



A California not-for-profit membership organization

Executive Board

President

Hon. Holly Fujie
Los Angeles County

President-Elect

Hon. Audra Ibarra
Santa Clara County

Secretary

Hon. Michelle Ahnn
Los Angeles County

Treasurer

Hon. Terry Truong
Los Angeles County

Immediate Past President

Hon. Roberta Hayashi
Santa Clara County

Judicial Appointments Committee

Hon. Richard Sueyoshi
Sacramento County

Hon. Lee Tsao
Los Angeles County

1st District Representative

Hon. Raj Chatterjee

2nd District Representatives

Hon. Christopher Lui
Hon. Jana Seng

3rd District Representative

Hon. Joginder Dhillon

4th District Representatives

Hon. Winston Keh
Hon. Nhan "Nathan" Vu

5th District Representative

Hon. Sonny Sandhu

6th District Representative

Hon. Frederick Chung

California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association

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capaja2020@gmail.com

Sept. 2021

Dear CAPAJA Member:

Hope everyone is having a healthy and happy September.

NEWS

CAPAJA Board Unanimously Votes to Support Election of Slate of CAPAJA Officers and Executive Committee Members for 2021-2022

At its August 24 meeting, CAPAJA's Executive Committee unanimously voted to submit the following slate of Officers and Executive Committee members for 2021-2022 for election by CAPAJA members at the September 26 Annual Meeting:

Hon. Audra Ibarra (Santa Clara) – President
Hon. Sonny Sandhu (Stanislaus) – President Elect
Hon. Holly J. Fujie (Los Angeles) – Immediate Past President
Hon. Michelle Ahnn (Los Angeles) – Secretary
Hon. Terry Truong (Los Angeles) – Treasurer
Hon. Joni Hiramoto (Contra Costa) - 1st Dist. Rep.
Hon. Jana Seng and Hon. Christopher Lui (Los Angeles) – 2d Dist. Reps.
Hon. Joe Dhillon (Sacramento) – 3d Dist. Rep.
Hon. Winston Keh (San Bernardino); Hon. Nathan Vu (Orange) – 4th Dist. Reps.
Hon. Jeff Mangar (Stanislaus) – 5th Dist. Rep.
Hon. Fred Chung and Hon. Johnny Gogo (Santa Clara) – 6th Dist. Reps.
Hon. Lee Tsao (Los Angeles) – So. Cal. Co-Chair – Judicial Endorsements Committee
Hon. Rick Sueyoshi (Sacramento) – No. Cal. Co-Chair – Judicial Endorsements Committee

This slate of Officers and Executive Committee members will be presented for a vote of the CAPAJA membership at the CAPAJA Annual Meeting announced below. Thanks to all for agreeing to serve on CAPAJA's hardworking and extremely productive Board next year. All CAPAJA members may appear at the Annual Meeting and vote by Zoom. See details and sign-in information below.

CAPAJA wishes to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the Hon. Raj Chatterjee, who served this year as 1st District Rep to the Board. He is stepping down due to his having been appointed in January as Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division of the Alameda County Superior Court. Congratulations on this well-deserved appointment and thanks for all your hard work on behalf of CAPAJA!

Although their appointment does not require election under the CAPAJA Bylaws, CAPAJA gratefully acknowledges that the following have graciously agreed to continue to serve as Committee Chairs for the 2021-2022 year:

Education Committee: Hon. Sunil Kulkarni (Santa Clara); Hon. Joanne Motoike (Orange); Hon. Johnny Gogo (Santa Clara)

Law School Outreach Committee: Hon. Jayne Lee (San Joaquin); Hon. Terry Truong (LA)

Bar Association Outreach Committee: Hon. Wes. Hsu (LA); Hon. Eumi Lee (Alameda)

Mentoring Committee: Hon. Michelle Ahnn (LA); Hon. Erica Yew (Santa Clara)

Administrative Law Judges Committee: Hon. Dorothy Chou Proudfoot (SF Rent Control Board)

Judicial Elections Committee: Hon. Tony Cho (LA); Hon. Victor Hwang (San Francisco)

Scholarships Committee: Hon. Fred Chung (Santa Clara); Hon. Jana Sang (LA)

Social Committee: Hon. Christopher Lui (LA); Hon. Raj Chatterjee (Alameda)

Travel Committee: Hon. Roberta Hayashi (Santa Clara)

Website Committee: Hon. Pelayo A. Llamas, Jr. (Alameda)

Attend the CAPAJA Annual Meeting on September 26 in Monterey!

