



# Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

[www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov)

---

## REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 23-132*

For business meeting on September 19, 2023

---

**Title**

Court Facilities: Proposal to Name New  
Courthouse in Downtown Sacramento

**Agenda Item Type**

Action Required

**Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected**

None

**Effective Date**

September 19, 2023

**Recommended by**

Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair  
Hon. Patricia M. Lucas (Ret.), Vice-Chair  
Hon. Keith D. Davis (Ret.), Chair of the  
Subcommittee on Courthouse Names

**Date of Report**

August 30, 2023

**Contact**

Pella McCormick, 916-643-7024  
[pella.mccormick@jud.ca.gov](mailto:pella.mccormick@jud.ca.gov)  
Tamer Ahmed, 916-643-6917  
[tamer.ahmed@jud.ca.gov](mailto:tamer.ahmed@jud.ca.gov)  
Jagan Singh, 415-865-7755  
[jagandeep.singh@jud.ca.gov](mailto:jagandeep.singh@jud.ca.gov)

---

### Executive Summary

The Court Facilities Advisory Committee and its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names recommend approving the proposal to name the new courthouse under construction in downtown Sacramento the “Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse.” This approval provides a name for the new superior courthouse that honors Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye’s distinguished service on the Superior Court of Sacramento County, the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, and as the Chief Justice of California.

### Recommendation

The Court Facilities Advisory Committee and its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names recommend that the Judicial Council, effective September 19, 2023, approve the proposal to name the new courthouse under construction in downtown Sacramento the “Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse.”

## Relevant Previous Council Action

The council has taken no previous action on this courthouse naming proposal. In July 2023, the council adopted a revision to its *Courthouse Naming Policy* (see Link A).

## Analysis/Rationale

Currently, Judicial Council Facilities Services is managing the construction of a capital outlay project in downtown Sacramento to provide a new courthouse for the Superior Court of Sacramento County. Once completed, this new courthouse will be a state-owned, 18-story building of approximately 540,000 square feet and 53 courtrooms to provide service countywide. Consolidated into the new courthouse will be the superior court's criminal and civil calendars and operations (from the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse) and information technology operations (from the Information Technology facility). The project's estimated completion date is May 2024.

Following are the practical benefits of naming the new courthouse currently under construction:

- “New Sacramento Criminal Courthouse” has been merely a project placeholder name;
- Providing an official name at this time allows for it to be incorporated into the signage—with design, fabrication, and installation paid from the budget of the capital outlay project; and
- The new courthouse would have an official name when it opens for service to the public.

The Superior Court of Sacramento County has exhibited a long-standing tradition of naming its courthouses after distinguished contributors to the judicial branch of government, as five of its seven existing court facilities are named after persons:

1. B. T. Collins Juvenile Justice Center;
2. Carol Miller Justice Center;
3. Lorenzo E. Patiño Hall of Justice;
4. William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse; and
5. Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse.

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye was born and raised in Sacramento County. To honor her many contributions to the legal community and the third branch of government up through her term as Chief Justice of California (2011–2022), the Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) and its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names recommend that the new courthouse under construction in downtown Sacramento be named after Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye.

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has been a trailblazer. In a life of distinguished achievements, her many accomplishments include the following:

- Deputy district attorney for Sacramento County for four years beginning in 1984.
- Senior staff to Governor Deukmejian from 1989 to 1990, serving as deputy legal affairs secretary and deputy legislative secretary.
- Appointed by Governor George Deukmejian to the Sacramento Municipal Court in 1990.

- Elevated by Governor Pete Wilson to the Superior Court of Sacramento County in 1997, where among other contributions she accomplished the following:
  - Established the first domestic violence court;
  - Chaired the Criminal Law Committee; and
  - Served as a member of the presiding judge’s task force on domestic violence and the Home Court committee.
- Elevated by Governor Pete Wilson to the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District in 2005.
- Appointed by former Chief Justice Ronald M. George to the Judicial Council of California in 2008, where she chaired and served on many committees, including:
  - Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch;
  - Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force;
  - Executive and Planning Committee;
  - Rules and Projects Committee;
  - Judicial Recruitment and Retention Working Group; and
  - Commission for Impartial Courts Implementation Committee.
- Nominated by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as Chief Justice of California in 2010, becoming the first Asian-Filipina American and second woman to serve as Chief Justice.
- Selected by the Supreme Court of California as a Special Master to hear disciplinary hearings before the Commission on Judicial Performance.
- Elected president of the Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court.
- Appointed as a member of the board of directors of the National Conference of Chief Justices.
- Developed the “Access 3D” initiative—her vision for access to justice to be physical, remote, and equal.
- Involved as a former board member of several nonprofit organizations and as an active participant in numerous professional community organizations.
- Recipient of numerous awards.<sup>1</sup>

There is strong local community support for this naming proposal, as expressed by numerous jurists, professionals, organizations, and educational institutions (see Attachments B–M and P–U).

The advisory committee and its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names reviewed the naming proposal against section III.B.2.b (naming a courthouse after a person) of the council’s *Courthouse Naming Policy* (see Link A). They found that this proposal complies with all requirements—including overcoming the 10-year rebuttable presumption regarding the naming of a court facility after a living person—because Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye’s character and reputation have been investigated extensively and repeatedly in connection with prior appointments to positions of public service, such as the California Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of California. (*Id.* at § III.B.2.b.ii.)

---

<sup>1</sup> See Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye’s bio, available at <https://supreme.courts.ca.gov/about-court/justices-court/past-present-justices/chief-justice-tani-gorre-cantil-sakauye>.

## **Policy implications**

Per the council’s naming policy, proposals involving names of persons for court facilities require evaluation by the CFAC’s Subcommittee on Courthouse Names, with a recommendation to the full advisory committee. Each evaluation was carried out as described below.

