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JUDGE LILLIAN K. SING ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS AS A SAN FRANCISCO JURIST

The First Asian American Female Judge in Northern Calif., Judge Sing Served in Every Division of the SF Superior Court

SAN FRANCISCO -- Judge Lillian K. Sing, who is known as a trailblazer, devoted community leader and mentor who was sought out to speak and teach jurists throughout the U.S. and Asia, is retiring September 17 after serving as a Judge in San Francisco for more than three decades.

"I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be a jurist of this great institution for over 32 years," Judge Sing said. "I have spent some of the best years of my life alongside some of the most dedicated and talented judges and staff of this Court. My mother always told me that I was born to serve. As Pope Paul VI said, 'If you want peace, work for justice.' That has always been my motto and I will continue to strive for peace and work for justice."

Judge Sing's tireless commitment to justice fueled a lifelong passion for helping others inside and outside the courtroom – qualities that she honed prior to her law career when she obtained higher education degrees in psychology and social work. Her deep community

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connections, leadership ability and abundant energy led to numerous enduring achievements in which she served as a founding member, including the launch of San Francisco's award-winning Drug Court; Chinese for Affirmative Action (1971-1999); Asian American Bar Association (1976); and the Rape of Nanking Redress Coalition (1998-present). Her willingness to help Asian Americans in the community and the legal profession led to countless awards, teaching activities and travels to Asia.

Judge Sing was just as ubiquitous inside the Court. Among her colleagues, she achieved the distinction of the only sitting Judge who has presided in every Court division.

"After 32 years, it's hard to comprehend that Judge Sing will no longer be with us on a daily basis," Presiding Judge John K. Stewart said. "It is the end of an era. So many of the collaborative courts, policies, procedures and traditions that we now take for granted were due to Judge Sing's leadership, hard work and dedication. She is truly one-of-a-kind."

Judge Cynthia Ming-mei Lee, who served as Presiding Judge in 2013-14, added, "As the first Asian American female Judge on our Court, Judge Sing has been a trailblazer and a mentor to the Asian Judges on the Bench. She has served the Court exceedingly well over the three-plus decades here, serving in every division, an accomplishment few Judges have achieved. Judge Sing set the example for our Bench of compassion, dignity, collegiality and openness to new ways of achieving justice. It is a real loss to the Court."

Assistant Presiding Judge Teri L. Jackson said, "During Judge Sing's tenure on the Bench as well as her work before joining the Bench, she has worked tirelessly for fairness and justice, and for those who did not have a voice. She is the ultimate role model."

In recognition of her vast experience and standing in the legal community, Judge Sing has served as a Faculty Judge in 1987 and 1992 for the California Center for Judicial Education & Research and the National Judicial College in 2002.

An enthusiastic supporter of judicial exchanges, Judge Sing hosted numerous visiting foreign delegations, which led to invitations for her to travel to China for similar programs.

In 2008, Judge Sing served as Advising Judge to the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China, Juvenile Justice Study Delegation. Likewise in 2006, Judge Sing was invited to head a delegation of nine Asian American scholars to China. Two years earlier, Judge Sing was a lecturer and moot court and mock trial presenter in the Judicial Exchange Program in Shanghai, hosted by the Shanghai High People's Court.

Judge Sing has a long record of mentorship and promoting diversity in her community and beyond. She was invited many times to serve as a panelist or moderator for local, national and international legal and community events, including:

- Co-Chair, "An International Conference, 50 years of Denial: Japan and Its Wartime Responsibilities," Rape of Nanking Redress Coalition, 2001.
- Panelist, "The Weight of History-Japan, the United States and the Legacy of the Second World War." The US/Japan 21st Century Project, The Japan Society of Northern California, 2001.
- Lecturer, International Society for the Law, Havana University, Cuba, 1999.
- Moderator, "Beyond Racial Preference," National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law, Harvard Law School, 1999.
- Panelist, "Beyond Cultural Conundrums and Stereotypes," National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law and Public Policy, Harvard Law School and Kennedy School of Government, 1998.
- Speaker, Cultural Diversity, National Association of Women Judges, 1992.
- Speaker, "Opportunities and Blocks to Success for Minorities in the Legal Profession," Harvard Law School, 1991.

Other legal and community activities include:

- Board of Trustees, San Francisco Bar Association Endowment Board, 1987-1989.
- State Chair, California Asian American Judges Association, 1986, 2001;
- Board Member, San Francisco Institute for Criminal Justice, 1984, 1990-1991;

- Board of Trustees, San Francisco Bar Association Foundation, 1983-1985; and
- Co-Chair, Asian American Task Force on University Admissions, 1985-1990.

Judge Sing's other judicial endeavors include:

- Sitting on the California Supreme Court, assigned by Chair of the Judicial Council, Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird, to hear Wilks v. Mouton;
- Presiding as an Associate Justice with the late Justice Stanley Mosk in Soviet Union v. Anatoly Scharansky, Court of International Tribunal; and
- Serving in the San Francisco Superior Court in numerous committee positions, including Executive Committee (2001) and the Grand Jury Committee (2001).

Judge Sing's outstanding commitment to public service and community involvement led to numerous awards, among them:

- Outstanding Contribution Award, San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, 1982.
- Women Making History Award, then-U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer, 1982.
- Honoree, First Asian American Woman Judge in Northern California, Asian American Bar Association, 1982.
- Trial Judge of the Year Award, Trial Lawyers Association, 1989.
- Presiding Judges Award, Lawyers' Club of San Francisco, 1989.
- Justice Award, Alice B. Toklas Club, San Francisco, 1990.
- Alumni Seal Award, Occidental College, 1993.
- Outstanding Jurist Award, San Francisco Women Lawyers Alliance, 1993.
- Honored as a Living Treasure, Asian Pacific Democratic Club, 1995.
- Profile of Excellence Award, American Broadcasting Communications, 1999.
- Civil Rights 2001 Award, Organization of Chinese Americans, San Francisco Chapter, 2001.
- Women Who Could Be President Award, League of Women Voters, 2002.

Judge Sing's retirement leaves three vacancies on the 52-member San Francisco Superior Court Bench.

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