of Los Angeles County, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Madokoro has been a Partner at Bowman and Brooke LLP since 1999, served as a Managing Partner or Co-Managing Partner from 2006 to 2024. He previously worked as an Associate at Morgan, Wenzel and McNicholas from 1990 to 1994. Madokoro served as a Law Clerk and Associate at Adams and Kirkpatrick from 1989 to 1990. Madokoro received a Juris Doctor degree from McGeorge School of Law. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gergory Keosian. Madokoro is a Republican.



Phu Nguyen, of Los Angeles County, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Nguyen has served the Los Angeles County Superior Court as Court Counsel since 2017. She has been a Lecturer in Law at UCLA School of Law since 2022. Nguyen served as Senior Counsel at Dykema Gossett from 2014 to 2017, an Associate at Fayer Gipson from 2013 to 2014, and an Associate at Huron Law Group from 2008 to 2012. Nguyen was an Associate at Irell & Manella from 2006 to 2007. She received a Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Louise Suzette Clover. Nguyen is a Democrat.



Helen Yang, of Los Angeles County, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Yang was a Partner at Squire Patton Boggs since 2016 and an Associate at Squire Patton Boggs from 2005 to 2008 and 2009 to 2016. She was Deputy in the Riverside County Counsel's Office from 2008 to 2009. Yang received a Juris Doctor degree from Cornell Law School. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael Linfield. Yang is registered as no party preference.



Jacob Yim, of Los Angeles County, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Yim has served as the Deputy-in-Charge of the Real Estate Fraud Section in the White Collar Crime Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office since 2022. Yim has served as a deputy in several roles and units of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office from 2000 to 2008 and 2009 to 2022. He was a Special Assistant United States Attorney at the United States Attorney's Office – Domestic Security and Immigration Crimes Section from 2008 to 2009. Yim received a Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern University School of Law. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Carol Elswick. Yim is a Democrat.

CAPAJA and CJA MID-YEAR MEETING

Attend the CAPAJA Mid-Year Meeting

CAPAJA will hold its mid-year meeting on Thursday, March 13 at 12:15 pm by Zoom and in person at the CJA mid-year meeting in Monterey (room TBA). The agenda and meeting related items will be sent closer to the meeting date.

CAPAJA Mid-Year Meeting – March 13, 2025 at 12:15 pm

Zoom information:

Meeting ID: 868 3638 6092

Passcode: 726733

Attend the CAPAJA Dinner at the CJA Mid-Year:

CAPAJA will hold its mid-year dinner on Thursday, March 13 at 6:00 pm in Monterey. Put this in your calendars if you are attending the conference because it is one of the best parts of the conference! Details to come.

Attend the CAJAC Reception at the CJA Mid-Year

The California Affinity Judicial Association Coalition (CAJAC) has invited all members of its affiliates, including CAPAJA, to a reception at the California Judges Association Mid-Year meeting in March. It will be held at the Monterey Plaza in the Dolphins Ballroom on Friday, March 14 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm (immediately following the CJA Reception). Come meet and socialize with the members of CAPAJA and the Association of African American California Judicial Officers (AAACJO), the California Association of Black Lawyers, Judicial Council (CABL-JC), California Latino/a/x Judges Association (CLJA), California Women Judges (CWJ), LGBT Judicial officers of California (LGBT-JOC) and Middle Eastern and North African Judicial Officers of California (MENA JOC). There is no need to RSVP, and this is a no-host bar event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet and Greet for CAPAJA and local bar organization members

CAPAJA's Bar Association Outreach Committee has organized a virtual meet and greet for CAPAJA members and the local bar leaders throughout CA. This event will be on March 6 from 12:15-1:15 pm. The zoom info is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84023218974> and the meeting id is 840 2321 8974.

Please join to find out how you can get involved with the local bars and help mentor attorneys. (Flyer on next page).