## **Comments**

### ***Subcommittee on Courthouse Names***

On August 11, 2023, at a meeting open to the public, the Subcommittee on Courthouse Names reviewed and discussed three naming proposals for the new courthouse, which were to name it after (1) its location, Downtown Courthouse (see Attachment A, letter from the Superior Court of Sacramento County); (2) the former Chief Justice, Tani Cantil-Sakauye; or (3) a former judge and court executive officer, Lloyd Connelly.<sup>2</sup> The naming proposals were posted in advance of that meeting for public comment, and public comments were received in the form of 12 letters of support for naming the new courthouse under construction after former Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye, one of which also referenced Judge Connelly (see Attachment G). These letters are attached to this report (see Attachments B–M).

The subcommittee discussed the names in a two-step process: (1) Should the new courthouse under construction be named? and (2) If so, what should the name be? With respect to this two-step process, the subcommittee was unanimous: The superior courthouse under construction in downtown Sacramento should be named and identified specifically rather than generally and, for recommendation to the full CFAC, the new courthouse should be named after former Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye.

### ***Court Facilities Advisory Committee***

On August 24, 2023, at a meeting open to the public, the CFAC reviewed and discussed its subcommittee’s recommendation.<sup>3</sup> The recommendation was posted in advance of that meeting for public comment, and public comments were received in the form of seven additional letters attached to this report: five supporting naming the new courthouse after former Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye (see Attachments P–T), one supporting naming it by its location (Downtown Courthouse) (see Attachment N), and one supporting naming it after Judge Connelly (see Attachment O). Based on all information reviewed and discussed during its public meeting, including local community support, the CFAC acted by voting unanimously to affirm its subcommittee’s recommendation that the new courthouse be named after the former chief justice and as the “Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse.”

### ***Additional Comments***

Following both committee meetings described above, an additional letter was received in support of naming the new courthouse after former Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye (see Attachment U).

---

<sup>2</sup> The materials for this meeting are available for reference at [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cfac-20230811-cn-materials.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cfac-20230811-cn-materials.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The materials for this meeting are available for reference at [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cfac-20230824-materials.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cfac-20230824-materials.pdf).

### **Alternatives considered**

Because of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye's distinguished service as a jurist on the Superior Court of Sacramento County, the California Court of Appeal, and as Chief Justice of California, and her many contributions to the legal community and the third branch of government, the committee determined that the option to name the new courthouse after the former Chief Justice complied with the council's naming policy and thus chose the recommended action from among the three courthouse name proposals described above. The CFAC and its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names unanimously support this proposal.

### **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

Costs associated with the design, fabrication, and installation of the signage for the new courthouse under construction in downtown Sacramento would be paid from the budget of this capital outlay project.

### **Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Downtown Courthouse from Presiding Judge Michael G. Bowman, Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, June 29, 2023
2. Attachment B: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from the Cruz Reynoso Bar Association, July 31, 2023
3. Attachment C: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Lauri Damrell, president of the Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court, July 24, 2023
4. Attachment D: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Ruthe Catolico Ashley, past president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and Asian Bar Association of Sacramento, July 7, 2023
5. Attachment E: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Aparna Agnihotri, president of the South Asian Bar Association of Sacramento and the SABA Board, July 5, 2023
6. Attachment F: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Kimberly J. Procida, president of the Sacramento Filipino American Lawyers Association and the SacFALA Board, July 15, 2023
7. Attachment G: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and Judge Lloyd Connelly from Arthur G. Scotland, retired presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, and of counsel to Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni LLP, July 31, 2023
8. Attachment H: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Kevin R. Johnson, Dean, School of Law, University of California, Davis, July 20, 2023
9. Attachment I: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Michael Hunter Schwartz, Dean, McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, August 7, 2023
10. Attachment J: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Justice Shama Hakim Mesiwala, president of the Milton L. Schwartz/David F. Levi American Inn of Court, July 26, 2023

11. Attachment K: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Attorney General Rob Bonta, Office of the Attorney General, State of California, August 9, 2023
12. Attachment L: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Andi Liebenbaum, president of the Sacramento County Bar Association, August 11, 2023
13. Attachment M: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from United States Circuit Judge Consuelo Maria Callahan, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, August 11, 2023
14. Attachment N: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Downtown Courthouse from Letty Litchfield, president of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, August 14, 2023
15. Attachment O: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Judge Connelly from Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Office of the Mayor, City of Sacramento, August 11, 2023
16. Attachment P: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Justice Ronald B. Robie, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, August 16, 2023
17. Attachment Q: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Associate Justice Stacy Boulware Eurie, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, August 16, 2023
18. Attachment R: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Justice Shama Hakim Mesiwala, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, August 18, 2023
19. Attachment S: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Presiding Justice Laurie M. Earl, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, August 18, 2023
20. Attachment T: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Assembly Member Evan Low, Twenty-sixth District of the California State Assembly and chair of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, August 16, 2023
21. Attachment U: Letter supporting the naming proposal of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye from Associate Justice Harry E. Hull, Jr. California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, August 30, 2023
22. Link A: *Courthouse Naming Policy*, July 21, 2023, [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cthsenaming-policy-2023.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cthsenaming-policy-2023.pdf)



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

**MICHAEL G. BOWMAN**  
PRESIDING JUDGE  
DEPARTMENT 47

720 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 874-5487

June 29, 2023

**VIA E-MAIL**

Hon. Keith D. Davis, Chair  
Subcommittee on Courthouse Names  
Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
[kddavis@sb-courts.org](mailto:kddavis@sb-courts.org)

Re: Courthouse Naming Policy

Dear Judge Davis:

I write to you pursuant to the process set forth in the Judicial Council's Courthouse Naming Policy to request a name for the new courthouse under construction in downtown Sacramento. We respectfully request that our new courthouse be named "Superior Court of California, Sacramento County, Downtown Courthouse."

