

Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara



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Fred T. Korematsu Day 2018

*Santa Clara Superior Court honors the legacy
of civil rights leader Fred T. Korematsu*

SAN JOSÉ, California (January 16, 2018): In observance of Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution, the Santa Clara County Superior Court has joined with several community organizations to present two events which recognize and pay homage to Fred Korematsu and his role in the advancement of civil rights. In 1944, Mr. Korematsu appealed his conviction for violating the WWII laws detaining U.S. citizens because of their Japanese ancestry to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1983, he successfully filed a writ of *coram nobis* in federal court and won a decision overturning his conviction. Two upcoming events provide a unique opportunity to hear one of the lead attorneys and the judge who participated in that historic 1983 decision, discuss its importance in today's world.

On **Saturday, January 27, 2018** in San Jose's Historic Japantown at the Wesley United Methodist Church from 1pm – 4pm Don Tamaki, the civil rights attorney who represented Fred Korematsu in the 1983 case challenging his conviction; Karen Korematsu, Fred's daughter; and Zahra Billoo, general counsel for the Council of American-Islamic Relations, will be discussing the significance of the Korematsu cases in today's world. In addition, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose will be offering free admission, extended hours and docent-led tours of the museum's exhibits relating to the wartime incarceration of Japanese-Americans. RSVP is highly recommended to secure a seat by emailing publicprograms@jamsj.org or by calling 408-294-3138.

On **Tuesday, January 30, 2018** the Superior Court will host Hon. Marilyn Hall Patel (ret.). Judge Patel will be presenting a "View from the Bench" perspective of her 1983 decision reversing Fred Korematsu's conviction for violating the WWII detention and incarceration orders, in which she acknowledged the "manifest injustice" to Mr. Korematsu and the over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated. Judge Patel will be providing her lively recollections of that historic case and her unique perspective as to how it relates to current events in politics and the court.

Judge Roberta Hayashi, who was sworn to the Santa Clara Bench on January 30, 2015, a day selected to honor Fred Korematsu, calls him "a civil rights hero. Not only did Mr. Korematsu seek justice for himself, but for all U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry who were detained and incarcerated during WWII, and ultimately sought justice for all." After the historic 1983 decision that bears his name, Fred Korematsu continued to fight for constitutional rights, speaking out against post-9/11 discrimination against Muslim and Arab Americans. In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In 2010, the State of California passed the Fred Korematsu Day bill, making January 30 the first day in the U.S. named after an Asian American.

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FRED T. KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION

Saturday, January 27, 2018
Wesley United Methodist Church –
Fellowship Hall
566 North Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 9512
1pm – 4pm

- Presentation about the Fred T. Korematsu Story
- Keynote Address by Don Tamaki, Civil Rights attorney who represented Fred T. Korematsu in 1983 and also an attorney involved with the amicus brief filed by the children of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui opposing the Trump administration's Muslim Travel Ban.
- Panel Discussion to follow discussing both the 1983 Korematsu case and the amicus brief opposing the Muslim Travel Ban.

RSVP is highly recommended to secure a seat by emailing publicprograms@jamsj.org or by calling 408-294-3138 by January 20, 2018.

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

- Hon. Marilyn Hall Patel (ret.) will be presenting an "Inside the Decision" perspective of her decision in *Korematsu v. United States* which overturned Fred Korematsu's wartime conviction for violating the Japanese-American internment and how it relates to current events in politics and the courts.
- Brown Bag Lunch

MCLE Credits Available:
January 27, 2018 1.0 CA
January 30, 2018 1.0 CA

Sponsored by

Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education / Vietnamese American Roundtable / Asian Pacific American Bar Association – Silicon Valley
 Japanese American Museum of San Jose / Asian Law Alliance / Santa Clara County Superior Court Community Outreach Committee