CAPAJA
California Asian - Pacific American Judges Association
The Voice of the California Asian Pacific American Judiciary




**12:15
to 1:15
PM**

March 6, 2025
VIRTUAL
MEETING

CAPAJA WOULD LOVE TO MEET AND CONNECT WITH
BAR ORG LEADERS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

LET US GET TO KNOW YOU MORE

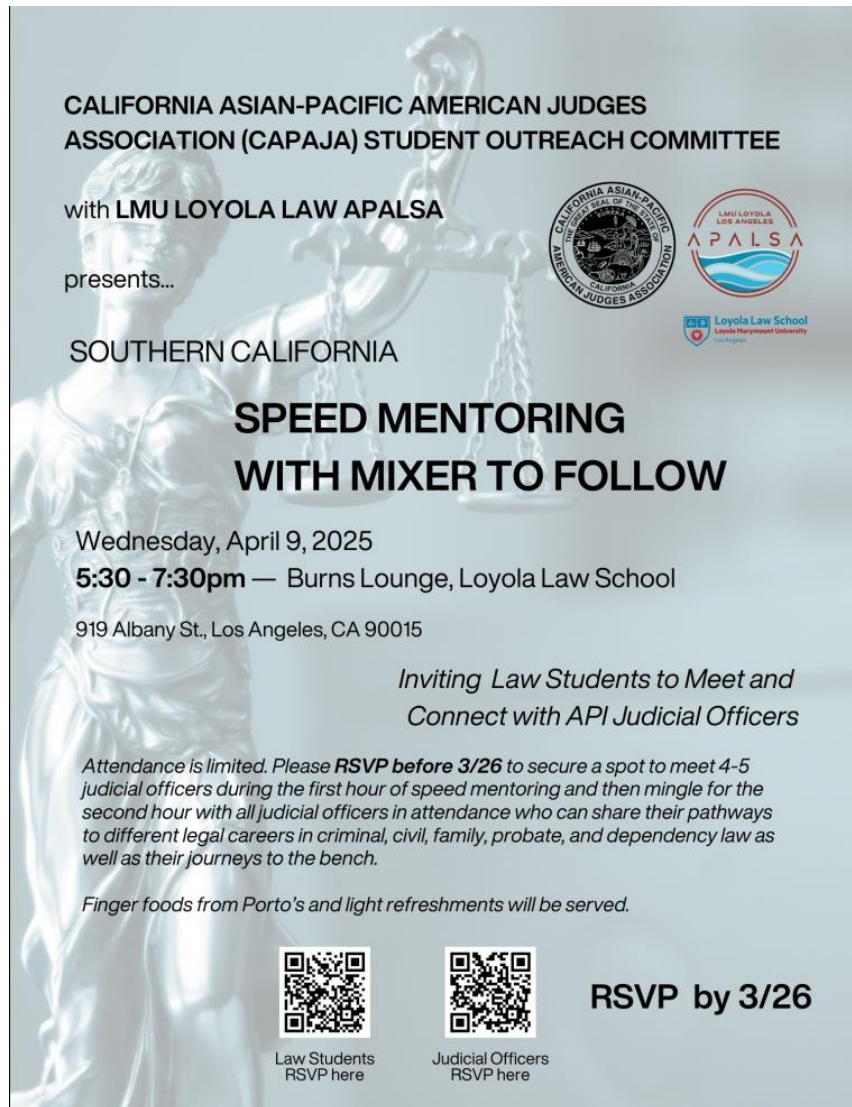
		
EVENTS	COLLABORATE	MENTORSHIP
Let us know about upcoming events for your organization	On future celebrations and education and social events with CAPAJA Judges from all over California	Learn about CAPAJA and the Judicial Applicant Mentoring Program

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84023218974>

 Meeting ID: 8 4 0 2 3 2 1 8 9 7 4

CAPAJA seeks volunteers for speed mentoring event

The CAPAJA Student Outreach Committee has teamed up with LMU Loyola Law's APALSA group to create a speed mentoring event on April 9, 2025. About 30-40 judicial officers are needed to make this event a success. If you would like to participate as a mentor, please see the attached flyer and use this link to RSVP. <https://forms.gle/SpMVxU6wsLGubXea8>. Please **RSVP by Wednesday, March 26**.

The flyer features a background image of a classical statue of Lady Justice holding scales. The text is centered and includes the following information:

CALIFORNIA ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION (CAPAJA) STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE
with **LMU LOYOLA LAW APALSA**
presents...