We do not take this step lightly. We come to our recommendation after months of consideration, robust discussion, and constructive debate. Ultimately, we reached a consensus as a bench that the best approach to serving the people of Sacramento County is one that reflects the highest values of the judicial branch itself: a commitment to independence, neutrality, and the public's access to justice. We believe that a generic name that references only the court's location best exemplifies those ideals. Such a name would remain unaffiliated with any particular person and, more importantly, the perspectives or causes that public sentiment may attach to a particular person, no matter how esteemed or noble they may be. A name that references our court's location carries a simple, but profound message: that the public we serve comes first, and it is their access to our courthouse that we prioritize over the achievements of our colleagues in the legal or political arena. We of course differ from our two sister branches of government in that we are not political; our proposed name reflects our commitment to remain so. Our mission is to serve everyone equally under the law, regardless of political affiliation or any other characteristic. In this regard, it is the public's courthouse, and we wish to put them first.

Hon. Keith D. Davis  
Subcommittee on Courthouse Names  
Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
June 29, 2023  
Page 2

We are aware that changes to the Courthouse Naming Policy are under discussion, and we appreciate that, if approved by the Judicial Council, those changes would provide greater leeway to name new courthouses after individuals. We ourselves considered such an approach and note that there are many deserving candidates with deep ties to Sacramento County who merited our serious consideration. Indeed, if we were to propose that our new courthouse be named after an individual, a majority of our Judges support naming it after our former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Tani Cantil-Sakauye. Born in Sacramento where she resides to this day, the former Chief Justice served on the Sacramento County Superior Court and the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, based in Sacramento, before her elevation to the California Supreme Court. Her accomplishments, spanning more than thirty years in the judiciary, and all that she and her family overcame to achieve them, are well-known to all of us here in Sacramento and throughout the Judicial Council and, indeed, the State of California. She, without doubt, warrants the most serious consideration for this honor, particularly in light of the proposed changes to the Courthouse Naming Policy that provide an avenue for new courthouses to be named after living persons.

However, despite her achievements and all the support she continues to enjoy from our bench, we nonetheless believe that the highest ideal for our new courthouse is to remain unaffiliated with any particular person, however worthy she may be. The independence that is essential to the judicial branch is best served by this approach. It is the fair, equal and consistent application of law that must be our focus, not the identity of any particular jurist. The name of our new courthouse should reflect this enduring commitment.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our request to this subcommittee, and will take this moment to again thank the Judicial Council for the new downtown courthouse that is taking shape to be finished next year. We look forward to the significant step forward it will represent in service to our Sacramento community and express our deepest appreciation for your support.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Bowman  
Presiding Judge

cc: Hon. Brad R. Hill



# CRUZ REYNOSO

## BAR ASSOCIATION

20 Bicentennial Circle Sacramento, CA 95826

July 31, 2023

Hon. Brad Hill  
 Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
 California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
 2424 Ventura Street  
 Fresno, CA 93721  
*Via email:* [brad.hill@jud.ca.gov](mailto:brad.hill@jud.ca.gov)

Dear Presiding Justice Hill,

The Cruz Reynoso Bar Association (CRBA) offers this letter to support the naming of the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento downtown courthouse after former Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye's contributions to the legal community in Sacramento and throughout our state make her the ideal candidate upon which to bestow this honor.

As a native Sacramentan, Justice Cantil-Sakauye's connections to our area are both expansive and profound. Her life has been anchored to the Sacramento area beginning in her childhood, throughout her higher education, and up until the present time. Her contributions to the legal field are equally remarkable given her many roles of public service, including as a Sacramento County district attorney, as a member of then-Governor Duekmeijin's senior staff, as well as her many jurist positions culminating with her serving as the Chief Justice of our State's highest Court. Throughout her career, she has also worked extensively to enhance access to justice through various initiatives promoting civics education, increased court funding, as well as advocacy for legal reforms to combat inequality and unfairness. Through her work with the Judicial Council of California, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has also demonstrated a deep commitment to increasing the diversity of the judiciary, safeguarding the impartiality of our judicial officers, and focusing the resources of the courts to better serve the people of California.

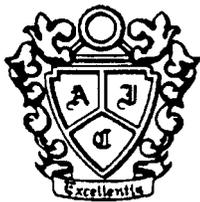
In no uncertain terms, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has left an indelible mark upon our state's system of justice. She is renowned in our statewide legal community as a leader and model who inspires others to break down barriers, paving a path for others to follow in her footsteps of service through one's dedication to equity and access to justice. The CRBA can think of no better individual for whom the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento downtown courthouse should be named after.

Respectfully submitted,

CRBA Board of Directors

Victoria Fernández, *President*  
 Mayra Sandoval, *Vice-President*  
 Jizell López, *Treasurer*  
 Andres Felipe García, *Secretary*  
 Brian López, *Chair*  
 Joe Ayala, *General Counsel*

Robert Artuz  
 Jeremy Ávila  
 Santiago Ávila Gómez  
 Blanca Espinoza  
 Eduardo Garnica  
 Monica Jiménez



# The Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court

Center for Legal Advocacy • McGeorge School of Law • University of the Pacific • 3200 Fifth Avenue • Sacramento, California 95817

July 24, 2023

Hon. Brad Hill, Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Naming New Sacramento County Courthouse in Honor of Retired Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye

Dear Presiding Justice Hill:

I write on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court to enthusiastically support the proposal to name the new Sacramento County courthouse in honor of our past president and former Chief Justice of California, Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

The Kennedy Inn of Court is an organization of judicial officers, attorneys, and law students dedicated to promoting ethics, civility, professionalism, and excellence in the practice of law. Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has exemplified these ideals throughout her illustrious career. She has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to civics education and engagement; public access to the courts; diverse, transparent, fair, and efficient administration of justice; strategic planning and collaboration; and service to the people of California.