The Annual Membership Meeting of CAPAJA will be held at the CJA Annual Meeting in Monterey, in person and remotely (using the link below), on Sunday, September 26, 2021. You can see your fellow CAPAJA members **in person** at the **Carmel Room** of the Monterey Plaza Hotel, located at 400 Cannery Row, Monterey.

The meeting will start at 7:30 am, with coffee and pastries provided to all those attending in person. The business of the Annual Meeting will begin at 8 am and conclude at 9 am. We will be voting to approve the new slate of officers and members of the Board noted above. Attached is the draft Agenda for this meeting.

This will be a great opportunity to connect either in person or remotely with your colleagues and friends from all over the State and to be informed of all the amazing work CAPAJA has been doing this year and all our plans for next year. Hope to see you there!

Topic: CAPAJA Annual Meeting 9/26/21
Time: Sep 26, 2021 07:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<LOGIN INFO SENT BY E-MAIL>
Inquiries to capaja2020@gmail.com

Attend the Town Hall Meeting on Representation for CAPAJA on the CJA Board by Zoom after the Annual Meeting. Whether or not you can make the Town Hall, Please Remember to Vote Online to Add a CAPAJA Rep. to the Board of CJA!

There will be a Town Hall meeting (virtual) and a crucial remote vote on whether CAPAJA and other affinity judge groups should have a seat on the CJA Board on a day and time to be announced. The vote requires a 2/3 majority to pass, and you may vote for a five-day period of time after the Town Hall. CAPAJA needs its members to vote for CAPAJA to be given a CJA board seat.

CAPAJA Member USDC NDCA Judge Lucy Koh Nominated by President Joe Biden for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal

On September 8, 2021, President Joe Biden nominated Judge Lucy Koh to be a United States Circuit Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. CAPAJA applauds this well-deserved nomination and wishes Judge Koh a speedy and smooth confirmation.

Governor Newsom Names Four APIs to the Superior Court

On September 3, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed four new API judges to the California trial court. Commissioner Renee Reyna was appointed as a judge on the San Mateo Superior Court. Shella Deen, Chair of the litigation practice group at Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel, was appointed to the Santa Clara Superior Court. LA Deputy Public Defender Ramiro Cisneros was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court. Vibhav Mittal, Deputy Chief at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California and a CAPAJA endorsee, was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court. CAPAJA welcomes these excellent additions to our bench.

CAPAJA Member Named NAPABA Best 40 Under 40

Following in the footsteps of other CAPAJA members who have been NAPABA Best 40 Under 40 honorees such as Judge Bryant Yang and Judge Wesley Hsu, newly-appointed Judge Vibhav Mittal was named to this year's list by NAPABA on September 6. Congratulations, Judge Mittal!

CAPAJA Members Continue to Lead the California Bench Bar Coalition

At its meeting on August 9, the California Bench Bar Coalition (BBC) elected CAPAJA President-Elect Judge Audra Ibarra as Northern/Central Region Representative At Large to the BBC Executive Committee. BBC Executive Committee members share the responsibilities associated with advancing the Coalition's goals and directives. The same meeting marked the end of the successful two-year term of CAPAJA Past President Judge Dennis Hayashi as BBC's Northern California Co-Chair.

CAPAJA Members Profiled in the Daily Journal

CAPAJA member Judge Michelle DeCasas of the LA Superior Court was profiled in the August 30, 2021 Daily Journal. Judge DeCasas expressed that she "trusts the justice system, despite an early disappointment" in the result of a trial for the man who murdered her mother. Thank you, Judge DeCasas for sharing your remarkable story.

