

## JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

---

---

For more information about Supreme Court Justices and Appellate Court Justices, visit [www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov](http://www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov) or [www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov) or call the toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

---

---

### **The Electoral Procedure**

Under the California Constitution, justices of the Supreme Court and the courts of appeal are subject to confirmation by the voters. The public votes “yes” or “no” on whether to retain each justice.

These judicial offices are nonpartisan.

Before a person can become an appellate justice, the Governor must submit the candidate’s name to the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission, which is comprised of public members and lawyers. The commission conducts a thorough review of the candidate’s background and qualifications, with community input, and then forwards its evaluation of the candidate to the Governor.

The Governor then reviews the commission’s evaluation and officially nominates the candidate, whose qualifications are subject to public comment before examination and review by the Commission on Judicial Appointments. That commission consists of the Chief Justice of California, the Attorney General of California, and a senior Presiding Justice of the Courts of Appeal. The Commission on Judicial Appointments must then confirm or reject the nomination. Only if confirmed does the nominee become a justice.

Following confirmation, the justice is sworn into office and is subject to voter approval at the next gubernatorial election, and thereafter at the conclusion of each term. The term prescribed by the California Constitution for justices of the Supreme Court and courts of appeal is 12 years. Justices are confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments only until the next gubernatorial election, at which time they run for retention of the remainder of the term, if any, of their predecessor, which will be either four or eight years. (Elections Code Section 9083)

**MING WILLIAM CHIN**, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California

**BAR ADMISSION:** Admitted to California Bar in 1970.

**EDUCATION:** J.D. University of San Francisco School of Law, 1967; B.A. University of San Francisco, 1964.

**PROFESSIONAL LEGAL BACKGROUND:** 1967–1971, United States Army, Captain; 1970–1972, Deputy District Attorney, Alameda County; 1973–1988, Private Law Practice, Aiken, Kramer & Cummings—Oakland, California.

**JUDICIAL BACKGROUND:** Associate Justice, Supreme Court of California, 1996–present; Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three, 1995–1996; Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three, 1990–1994; Judge, Superior Court, Alameda County, 1988–1990.

---

---

**CARLOS R. MORENO**, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California

**BAR ADMISSION:** Admitted to California Bar in 1975.

**EDUCATION:** Stanford Law School, J.D., 1975. Yale University, B.A., 1970.

**PROFESSIONAL LEGAL BACKGROUND:** Deputy City Attorney, Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office, 1975–1979. Attorney, Kelley Drye & Warren law firm, 1979–1986.

**JUDICIAL BACKGROUND:** Associate Justice, Supreme Court of California, 2001 to present (nominated by Governor Gray Davis and confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments and by the electorate, 2002); Judge, United States District Court, Central District of California, 1998–2001 (appointed by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate); Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court, 1993–1998 (appointed by Governor Pete Wilson and retained by electorate, 1994); Judge, Compton Municipal Court, 1986–1993 (appointed by Governor George Deukmejian and retained by electorate, 1988).

---

---

On July 21, 2010, the Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, was nominated by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to be the next Chief Justice of California. The California Constitution requires that Justice Cantil-Sakauye’s nomination be confirmed or rejected by the Commission on Judicial Appointments. If confirmed by the Commission, then Justice Cantil-Sakauye will be up for election on the November 2, 2010, General Election ballot. This voter information guide was required to be printed beginning on August 9, 2010, prior to the Commission’s meeting to consider the nomination of Justice Cantil-Sakauye. For more information on judicial elections, see page 90 of this guide. For updated information on the Supreme Court Chief Justice nomination, go to [www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov](http://www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov) or [www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov).

**TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE**, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District

**BAR ADMISSION:** November 1984.

**EDUCATION:** U.C. Davis School of Law, J.D., 1984; U.C. Davis, B. A. – Rhetoric, 1980; Sacramento City College, A.A. 1978.

**PROFESSIONAL LEGAL BACKGROUND:** Deputy Legislative Secretary to Governor George Deukmejian (1989–1990); Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary to Governor George Deukmejian (1988–1989); Prosecutor, Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office (1984–1988).

**JUDICIAL BACKGROUND:** Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District (appointed 2005, retained 2006); Superior Court Judge, Sacramento County (appointed 1997, elected thereafter); Municipal Court Judge, Sacramento County (appointed 1990, elected thereafter).