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**SPEED MENTORING
WITH MIXER TO FOLLOW**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025
5:30 - 7:30pm — Burns Lounge, Loyola Law School
919 Albany St., Los Angeles, CA 90015

*Inviting Law Students to Meet and
Connect with API Judicial Officers*

*Attendance is limited. Please **RSVP before 3/26** to secure a spot to meet 4-5
judicial officers during the first hour of speed mentoring and then mingle for the
second hour with all judicial officers in attendance who can share their pathways
to different legal careers in criminal, civil, family, probate, and dependency law as
well as their journeys to the bench.*

Finger foods from Porto's and light refreshments will be served.

Two QR codes are provided for RSVP:
- Law Students RSVP here
- Judicial Officers RSVP here

RSVP by 3/26

Presentation: A Day in the Life of an Appellate Court Justice 4/15/25 at 12:00 p.m.:

Join CAPAJA's Justice Dorothy Kim, as well as Justice Marla Miller, Justice Maurice Sanchez and Presiding Justice Teri Jackson to find out what happens behind the scenes at the Court of Appeal. This zoom event will be on April 15, 2025 at 12:00 pm.

Register at the link below by 4/8/25:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_RY5zDFukT86CPHRtfN7WuQ#/registration

MAKING AN IMPACT

Highlighting the Work of CAPAJA Members

CAPAJA Members Featured in The Bench

As always, CAPAJA contributed to CJA's publication, The Bench, for the Winter 2025 edition. Judge Rohanee Zapanta of the San Diego Superior Court provided advice on overcoming the winter doldrums in the article "Warding Off the Winter Blues." Rohanee also contributed a book review of "Tom Lake" by Anne Patchett." Great articles, Rohanee!

CAPAJA Members Participate in Fred Korematsu Day Celebration

CAPAJA Members Justice Danny Chou, Judge Johnny Gogo and Judge Renee Reyna spoke before an audience of more than 150 students in San Mateo County to commemorate Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution. "Learning about history is crucial for preventing atrocities like the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II in the future," declared Danny. For a full account, please visit this website for the press release: <https://www.smcoe.org/about/county-office-of-education/press-releases/students-participate-in-fred-korematsu-day-2025.html>.



Panel of judges addressing students in San Mateo County for Fred Korematsu Day



Judge Johnny Gogo shares about his 48-Star American Flag Signing Project

CAPAJA Member Profiled in DJ

Judge June An of the Orange County Superior Court was profiled in the Daily Journal on February 11, recounting how litigants literally broke her courtroom door – twice! – during proceedings in her Dependency Court. “To me, that door is a metaphor for all of us who come through dependency court,” she said. “You’ll never be the same again. These cases stay with you.” The article highlighted what one public defender said was Judge An’s “warm and collaborative courtroom.” Congratulations on an excellent profile, June!

CAPAJA Member Speaks on Civility and Bias

CAPAJA Member Judge Ruth Ann Kwan of the Los Angeles Superior Court spoke on March 10 before a virtual audience of the Beverly Hills Bar Association on the “Intersection Between Bias and Civility and What Judges Can Do About It.”

CAPAJA Member Gives Series of Lectures on Evidence

Judge Jack Lucky (ret.) has been presenting a series of webinars on various evidentiary issues for the Beverly Hills Bar Association. For more information, see the Beverly Hills Bar Association website: <https://bhba.org>.

CAPAJA Members inspire law students

On Feb. 26, Judge Mark Cumba and U.S. Magistrate Judge Steve Chu spoke on a panel at University of San Diego as part of a panel discussion about AAPI's on the Bench. The event was organized by USD's APALSA and FALS organizations. Approximately 30 students were in attendance and enjoyed Vietnamese sandwiches during the hour moderated discussion, including time for Q&As.



Seated left to right: Judge Mark Cumba and U.S. Magistrate Judge Steve Chu

Soon-to-be-Judge Jacob Yim was the Keynote Speaker at KABA's Annual Membership Meeting

Jacob Yin, who was recently appointed to the LA Superior Court and who will be sworn in this month, was the Keynote Speaker at the Korean American Bar Association's meeting on Feb. 27, 2025. He is pictured below (3rd from the right) along with the Executive Board of KABA.



IN OTHER NEWS...

CAPAJA Members Welcome to Join NAPABA Judicial Council

Have you ever been involved in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association? NAPABA has wonderful annual conferences (this year will be in Denver) and a very active Judicial Council that sponsors annual externships for law students and scholarships. If you are interested in joining the NAPABA Judicial Council, read the attached letter and fill out the attached application and get involved!