In addition to epitomizing the qualities of an exceptional and inspirational leader, jurist, role model, and mentor, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has deep ties to Sacramento and the Sacramento County Superior Court. Born and raised in Sacramento, she attended local public schools before graduating from college and law school in nearby Davis. As a Deputy District Attorney, she prosecuted cases in the Sacramento County Superior Court before serving as a Judge of that court and then as a Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento. During her tenure as president of the Kennedy Inn, she was elevated to the Supreme Court of California as its Chief Justice and maintained an office in Sacramento. Her family roots remain in Sacramento, where she continues to devote time for community service to enhance Sacramento County.

If named for Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the Sacramento County Superior Court's new downtown courthouse would be a beacon of light for the rule of law, access to justice, diversity, fairness, and the highest standards of judicial administration, ethics, civility, and professionalism. Naming the courthouse in her honor would be a fitting tribute to a Sacramento native who has championed those principles. It would also serve to inspire future generations of Sacramentans and Californians to follow in her footsteps of excellence and dedication to public service.

Accordingly, as members of the Kennedy Inn of Court's Executive Committee, Hon. Lawrence Brown, Hon. Connie Callahan, Hon. Kevin Culhane (ret.), Hon. Garen Horst, Hon. Todd Irby, Hon. Ronald Sargis, Hon. Arthur Scotland (ret.), Jeffrey Galvin, Karen Jacobsen, Wazhma Mojaddidi, Mary-Beth Moylan, Uduak Oduok, and Sue Ann Van Dermeyden join me in enthusiastically supporting the naming of the courthouse in honor of our past-president Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

Respectfully,

Lauri Damrell  
President, Anthony M. Kennedy Inn of Court

*Ruthe Catolico Ashley*

1749 Durrow Court  
Vallejo, CA 94591  
916.838.5457

July 7, 2023

Honorable Brad Hill, Presiding Justice  
Fifth District Court of Appeal  
2525 Capitol St.  
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Naming of Sacramento Courthouse for TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE

Dear Justice Hill:

I write to ask for serious consideration in naming the new Sacramento Courthouse after former Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. I've known Tani since we were at the Sacramento DA's office together in the 1980's. I was an intern from McGeorge SOL and she was a brand new DA after not being able to find a lawyer job. We've stayed close since then.

I've had the privilege of watching her meteoric rise from those early days to being Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Instead of going into a great deal of detail, I am attaching my letter written to the Commission on Judicial Appointments in support of her Supreme Court Chief Justice Nomination in 2010. Also attached are my crib notes for the speech I was honored to give at her investiture celebration. My letter and notes are still true with now the amazing work added that she did as Chief Justice of California.

For the past twelve years, she has inspired and motivated a whole new generation of Filipina attorneys because of who she is and how she gives back to the community. My focus will be on a specific pipeline of Filipina women attorneys even though her magic goes far beyond this small group. I was able to connect with many of these young leaders who wanted to sign on to this letter to urge strong consideration of this request. Because time is of the essence, this one letter carries the weight of the signatories below. You can see that her influence as a woman of color with Filipina women lawyers is not limited to California – but nationally.

She continues to be a mentor, role-model, and inspiration to so many. Having the Sacramento Courthouse named after her would be a message to the world that excellence, commitment, grit, and service as a trailblazer is recognized by all.

With warm regards,

Ruthe Catolico Ashley  
*Past President, NAPABA and ABAS (National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and Asian Bar Association of Sacramento)*

Jinnifer Pitcher  
*President, ABAS*

Grace Arupo Rodriguez  
*Past President ABAS & Asst Deputy Director, Legal Affairs Division, Dept of Consumer Affairs*

Rosielyn Pulmano  
*Chief Consultant, California Assembly Health Committee*

Rozzana Verder-Aliga  
*Vice Mayor, City of Vallejo*

Dee Brown  
*Past ABAS President & Administrative Law Judge*

Marlo Nisperos  
*Past President APABA Solano County & Administrative Law Judge*

Patrice deGuzman Huber  
*Administrative Law Judge*

Anna Mercado-Clark  
*President-elect, NAPABA*

Jeri Gonzales Abrams  
*Immediate Past NFALA President (National Filipino American Lawyers Association)*

Gage Javier  
*President, NFALA*

Mika Domingo  
*President, California Women Lawyers*

Christine Start  
*Founder Pinay Powerhouse, Past President FBANC (Filipino Bar Association of Northern California)*

Jennifer Sta. Ana  
*Past President FBANC*

Mari Bandoma Callado  
*Past President FBANC*

Laurie Lubiano  
*Past President FBANC*

Lorna Garcia  
*Past President FBANC*

Vanessa Candeleria  
*Past President FBANC*

Abigail Rivamonte  
*Past President FBANC*

Angelica Leonardo  
*President, APABA Solano County*

Kimberly Procida  
*President, Sacramento Filipino American Lawyers Association*

Serena Warner  
*Immediate Past President SacFALA*

Hildegarde Aguinaldo  
*Past President, Philippine American Bar President*

Frances Prizzia  
*President, Filipino Lawyers of Orange County*

Mercedes Cook  
*Philippine American Bar Association (Los Angeles)*

Pauline Villaneuva  
*President, Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego*

Monica Glicker  
*CEO, Public Law Center*

Linda Cabatic  
*Former Director, Department of General Services*

Note: This is an amazing list of Filipino Women Lawyer Leaders who all have been influenced and inspired by the Chief. They readily signed in one afternoon in their individual capacities for this woman we all know, love and support. These ladies hold many more titles: Governor appointments, leadership in a variety of other organizations, law firm luminaires and more.

PS: Thanks for all you do for the courts, the BBC, and the support of our pathway in Fresno County that introduces students from High School into Law School to law-related careers. Fresno is part of the strongest Regional Advisory Council we have in the state. Kudos to Fresno!