CAPAJA member Magistrate Judge Alex Tse of the Northern District of California bench was profiled on August 20, 2021 in the Daily Journal. Judge Tse was appointed in October 2019 after serving nearly twenty years with the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District. Congratulations to Judge Tse on an excellent profile.

CAPAJA Members Publish Article on Anti-Asian Hate

CAPAJA members Judge Kirk Nakamura – immediate past Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court and OCSC Judge Deborah Servino published a thought-provoking article on Anti-Asian Hate in the September issue of the OC Lawyer Magazine, which is attached.

CAPAJA Thanks its Members for Volunteering to Vet Judicial Candidates

CAPAJA wishes to thank Judicial Appointments Committee co-chairs Judge Rick Sueyoshi and Judge Lee Tsao for their incredible work in organizing the vetting and endorsement process of judicial candidates on behalf of CAPAJA. The fact that Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Céspedes and Governor Newsom listen to CAPAJA can be seen from the fact that in this administration alone, **nine** CAPAJA endorsed candidates were appointed by the Governor: Judges Warren Kato, Susan Ser, Johnny Gogo, Adam Chang, Bryant Yang, Vibhav Mittal, Kara Ueda, Stephanie Sato and Marisa Chun. CAPAJA also wishes to thank our many members who dedicated their time and efforts as part of the Judicial Appointments Committee to vet candidates seeking appointment to the Superior Courts. Our careful vetting and endorsement of qualified candidates promotes judicial excellence and diversity throughout the State. Listed below are the members who have contributed to the committee in the past two years:

Judges Michelle Ahnn; Roger Chan; Adam Chang; Raj Chatterjee; Jason Chin; Tony Cho; Danny Chou; Lisa Coen; Fred Chung; Joe Dhillon; Von Deroian; Jacqui Duong; Johnny Gogo; Howard Halm; Doug Hatchimonji; Roberta Hayashi; Russ Hom; Anne Hwang; Bruce Iwasaki; Upinder Kalra; Winston Keh; Esther Kim; Mark Kim; Curtis Kin; Sanjay Kumar; Corey Lee; Eumi Lee; Richard Lee; Cynthia Lie; Rita Lin; Chris Lui; Godofredo Magno; Teresa Magno; Shama Mesiwala; Audra Mori; Kirk Nakamura; Kim Nguyen; Vedica Puri; Sheila Recio; Sonny Sandhu; Jana Seng; Deborah Servino; Rick Sueyoshi; Lee Tsao; Charles Umeda; Michael Whitaker; R. Glenn Yabuno; and Brian Yep.

CAPAJA also thanks all those who have volunteered as mentors and as organizers and speakers at the numerous events put on by and contributed to by CAPAJA this year. Our members are what makes CAPAJA the strong and powerful organization it is today

PAST CAPAJA EVENTS

Justice Goodwin Liu Gives Keynote at MultiCultural Bar Alliance of Los Angeles Summer Reception

On August 11, CAPAJA member Justice Goodwin Liu spoke to a large virtual crowd at the reception of the MultiCultural Bar Alliance of Los Angeles. The reception was co-sponsored by CAPAJA and hosted over 150 attorneys and judges from throughout the state.

CAPAJA Board Rep. Judge Sonny Sandhu Represents CAPAJA at CJA Panel on “Affinity Judges Associations: What Are They and What are They Doing to Increase Diversity on the Bench?”

On August 18, Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Sonny Sandhu, CAPAJA Representative for the 5th District, spoke on behalf of CAPAJA at an event sponsored by the California Judges Association. Judge Sandhu informed the audience of over 100 lawyers and judges about CAPAJA’s mission, its many mentoring programs and the CAPAJA PAC. From Judge Sandhu’s comments, it was clear to the audience that CAPAJA is leading the way in producing innovative and successful programs to assist both judges and attorneys.

With CAPAJA’s best wishes for a great fall,

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.