In the APA community, politics can be a dirty word. But APAs must overcome their reluctance to engage in politics at the office or in public life, to have a seat at the table. Relevant to this year’s theme, “Convergence: Collaborating for a Grand Tomorrow,” speakers from both public and private sectors will offer practical strategies for collaborating with diverse attorneys, groups, and students to achieve fair treatment at work and to achieve change for the APA community. Specific topics will include professional politics and the role of politics in the office, community politics and building coalitions with diverse attorneys and groups, and elective politics and getting a seat at the table through elected office and state court judicial appointments.

Program Chair & Speaker:
Hon. Stuart Hing, Judge, Superior Court of California

Moderator:
Charles Jung, Principal, Nassiri & Jung LLP

Speakers:
Hon. Margaret Fujioka, Mayor, City of Piedmont
Joan Haratani, Partner, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Seema Patel, Trial Attorney, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor
POLITICS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AND PUBLIC SERVICE: CONVERGENCE OF AMBITION AND ASPIRATION
AND THE ROLE OF COLLABORATING WITH ALLIES TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

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Specific topics will include:

• Professional politics: the role of politics in the office;

• Community politics: building coalitions with diverse attorneys and groups;

• Elective politics: getting a seat at the table through elected office and state court judicial appointments.

Program chair: Stuart Hing
Moderator: Charles Jung
Principal
Nassiri & Jung LLP
415-762-3100
charles@njfirm.com

Charles H. Jung is a trial lawyer at Nassiri & Jung LLP, a California litigation boutique. His practice includes trade secrets, class actions, and employment/wage litigation. He authors California Trade Secrets, California Wage & Hour Law, and California Class Action Law, and he is a frequent commentator in the legal press on these topics.

Mr. Jung graduated with Distinction from Stanford Law School, where he was an Articles Editor for the Stanford Law Review. He earned his B.A. from Duke University, graduating Magna Cum Laude. And he earned his Master's from the Harvard Kennedy School, where he was a Kennedy Fellow.

His honors and awards include being named a Top 100 Attorney in 2014 and 2013 and selection for inclusion on the list of Northern California Super Lawyers® or Rising stars in every year from 2009-14.

His public service has included serving as an Elections Commissioner for the City and County of San Francisco, a Director for the Asian American Bar Association for the Greater Bay Area, a Director for Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, and a Special Deputy District Attorney for Marin County, California.

Mr. Jung represents both defendants and plaintiffs. For defendants in recent months, he successfully defeated a consumer class action for a nationwide retailer, achieved the dismissal of putative class actions for small individual settlements, and achieved class-wide resolution of several class action lawsuits for a small fraction of claimed amounts. For plaintiffs, he has achieved settlements of over $17,000,000 since 2012.
Joan Haratani, a Morgan Lewis San Francisco partner and Past President of the Bar Association of San Francisco, represents Fortune 500 companies in commercial and mass tort litigation. She has represented pharmaceutical, medical device, financial, and retail companies in some of the largest litigations, including class actions, in the nation. She has in-depth knowledge of a wide range of law, such as the Alien Tort Statute, California’s Unfair Competition Law (UCL), pharmaceutical and medical device liability doctrines, and national mortgage foreclosure issues.

Ms. Haratani served as co-lead counsel on behalf of a Fortune 50 retail company in a worldwide class action concerning breach of contract allegations of which she obtained a dismissal at the federal court level (affirmed by the Ninth Circuit). The decision was paramount to the client’s day-to-day business operations and saved the retailer years of litigation. Currently, she serves as one of the firm’s national counsel for a financial institution.

Ms. Haratani has been recognized as one of the "Top 100 Lawyers in California" and as a "Top 75 Women Litigator" by the Daily Journal. She was selected by the corporate members of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association as a "Female Litigator on the Rise" in Diversity and the Bar.