*Ruthe Patolico Ashley*

3681 Black Oak Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95765  
916.838.5457

August 1, 2010

Commission on Judicial Appointments  
350 McAllister Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Justice Tani Cantil Sakauye

To Chief Justice George and the Commission:

I write in support of the nomination of Justice Tani Cantil Sakauye to Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. I wish I could talk about Tani in person at her August 25 hearing. However, I will be celebrating 40 years of marriage on an Alaskan cruise and catching a plane out of Ketchikan for a day could be tough. Therefore, I will encapsulate what a great nomination this is in this letter.

My perspective comes from several views: that of a lawyer, a woman, a person of color, a leader in local/state/national bars, and a friend.

*Lawyer:* Tani was a deputy district attorney when I was an older law student and legal intern in the Sacramento DA's office. As a new lawyer, she had a reputation with even the most grizzled prosecutors of being on top of her game – tough, fair, intelligent but with a real feel for the human condition. Tani was generous and kind to an older 3<sup>rd</sup> career woman of color and I knew she had the special something that would bring impact to the profession. From her position in the Governor's office to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Courts of Appeal bench, Tani has proven that she is smart, fair, a good listener, a consummate lawyer and an excellent judge.

*Woman:* Tani has embraced her gender and used it to open doors for women of all ages in the law. Her involvement with law students has been long-standing. She understands from her own life experience what so many young women, especially young women of color, have to face and the obstacles that must be overcome. By her life and her career, she has become a shining star and the epitome of a real life story that dreams can come true. She has inspired many to strive and to dream to be just like her.

*Person of Color:* Tani, as a Filipina woman, has lived through the struggles of being a minority in a majority world. Yet, with grace and aplomb, being an Asian Pacific Islander has become something to celebrate throughout her career. Even as she gained more and more responsibility and became more visible, Tani stay engaged and dedicated to her community of API lawyers and to the Filipino community. I remember when Tani and I were privileged to be part of an impressive group of Filipinas being honored in a parade. We were proud to be part of these sisters, but found we were the only two without an ethnic dress. We marched proudly but went straight to one of the fair vendors in order to "suit" up properly the next time. Tani never forgets where she comes from, yet she sits with the decision makers and leaders at the highest level and remains humble and open.

*Her profession:* Giving back to the profession has always been part of who Tani is. It has never been something that she had to do; it was just part of her nature to be available and to give of her time and resources. She is always available as a mentor, speaker, mock interviewer, dinner companion, role model, and teacher. She is a leader in the justice system, in the Inns of Courts, in her professional associations and in her church. She has received many awards including the Trailblazer Award in 2003 from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. My 2005 Sacramento Lawyer article outlines her humble beginnings to her seat on the Courts of Appeal. Truly she is a woman for all seasons.

<https://www.sacbar.org/members/saclawyer/JanFeb2005/coverStory.html>

*Friend:* Tani and I bonded from the very beginning just because of who we both were: women of color, more specifically, Filipina lawyers. There are so few of us, that from our first meeting, we knew we were sisters. I've watched her career grow from her DA days to now. Through it all, Tani has exuded graciousness and warmth that is found in so few. Tani has an uncanny ability to build and maintain relationships. She is a true collaborator but can carry a big stick with a soft voice. All her life and professional experience and the relationships she has built have led her to this moment. I, and so many others, cherish her friendship and wish her well in this important step.

There is no better time than now to have Tani Cantil-Sakauye as the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. In a state that has a 58% population of color, her appointment would be a shining beacon on a hill. She brings extraordinary leadership skills, a collaborative nature, intelligence, experience, long-term relationships with the bench/bar and the legislature, the respect of her colleagues and the love of her friends and family. In a time when California needs stability and respect, Tani will certainly continue the legacy of Chief Justice George and will add her own special flavor to the justice system.

I applaud Governor Schwarzenegger's nomination and urge the Commission to support her nomination.

Most sincerely,



Ruthe Catalico Ashley  
*Woman lawyer of color*  
*Bar Leader*  
*Proud to be friend of Tani*

cc: Judicial Nominations Evaluation Committee  
Howard Miller, President, State Bar of California  
William Hebert, President-elect, State Bar of California

## **TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE**

**Break glass....**

**Another glass ceiling has been shattered**

**Rare and important sisterhood 3 on continental US**

**Your story is one that resonates with so many in the room tonight....**

**Parents immigrating to America with a dream for a better life**

**Working in the fields so their children could be all that they could be**

**Your success is the communities success....**

**Third generation Filipina – stand on the shoulders of those that had the courage to leave their homes to find that American dream.**

**Your appointment makes all the labor of the generations that immigrated to America worth all the sacrifices....**

**As you were inspired to choose law when you heard Filipino woman lawyer Gloria Ochoa speak....so will you inspire future generations of lawyers who see you and know it can be done....**

**One elderly Filipina women said she registered to vote for the first time after you were appointed. What a door it has**

**opened for many to connect to government and to the justice system.**

**Your appointment has been a bright light for democracy – for a country that inscribed on the Statue of Liberty:**

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

**Real live example of the American dream**

**So Tani – my friend....**

**Daughter to Mary Gorre and Clarence**

**Never dreamed that the journey from working in the fields to the supreme court would occur in just one generation**

**Daughter in law to Jiro and Dorothy**

**Father Clarence would be so proud**

**Sister to Mark and Clem**

**Wife to Mark who not at all surprised when you were picked...(17 years)**

**Mother to Hana (15) and Clair (12)**

**Trailblazer**

**Glass ceiling shatterer**

**Role model**

**Mentor**

**My ading**

**Now with a voice that will be heard**

**A legacy to be lived**

**Done all of this with SUCH GRACE, authenticity, and genuine**

**Friends, fans and family - Proud to call you CHIEF**



July 5, 2023

VIA E-MAIL [brad.hill@jud.ca.gov](mailto:brad.hill@jud.ca.gov)

Hon. Brad Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Presiding Justice Hill,

With great joy and enthusiasm, we at the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) of Sacramento urge that the new downtown Sacramento courthouse be named after retired Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye embodies the best of Sacramento and our great state. She was born and raised here, attended CK McClatchy High School in Sacramento, attended junior college here as well, and then went on to graduate from UC Davis with her undergraduate and law degrees. She served as a Sacramento County Deputy District Attorney before beginning a more than three-decade career in our state's judiciary. Indeed, she has served at all levels: municipal, superior, appellate, and our high court. And she successfully led our state through one of its deepest recessions and a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

To have the downtown Sacramento courthouse named the Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye Courthouse sends a powerful message state and nationwide: a woman of color, child of immigrants, educated exclusively in our public schools has risen to the highest form of service in our state judiciary and serves as a beacon of access to justice to all. There is no person we can think of who more aptly captures that spirit and who is from our region. We strongly urge the new courthouse be named for her.