If you have any questions, feel free to email CAPAJA Member Judge Curtis Kin, who is also the Judicial Council's President, at ckin@lacourt.org or CAPAJA Past President Holly Fujie, who is Vice President of the Judicial Council, at HFujie@LACourt.org.

South Asian Bar Association (SABA) North America Revitalized Judges Section

After several years SABA North America is revitalizing its Judges Section! If you are interested in joining the section, please use the link to the Judge's Section Interest Form below. If you have any questions, please contact the SABA Northern America, Judges Section Co-Chair Judge Sonny Sandhu (sonny.sandhu@stanct.org).

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvNmJNiqEJFgYQRTQIfI_mhUElQAv-7X35C9_I7-V9sTnkvA/viewform

The National Judicial College invites you to check them out

If you have ever been interested in attending trainings in other parts of the country or the world, on subject matters including Climate & Water: Droughts; Judicial Writing; or Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges, then check out The National Judicial College (NJC) at www.judges.org (flyer attached). Classes are taught in virtual, webinar or in-person format. There are even scholarships available for CAPAJA members with your first class.

There are also opportunities to teach at The College. CAPAJA member, Judge Curtis Kin is a recent graduate of the weeklong Faculty Development Workshop and Judge Holly Fujie has taught aspiring judges in the NJC's annual Judicial Academy since 2019. For more information about this opportunity, contact NJC President and retired Judge Benes Z. Aldana at Aldana@judges.org.

The Judicial Council is Seeking Nominations for Vacancies

The Judicial Council is soliciting nominations to fill upcoming vacancies in the Advisory Board and the Education Committees. The deadline is March 17, 2025.

As the policymaking body for California's judicial branch, the Judicial Council sets the direction and provides the leadership for improving the quality and advancing the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. They are seeking an experienced, diverse, and inclusive membership to help guide the judicial branch of fulfilling this mission.

Justice Carin Fujisaki (Carin.Fujisaki@jud.ca.gov) would be happy to speak with any CAPAJA member who is interested in applying.

<https://courts.ca.gov/policy-administration/judicial-council/apply-or-nominate-membership/advisory-body-nominations>

<https://courts.ca.gov/policy-administration/judicial-council/apply-or-nominate-membership/education-committee-nominations>

BBC Day in Sacramento/State of the Judiciary Address

CAPAJA Members in the Central Region are welcome to apply to participate in the Bench Bar Coalition's Day in Sacramento (DIS). The event will be on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 from 9 am to 6 pm at the State Capitol. In the morning, Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero will deliver the State of the Judiciary address to the Legislature. Due to the limited timeframe for legislative visits and limited seating capacity for the Address, BBC participation will be limited to a maximum of 30 members representing the seven BBC regions: Bay Area, Los Angeles, Orange County, Northern California, Central Valley, San Diego

and the Inland Empire. BBC members who are interested in attending and can commit to the **full day** are invited to register. Selective legislative appointments and team member assignments will be confirmed once all participant registration forms are considered as described below. Please do not register if you are not able to attend the legislative meetings. Invitations and registration to attend the speech are sent separately.

Register Online!

BBC has reached our maximum number of participants for the 2025 Bench-Bar Coalition Day in Sacramento. However, if you are trying to register for the Central region (Kings, Tulare, Fresno & Kern counties) please email Jenniffer.herman@jud.ca.gov.

Topics and Key messages

The March 18 visits will focus on building relationships with legislators and delivering key messages regarding the judicial branch legislative priorities by the EC members who reside or practice in the legislators' district(s). Please keep in mind that because the visits will be held on a Tuesday, legislators' availability may be limited due to committee commitments and the appointments may be scheduled with the Chief of Staff, legislative director, and/or aids who staff issues related to the judiciary.

Should you have any questions regarding the upcoming Day in Sacramento, please feel free to contact your BBC liaison Jenniffer Herman at Jenniffer.Herman@Jud.ca.gov, or your BBC cochairs CAPAJA Member and Past President Judge Audra Ibarra and Philip Nulud, Esq.

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!

Our Best Wishes to you all for a very Happy, Healthy and Productive 2025!
Jayne Chong-Soon Lee, CAPAJA President
Jana Seng, CAPAJA President-Elect for 2024-2025
Nathan Vu, CAPAJA President-Elect for 2025-2026

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.