

# Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara



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## Judge Erica Yew Receives Top Award from Judicial Council of California

*Recognized for her outstanding work as a jurist  
within the State Court system*

SAN JOSÉ, California (September 21, 2017): On Thursday, September 14, 2017, Santa Clara Superior Court's own Judge Erica Yew was honored by the Judicial Council of California with the Distinguished Service Award. For 24 years, the Council has recognized individuals and organizations that have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and contributions to the administration of justice in California.

Judge Yew, a San Jose native, was appointed to the bench in October of 2001. Over the past 16 years, Judge Yew has defined and distinguished herself as one of the premier jurists in Santa Clara County. The first Asian-American female to serve on Santa Clara County's bench, she has been recognized many times for her numerous contributions to her community and her court. Those who know her best realize that she is always very quick to point out the efforts of others and how these collaborative efforts in turn bring about the greatest good.

"Beyond the big things that she has done, such as serving on the Judicial Council or as chair of the CJP [Commission on Judicial Performance], what impresses me most about Judge Yew is what she does away from the limelight, regularly spending her weekends providing assistance to homeless defendants, showing appreciation for her staff, and mentoring students," said Judge Thang Barrett. "Courageous, selfless, and wise, she has truly dedicated her life to the welfare of others."

As an attorney, Judge Yew was President of the Asian Pacific Bar Association of the Silicon Valley, served on the California State Bar Board of Trustees, Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley, the Asian Law Alliance, the Legal Aid Society, the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services, and the SCCBA Board of Trustees.

As an educator and a mentor, Judge Yew has taught on a number of subjects including judicial ethics, elimination of bias, language access, and collaborative courts. She has instructed through the California Judicial Education and Research program (CJER), Children and Family Futures, the Rutter Group, California Judges Association, the National Center for State Courts, the National Judicial College, and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, among other entities.

As a judge, she chaired her court's Community Outreach Committee and the Legislative Liaison Committee. In 2006, Yew served on the California State Bar and Santa Clara County Bar Association Pipeline Task Forces on Diversity, and established Santa Clara County's first county-wide collaborative workshop program serving families dealing with domestic violence. This collaborative, known as Domestic Violence Information and Resources (DVIR), provides resource fairs and education for victims, perpetrators, and their children throughout the county in multiple languages and in multiple locations including homeless shelters, the jail, schools, and community centers.

The community to which she gives so much has repeatedly chosen to recognize her efforts. In March 2009, the *San Jose Business Journal* named Judge Yew a Women of Influence in Silicon Valley. In November 2011, she received the Diversity Award from the SCCBA. In 2014, she received the prestigious John W. Gardner Leadership Award from the American Leadership Forum – Silicon Valley (ALF). 2015 saw Judge Yew honored by the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus for her contributions and impact in the field of Law and named Trial Judge of the Year by the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association. In 2016, she was named Outstanding Jurist of the Year by the Santa Clara County Bar Association. This year, Judge Yew received the Legal Impact Award from Asian Law Alliance.

"Judge Erica Yew is an excellent role model and epitomizes the qualities you want to both possess and to see in others," Judge Carrie Zepeda extols on Judge Yew. "Intelligent, smart, and can do just about anything she sets her mind to, she makes our community a better place."

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