Sincerely,

Aparna Agnihotri, President of the South Asian Bar Association of Sacramento  
&  
The SABA Board



July 15, 2023

VIA E-MAIL [brad.hill@jud.ca.gov](mailto:brad.hill@jud.ca.gov)

Hon. Brad Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Presiding Justice Hill,

The Sacramento Filipino American Lawyers Association (SacFALA) writes to support the naming of the new downtown Sacramento courthouse after retired Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye truly embodies the best of Sacramento and California. A Filipina, a child of immigrants, a product of California's public schools, she has consistently and continuously served all the people of California with integrity and a profound sense of conviction, not from an ivory tower but from a place of extraordinary understanding, empathy and caring.

Not only has she served as a pillar of our local legal community, serving at all levels of California's court system, but she has also been a true inspiration to the regional and national Filipinx community. She grew up here in Sacramento, attended C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento and UC Davis, and rose to the highest level of the state judiciary, demonstrating that people who look like us do belong in all levels of the legal profession. Her lifetime of experiences, both personal and professional, shaped her unflagging commitment to making the courts a refuge for all who seek fair treatment and equal access to justice.

We strongly encourage that the new downtown Sacramento courthouse be named the Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye Courthouse. Everyone who knows the Chief Justice, either professionally or personally, admires and respects her. It is only fitting that the new courthouse be named after her

to honor her immense contributions, her legacy of excellence and diversity and as a reminder to all of us in the legal profession of the qualities, values and vision to which we must all aspire.

Sincerely,

Kimberly J. Procida, President of the Sacramento Filipino American Lawyers Association  
&  
The SacFALA Board

Arthur G. Scotland  
Presiding Justice (retired), Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District  
Of Counsel, Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni  
1415 L Street, Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA 95814

July 31, 2023

Hon. Brad Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 9371

Naming the New Sacramento County Courthouse

Dear Presiding Justice Hill:

Having joined Executive Committee members of the Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court urging the Judicial Council of California to name the Sacramento County Superior Court's new courthouse in honor of retired Chief Justice of California Tani Cantil-Sakauye, I write separately to recommend that the Judicial Council also honor retired Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Lloyd Connelly, who served as the court's Executive Officer after his retirement from the bench.

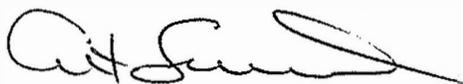
For all the reasons stated in the Inn of Court letter, Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye is worthy of the recognition. Indeed, I can think of no one else more deserving of the honor.

It also cannot be ignored that, without the efforts of Judge Connelly, approval and funding for construction of the new courthouse would not have been achieved. I know because, along with Presiding Judge Kevin Culhane, I attended Judge Connelly's meetings with California's Department of Finance to get its support for the project. His connections with the Legislature and the Governor also were instrumental in achieving the outcome.

One option would be naming the building the Tani Cantil-Sakauye Lloyd Connelly Courthouse. Another option I favor would be naming it the Tani Cantil-Sakauye Courthouse and naming a significant part of its interior in honor of Judge Connelly – for example, the Lloyd Connelly Jury Assembly Room.

Thank you and the Court Facilities Advisory Committee for considering my recommendation.

Respectfully,



Arthur Scotland

July 28, 2021

By Regular Mail and E-Mail ([brod.hill@judsys.ca.gov](mailto:brod.hill@judsys.ca.gov))  
 Administrative Presiding Justice Brad Hill  
 Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
 California Court of Appeals, Fifth Appellate District  
 2424 Ventura Street  
 Fresno, CA 93721

### Naming of Sacramento Courthouse

Dear Presiding Justice Hill:

I am honored to write this letter in support of naming the new downtown Sacramento courthouse after retired Chief Justice of California Tani Cantil-Sakauye. Besides being a path-breaking Chief Justice committed to excellence and diversity, she, in my estimation, embodies the excellence of Sacramento and everything for which our great state stands.

The Chief Justice's compelling personal story is well-known. Born and raised in Sacramento, she was a first generation college and law student. She attended CK McClatchy High School, community college, and earned her undergraduate and law degrees from UC Davis. Throughout an amazing career dedicated to justice for all, Cantil-Sakauye served at all levels of the state judicial system – municipal, superior, court of appeal, and as the Chief Justice of California. Her successes are paramount, having maintained a judicial system through a recession, budget cuts, and a global pandemic. The Chief Justice was a stabilizing force on the court and built remarkable consensus among justices addressing complex and coalitional issues.

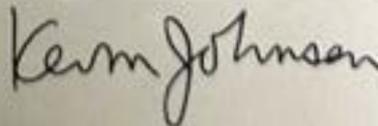
Rather than repeat her many achievements in this letter, I am enclosing an article we recently published in our alumni magazine about the Chief Justice.

Moreover, the Chief Justice has reached out to the bar associations, lawyers, law students, and others to build support for the court system. She also assisted greatly in our efforts to encourage students from underrepresented communities to consider law school and a career as an attorney. The Chief Justice's commitment to diversity in all respects has been no less than amazing and unprecedented.

