

# Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

CONTACT  
BENJAMIN T. RADA

Public Affairs  
brada@scscourt.org  
(408) 882-2709 desk  
(408) 334-9236 cell



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## Santa Clara County Superior Court Hosts Program on Criminal Justice Reform: The Color of Justice

*Superior Court and local debate league SVUDL host online event for youth learning to use their voices for reform*

The Santa Clara County Superior Court Community Outreach Committee has partnered with the [Silicon Valley Urban Debate League \(SVUDL\)](#) to host the Superior Court's first Color of Justice program on July 14, 2020, in Santa Clara County.

During this interactive virtual event, an esteemed panel of experts, who work both within and outside of the system on important issues related to criminal justice, will answer questions posed by students related to the topic that will be debated in schools nationally during the 2020-21 school year: Criminal Justice Reform. Students will also hear from panelists about their professional journeys to provide insight to the students on career pathways, and to contribute to SVUDL's work to create a pipeline of diverse future legal professionals.

Due to COVID-19, this event has transitioned to a virtual program during SVUDL's Summer Speech and Debate Institute (July 13-18). This shift has allowed for greater participation of students, including students from Bay Area Urban Debate League (BAUDL) serving Oakland, San Francisco, and Richmond, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League (LAMDL), and students through the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

"Critical to our current national discourse on dismantling racism, striving for racial equity, and ensuring justice is the youth voice," said Hon. Julia Alloggiamento, Chair of the Court Community Outreach Committee. "We hope that this will be the first of many programs to empower young people to use their voice, connect with and impact their community, and learn about educational and vocational pathways to create positive changes to ensure that our society truly provides justice for all."

SVUDL is a 501c3 nonprofit that serves San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Its mission is to empower Silicon Valley students, regardless of their race or socioeconomic status, to reach their full potential to become professional and community leaders by teaching critical thinking and communication skills through speech and debate programming.



Please visit the  
[Superior Court's Covid-19 response website](#)  
for additional Court information

## **I: Panelists for Case #1 - Police Body Cameras**

### **Judge Shelyna V. Brown**

*Judge of the Santa Clara County Superior Court*



The Honorable Shelyna V. Brown presides over various criminal matters at the Santa Clara County Superior Court. Growing up in a marginalized community, she saw first-hand the challenges and obstacles that those with similar backgrounds as hers faced in society. She came to the realization that in order to change the outcome, one had to have a place and a voice at the table.

After obtaining her Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law, Judge Brown served as a public defender fighting for all those who did not traditionally have a voice. This included low income and immigrant communities, those suffering from mental health challenges, and anyone who did not have access to their constitutional right of appropriate representation.

Judge Brown has also served on several boards and has been recognized for her excellence in advocacy and praised for her contributions to the community. She was awarded numerous honors and accolades, including Excellence in Advocacy from the 100 Black Women of Silicon Valley, and the Ivy Rose Foundation named her the first recipient of the Distinguished Women of Silicon Valley Awards. Furthermore, Judge Brown was honored by the Silicon Valley NAACP with the Wester Sweet Award for Legal Activism. She is the most recent recipient of the Santa Clara Law School Social Justice and Human Rights Award, and she received a Congressional Commendation from Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.

From nonprofits to universities to global corporations including Stanford University, the Parent Project, and Gilead Sciences. Judge Brown uses her uncommon perspective as a superior court judge, certified mediator, entrepreneur, and master coach to inspire and equip individuals to meet and rise above all of life's challenges.

Judge Brown received her Bachelor of Arts from University of California, Davis and her juris doctorate from Santa Clara University, School of Law where she is a well-known figure and frequent speaker and guest lecturer.

### **Mr. Ashanti Mitchell**

*Santa Clara County Deputy Public Defender*



Mr. Mitchell is an attorney with the Public Defender’s Office in Santa Clara County. He was born in San Jose and attended law school in Washington, DC. He is proud to have represented indigent youth and adults accused of misdemeanors and felonies. As a Community Outreach Attorney, he currently serves as the bridge between the community and the advocacy and legal services offered by the Public Defender’s Office.

Mr. Mitchell’s dedication to the community has not gone unnoticed; most recently, he helped distribute personal protective equipment (hand sanitizer, masks, etc.) to the homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even during these unprecedented times, Mr. Mitchell continues to regularly visit homeless shelters to provide legal services. He has also been heavily engaged in pushing criminal justice reform, especially so in the wake of George Floyd’s death.

In addition to serving the public as deputy public defender, Mr. Mitchell teaches law students at Santa Clara University Law School as a lecturer, trying to inspire the next generation of leaders in the legal field. Mr. Mitchell received his baccalaureate degree from University of California, Berkeley, and his Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center.