Ms. Haratani received her B.A. from St. John’s College, Santa Fe and her J.D. from the University of California, Davis School of Law, 1984, J.D. She is admitted to practice in California and before the state and federal courts of California.
Speaker 2: Margaret Fujioka

Mayor
City of Piedmont
510-463-7821
margaret.fujioka@gmail.com

Margaret J. Fujioka is an Administrative Hearing Officer with the City of Oakland, Office of the City Administrator. She is a former Senior Deputy City Attorney in the Oakland City Attorney’s Office. Elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012 to the Piedmont City Council with the highest number of votes in both contested races, Margaret is the first woman of color to serve as Mayor (currently) and as a member of the City Council in the City of Piedmont’s 107 year history. She serves as Council Liaison to the Piedmont Public Safety Committee which she was instrumental in creating, serves on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, and was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the Alameda County Conference of Mayors and the Bay Area Air Quality Control District. She was previously Chair of the Piedmont Capital Improvement Projects Committee, a member of the Piedmont Centennial Committee, and a Vice President of the Wildwood School Parents Board. Margaret is past president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (AABA). She currently co-chairs the NAPABA Women’s Leadership Committee. Margaret is a past recipient of the NAPABA Women’s Leadership Award for “leadership and vision in making significant contributions to the advancement of women in the profession.” She received a B.A. in East Asian Studies from UC Berkeley and a J.D. from UC Hastings College of Law.
Speaker 3: Seema Patel

Trial Attorney

Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor

415-693-7741

Patel.seema@dol.gov

Seema N. Patel served as a Senior Advisor at the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. In her role, she worked on several policy issues directly benefiting AAPIs including managing an effort to improve health and safety working conditions for 400,000 AAPI nail salon workers and directing the first national symposium on AAPI student data disaggregation. At the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor, in Washington, DC, Seema litigated wage and hour and whistleblower cases in federal appellate courts, drafted regulations, and assisted in the development of policy guidance regarding myriad federal wage and hour laws. She currently works as a Trial Attorney in the Solicitor’s Office San Francisco Regional Office.

Prior to Federal service, Seema advised the Mayor and City of Oakland on matters related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. After graduating from U.C. Berkeley Law School (Boalt Hall), Seema clerked for the Honorable Andre M. Davis, U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland (currently, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit), and the Honorable Harry Pregerson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She then relocated to Gujarat, India, to work with Manav Sadhna, an NGO based at Mahatma Gandhi’s Ashram, where she organized female slum-dwelling “ragpickers” (trash collectors) into a cooperative society and advocated on their behalf for state recognition and benefits.
Judge Stuart Hing was appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, in July 2008 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Before his appointment, he was a Deputy District Attorney in the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office for 23 years and a Senior Marketing Representative with Xerox Corporation where he attained #1 in sales for the U.S. western region. He and his wife, Rhoda Hing, are active in the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association including its voter project, Women Lawyers of Alameda County where he was the only male board member, Charles Houston Bar Association, Centro Legal de la Raza, Alameda County Bar Association, St. Vincent de Paul, and his own outreach program. He also grew up in a housing project and played lead guitar in a band that opened for Earth, Wind & Fire.
Politics in Private Practice and Public Service

Charles Jung, Joan Haratani, Margaret Fujioka, Seema Patel, and Stuart Hing
3 Basics

1. Work-life balance
2. Work
3. Politics
1. Work-Life Balance

- Personal life is your foundation:
  - 2nd floor: Politics
  - 1st floor: Work
  - Basement or foundation: Work-life balance
2. Work

- IRAC
- Rule of 3
- What v. *how*
3. Politics

- Difficult colleagues
- The bottom line
- Public service
Professional Politics

• The role of politics in the office
Community Politics

• Building coalitions with diverse attorneys and groups
Elective Politics

- Getting a seat at the table through elected office and state court judicial appointments
Return to 3 Basics

- Work-life balance
  - Work
    - IRAC
    - Rule of 3
    - What v. how
  - Politics
    - Difficult colleagues
    - The bottom line
    - Public service
Your House

• Politics
  – Difficult colleagues
  – The bottom line
  – Public service

• Work
  – IRAC
  – Rule of 3
  – What v. how

• Work-life balance
All The Very Best!!

- One last Socratic method or “I” in IRAC
- Is it one of the following?
  - 3 basics
  - Your house
  - Pie