Naming the new downtown Sacramento courthouse after Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye would send a powerful message to the state, as well as the nation. A role model: a woman of color, child of immigrant parents, educated exclusively in public schools, and advancing to the highest form of service in our state judiciary serves as a beacon of access to justice to all. In fact, I cannot think of anyone better than Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye to name the new downtown Sacramento courthouse.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 752-0243 or [kjohnson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kjohnson@ucdavis.edu) if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Kevin H. Ansholt  
 Dean

Attachment/Enclosure



August 7, 2023

Honorable Brad Hill  
 Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
 California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
 2424 Ventura Street  
 Fresno, CA 93721

Michael Hunter  
 Schwartz  
 Dean & Professor of  
 Law

Subject: Naming New Sacramento County Courthouse in Honor of Retired Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye

Dear Presiding Justice Hill:

3200 Fifth Avenue  
 Sacramento, CA 95817  
[www.mcgeorge.edu](http://www.mcgeorge.edu)  
 Tel 916.739.7151  
 Fax 916.739.7333

I am pleased to have this opportunity to wholeheartedly endorse the proposal to designate the new Sacramento County courthouse in tribute to our former Chief Justice of California, Tani Cantil-Sakauye. In my role as Dean of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, I have had many opportunities to interact with Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye. I can say, without reservation, that she is a wonderful and humble person, a great supporter of the rule of law, and a community servant who has created a legacy of change and advocacy for the social good.

Throughout her illustrious career, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has exemplified the ideals of our profession, unflinching ethics, civility to all, professionalism in her work and service, and excellence. She has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to civics education and engagement; public access to the courts; diverse, transparent, fair, and efficient administration of justice; strategic planning and collaboration; and service to the people of California.

In addition to her leadership and mentorship, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye holds deep-rooted connections to Sacramento and the Sacramento County Superior Court. A Sacramento native, she attended local public schools and later pursued her higher education at nearby institutions. Early in her career, she prosecuted cases in the Sacramento County Superior Court as a Deputy District Attorney, subsequently serving as a Judge of the court and later as a Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal. She served as a President of the prestigious and accomplished Anthony Kennedy Inn of Court housed on the McGeorge School of Law campus, and she continued in that role after her elevation to the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California. Her dedication to community service within Sacramento and, really, throughout our state, further supports her candidacy to be the person for whom the courthouse is named.

Should the Sacramento County Superior Court's new downtown courthouse bear the name of Tani Cantil-Sakauye, it would become a symbol of unwavering commitment to the rule of law, equitable access to justice, diversity, fairness, and the highest standards of judicial administration, ethics, civility, and professionalism. This naming would aptly honor a Sacramento native who has ardently championed these principles and inspire future

generations of Sacramentans and Californians to follow her path of excellence and dedication to public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Hunter Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Hunter Schwartz  
Dean



# AMERICAN INNS *of* COURT

THE MILTON L. SCHWARTZ DAVID F. LEVI AMERICAN INN OF COURT  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

July 26, 2023

VIA E-MAIL [brad.hill@jud.ca.gov](mailto:brad.hill@jud.ca.gov)

Hon. Brad Hill

Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee

California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District

2424 Ventura Street

Fresno, CA 93721

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HON. SHAMA MESIWALA  
PRESIDENT

HON. DANIEL P. MAGUIRE  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

HON. EMILY E. VASQUEZ  
PAST PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY AINSWORTH

VICTORIA BOESCH

ADRIANA CERVANTES

OLIVIA CLARK

HON. SONIA CORTÉS

ROBYN DRIVON

KARLI EISENBERG

HON. SEAN GAVIN

PAUL A. HEMESATH

HON. SAMUEL T. MCADAM

LAURA NEACATO

RYAN NORMAN

JAN MICHAEL ROOS

ANDREW W. STROUD

HON. JULIE WENG-GUTIERREZ

R. MATTHEW WISE

SARAH WOOLSTON

Dear Presiding Justice Hill,

We write on behalf of the Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court to urge that the new downtown Sacramento courthouse be named after retired Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. The American Inns of Court work to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar, and our chapter is based at UC Davis Law School, where Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye earned her law degree.

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye is a living testament to the values of the American Inns of Court: she embodies ethics, professionalism, and civility. She successfully led our judiciary through the worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, she kept our courtroom doors open virtually and literally through a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, and she fought for the rights of all court users, whether they be victims, defendants, observers, or litigants, to be free from the threat of deportation at our courthouse doors.

To have the downtown Sacramento courthouse named after Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye represents all that is great about this state and nation: she is a daughter of farm workers and immigrants who rose to the highest position in our state's judiciary through hard work with a public school education and public service career.

It is the right time to name this new courthouse after her.

Sincerely,

Justice Shama Hakim Mesiwala

President, Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court



State of California  
Office of the Attorney General

**ROB BONTA**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 9, 2023

Administrative Presiding Justice Brad Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Presiding Justice Hill:

It is with great privilege that I write to submit my wholehearted support for naming the new Sacramento Courthouse in honor of former Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the first Filipino American and second woman to serve as California's Chief Justice. As a public servant who has dedicated her career to justice, equity, and consensus-building, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye is the embodiment of the California Dream. Born and raised in Sacramento, her remarkable journey of courage, devotion, distinction, and triumph warrants recognition in our state capital's court.

With twenty years of service to the Superior and Appellate Courts, followed by twelve years as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has played a key role in shaping our state's judicial system. Despite ascending to the highest judicial position, she never lost sight of everyday Californians — devoting her time, passion, and energy to increasing the accessibility of the courts. From ensuring no criminal defendant is held in custody simply because they cannot afford bail to authoring a groundbreaking, unanimous decision to allow undocumented immigrants to practice law in California, the Chief Justice's career is marked by dedication to one principle above all: everyone has a right to equal access to justice. Her impact on the judicial system is perhaps best described in the words she used during her 2020 State of the Judiciary address, during which she remarked that California's courts have become "more than a place that resolves disputes. We have become centers for social justice."