**I: Case #1 “Police Body Cameras” Moderator:**

**Judge Johnny Cepeda Gogo**

*Judge of the Santa Clara County Superior Court*



The Honorable Johnny Cepeda Gogo is a Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge, currently assigned to the Criminal Division handling misdemeanor cases. He was appointed to the bench October 2019.

Judge Gogo graduated from the University of California, San Diego in 1991 with a B.A. in Political Science; Graduated cum laude from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 1996; began career as a prosecutor with the Guam Attorney General’s Office in 1997; worked as an associate attorney with the law firm of Calvo & Clark (Guam); joined the Santa Clara County (SCC) D.A.’s Office in 1999.

Judge Gogo has also been involved for many years with the local bar associations and the SCC High School Mock Trial Competition. In recognition of his dedication to the mock trial program and the students involved, the SCC Bar Association’s Law Related Education Committee created The Johnny Gogo Award in 2007. This annual award is given to volunteers who go above and beyond assisting with the SCC high school mock trial tournament. Judge Gogo also received the 2013 SCC Bar Association’s Diversity Award in recognition of his commitment and leadership in promoting diversity in the legal profession.

## II: Panelists for Case #2 - School to Prison Pipeline

### **Mr. Christian Bijoux**

*Program Director for the Dually Involved Youth Initiative*



Mr. Bijoux serves as the Program Director for the Dually Involved Youth Initiative in Santa Clara County. In this role, he has consulted with public health and advocacy groups and community organizations on program and policy issues related to state and federal youth and young adult programs and sought to enhance racial equity within various organizations. As the Program Director, Mr. Bijoux provides system change management, including, but not limited to, identifying and prioritizing system issues and transformation opportunities that improve the success, outcomes, and positive development of youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile legal system. Mr. Bijoux is also the Founder and Managing Partner of Bijoux Consulting Group LLC.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Bijoux served as a program consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, co-leading the organization's Second Chance Act grants. He provided program management support to senior management and co-facilitated workshops and seminars on enhancing racial equity and inclusion. He addressed racial disparities in the Massachusetts Juvenile Justice system and fostered conversations to improve understanding of the historical and psycho-social effects of race, racism, discrimination, and unconscious bias. Notably, as an adjunct professor at Newbury College, Mr. Bijoux taught undergraduate courses in Global Health; Introduction to Health Care Management; Health Care Economics; Healthcare Regulation; Policy, & Politics; and, Leadership & Strategy.

Mr. Bijoux is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy and Social Policy at Brandeis University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from City College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and a Master of Public Health in Health Management & Policy from Drexel University School of Public Health.

**Mr. Milton Reynolds**

*Founder, Milton Reynolds Consulting*



Mr. Reynolds served as a commissioner on the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission for 12 years. In addition, he was one of the founding members of the Racial Justice Coalition, an organization created to mobilize the community in support of a law enforcement data collection bill to end the practice of racial profiling in California.

From 2002 through 2016, Mr. Reynolds served as the board chair of Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ), a Bayview/Hunters Point-based non-profit organization focused on youth leadership development and addressing the legacies of environmental racism in Southeast San Francisco. Currently, LEJ is leading the largest wetlands restoration project in San Francisco history. He remains actively involved with LEJ.

Mr. Reynolds also sits on the advisory board of the Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University. Part think-tank, part cultural center, the Institute challenges assumptions about disability and differently abled people. Mr. Reynolds served as a Senior Program Associate with Facing History and Ourselves from 2002 to 2018. His work with Facing History and Ourselves has focused on providing professional development to teachers in deepening their classroom implementation of the *Race and Membership in American History: The Eugenics Movement* resource book. The book focuses on four domains of eugenic policy influence including education, immigration, marriage restriction and sterilization. Currently, he is working as founder of Milton Reynolds Consulting.

## II: Case #2 “Prison to School Pipeline” Moderator:

### **Judge Julia Alloggiamento**

*Judge of the Santa Clara County Superior Court*



The Honorable Julia Alloggiamento was born and raised in San Jose, California. She graduated *cum laude* from UCLA undergraduate and *magna cum laude* from University of California, Hastings College of Law. After law school, she clerked for the Federal District Court in Los Angeles and then worked for several years at Morrison & Foerster as a litigation associate.

In 1998, she returned to San Jose to work in the community in which she grew up, serving as a Deputy District Attorney from 1998-2010. During her last several years as a DA, she served as a “Community Prosecutor” working directly in the community and in partnership with educators, community-based organizations, neighborhood associations and local government to focus on crime prevention and intervention. Part of her assignment included working on new approaches to address truancy in the ESUHSD. She helped bring the nationally acclaimed “Parent Project” to Santa Clara County, a program which focuses on *giving parents the tools* to change unhealthy and destructive behavior of their adolescents to help keep youth out of the criminal justice system.

Judge Alloggiamento was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge in January 2011. She has presided over misdemeanors, drug treatment court, and felony criminal trials. Since January 2019, she has presided over Juvenile Justice cases, including overseeing the dually involved youth calendar with children involved in both the juvenile justice and dependency systems. Judge Alloggiamento has led the Court Community Outreach Committee as Chair since 2012. Judge Alloggiamento is committed to providing outreach, education and access to the community on issues related to the justice system. In 2016, she was recognized as the special honoree at the SCCBA Women’s Lawyers’ Section Annual Reception Honoring Santa Clara County Women Judges.

### III: Panelists for Case #3 – Immigration & ICE

#### **Mr. Richard Konda**

*Executive Director of Asian Law Alliance*



Mr. Konda is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Asian Law Alliance (ALA), a non-profit organization that provides equal access to justice for Asian Pacific Islander and low-income communities in the Silicon Valley. Since his days in law school, Mr. Konda has been at the forefront of advocating for justice in the community. Under the leadership of Mr. Konda, the ALA is continuing to fulfill its mission of promoting self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and a better quality of life for all through providing legal counseling, community education, and community organizing.

The ALA has assisted tens of thousands of people in obtaining justice in the immigration process, housing, and access to basic human and legal rights. Today, the organization continues to keep its doors open for those individuals who are limited in English, who do not understand the legal system, who cannot afford legal fees and who face the reality of discrimination.

Notably, Mr. Konda actively participated in the movement to obtain redress and reparations for Japanese Americans incarcerated by the U.S. government during World War II. He has received numerous awards and commendations including recognition by the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission with the Jim McEntee Lifetime Achievement Award.

Moreover, after the tragic police shooting of Bich Cau Thi Tran on July 13, 2003, Mr. Konda was active in advocating for justice for the Tran family. He facilitated the formation of the Coalition for Justice and Accountability that continues to advocate for humane police practices.

Mr. Konda is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and he received his Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University Law School.

**Ms. Zahra Billoo**

*Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relation*



Ms. Billoo serves as the Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relation in its San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA) office, which is one of the oldest and largest CAIR chapter offices nationwide. She manages this office with a team of civil rights and social justice advocates dedicated to the empowerment of American Muslims through legal services, legislative advocacy, and community organizing.

Under Ms. Billoo’s leadership, CAIR-SFBA has significantly expanded its capabilities to provide “know-your-rights” sessions on a near-weekly basis to mosque and community members in the San Francisco Bay Area. The organization also provides direct legal representation to Bay Area residents facing civil rights violations including agency interviews, employment discrimination, airport harassment, school bullying, and hate crimes.

Ms. Billoo was presented with the 2017 Human Rights Award from the Society of American Law Teachers and the 2014 Unsung Hero Award from the National Lawyers Guild’s San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. She was also listed as a “Woman to Watch” in March 2017 for Women’s History Month by the San Jose Mercury News and the Chronicle of Philanthropy as their January 2018 cover story on millennials who lead.

She is currently a fellow with the American Leadership Forum’s Silicon Valley Chapter and an alumna of the Rockwood Fellowship for a New California, the Leader Spring Executive Directors Fellowship, and USC’s American Muslim Civil Leadership Institute. Ms. Billoo earned her undergraduate degree from the California State University, Long Beach, and her Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Hastings.

### III: Case #3 “Immigration & ICE” Moderator:

#### **Judge Roberta S. Hayashi**

*Judge of the Santa Clara County Superior Court*



The Honorable Roberta S. Hayashi is a Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge, currently assigned to hear Civil Trials. She was appointed to the bench in December 2014. After her initial assignment in the Criminal Division - Misdemeanors, Judge Hayashi served as an all-purpose judge in the Family Law division for over four years.

She is co-chair of the Court’s Amicus Committee and serves on the Court’s Community Outreach Committee, where she leads the Court’s collaboration with The Fred Korematsu Institute, Asian Law Alliance, the Council of American-Islamic Relations, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, and the Santa Clara University Law

School, to commemorate Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution (January 30). She is the 2019/2020 President of the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association.

Judge Hayashi is a third-generation Japanese-American, who was born and raised in Santa Clara County, where she practiced business litigation and employment law for over 32 years before her appointment to the bench. She was President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association in 1996, and the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley in 2002-03. She has been a lecturer at Santa Clara University Law School and Lincoln Law School. Before she became a judge, she authored articles and provided continuing legal education in the areas of employment law, legal ethics and trial practice. She also was a frequent lecturer and presenter on human resource topics, including Prevention of Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Judge Hayashi graduated from Stanford University and obtained her law degree from U.C. Davis School of Law.