Moreover, while Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye serves as an exemplary role model for all Californians, she does so in a distinctive and important way for the growing Filipino American legal community in the state and across the country. Representation matters, and nothing signals more clearly the heights our Asian American community can rise to quite like the career of Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye.

August 9, 2023

Page 2

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention that, on a personal level, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has served as a friend, mentor, and inspiration for me throughout my own career. Her path has been a constant reminder to keep social justice firmly at the center of everything we do. My work as “the People’s Attorney” owes no small debt of gratitude to the lessons I have learned from Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye.

I urge you to bestow on her this great and fitting honor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Bonta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Bonta  
California Attorney General

*From the desk of Andi Liebenbaum*

11 August 2023

Hon. Brad Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
1/0 California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Via email: [brad.hill@jud.ca.gov](mailto:brad.hill@jud.ca.gov)

RE: Naming New Sacramento County Courthouse in Honor of Retired Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye

Hello and good tidings, Justice Hill. I hope this letter finds you well.

In the months since leaving the Judicial Council I frequently reflect fondly on the work I did there. It is not lost on me the significance and value of the leadership I experienced while I worked for the California courts, because I served during the tenure of Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

2023 has been quite a year for me – I left the Judicial Council after 11 years of proudly representing the interests of the judiciary to the legislative and executive branches. I now help lead a new governmental affairs team that serves the nearly 10 million people of Los Angeles County. And I serve as president of the Sacramento County Bar Association.

Today I write as an individual to share my enthusiasm for the proposal to name the new Sacramento County courthouse in honor of our former Chief Justice and my former boss (thrice removed), Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

The Chief was in all ways the ideal leader of the largest court system in the country (and arguably, in the free world). She was a unifying, thoughtful, and articulate voice from the beginning. Her roots in Sacramento are deep, and reflective of our community's diversity. Like many of the people who will rely on the new courthouse, she grew up in a working-class neighborhood. She attended local public schools. She stayed nearby family and friends in undergrad and law school. Even in her career, Cantil-Sakauye showed her commitment to Sacramento. She worked as a Deputy Sacramento District Attorney. She served as a Judge of our local court, and was then elevated to the Third District Court of Appeal. Even upon her appointment as Chief Justice of California, Cantil-Sakauye's relationship with and ties to Sacramento remained strong. As a Judicial Council employee in Sacramento, it was a frequent joy for me when she would stop by the office to support our work. So it is with extreme personal pride that I am able to show support for the Chief now. If the local trial court will be named, I cannot imagine a better name than for this impressive and representative daughter of our community.

Thank you for your own leadership, Justice Hill. I send my fondest regards to you and the Judicial Council.

Sincerely,





Chambers of  
**CONSUELO MARIA CALLAHAN**  
 United States Circuit Judge

Dear Brad

I am writing regarding the naming of the Sacramento Courthouse. I strongly support the naming in honor of Toni Cantel-Sakanye. Her service embodies all that we wish to emulate. Her life has been devoted to

access to justice. Isn't that what we are all about?

I already signed a form letter from the Anthony M Kennedy Inn of Court.

I just wanted to underscore the depth of my support by penning a personal note. I hope all is well with you.



## AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES®

To Promote the Art of Advocacy  
and the Efficient Administration of Justice

### Sacramento Valley Chapter

#### 2023 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### President

Letty Litchfield  
[litchfieldlaw@att.net](mailto:litchfieldlaw@att.net)

##### Co-Vice-President

Hon. David Abbott (Ret.)  
[d.w.abbott60@gmail.com](mailto:d.w.abbott60@gmail.com)

##### Co-Vice-President and Secretary

John Demas  
[jnd@demaslawgroup.com](mailto:jnd@demaslawgroup.com)

##### Treasurer

Jill P. Telfer  
[jtelfer@telferlaw.com](mailto:jtelfer@telferlaw.com)

##### Membership Co-Chairs

Jill P. Telfer  
[jtelfer@telferlaw.com](mailto:jtelfer@telferlaw.com)

Barry Vogel  
[bvogel@hjdffa.com](mailto:bvogel@hjdffa.com)

##### Immediate Past President

Daniel V. Kohls  
[dkohls@hansenkohls.com](mailto:dkohls@hansenkohls.com)

##### National Board Members

Michelle C. Jenni  
[sjenni@wilcoxenlaw.com](mailto:sjenni@wilcoxenlaw.com)

Letty Litchfield  
[litchfieldlaw@att.net](mailto:litchfieldlaw@att.net)

Jill P. Telfer  
[jtelfer@telferlaw.com](mailto:jtelfer@telferlaw.com)

Daniel E. Wilcoxen  
[dwilcoxen@wilcoxenlaw.com](mailto:dwilcoxen@wilcoxenlaw.com)

##### Executive Committee

##### At-Large Member

William C. Callaham  
[wcallaham@wilcoxenlaw.com](mailto:wcallaham@wilcoxenlaw.com)

##### Executive Director

Jennifer Blevins  
[jennifer@caladmanagement.com](mailto:jennifer@caladmanagement.com)

August 14, 2023

Hon. Brad Hill

Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Via e-mail: [brad.hill@jud.ca.gov](mailto:brad.hill@jud.ca.gov)

Re: New Courthouse in Sacramento County

Dear Presiding Justice Hill,

On behalf of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), I write to inform you that this chapter supports the position of our Sacramento County Superior Court Presiding Judge, Michael G. Bowman, as set forth in his June 29th letter to your committee, and specifically, Judge Bowman's request that the new Sacramento County facility be called "Superior Court of California, Sacramento County, Downtown Courthouse."

We agree with Judge Bowman's important message that "a generic name that references only the court's location best exemplifies" the court's "commitment to independence" and neutrality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Letty Litchfield  
President

#### PAST PRESIDENTS

2022 Daniel V. Kohls  
2021 Karen M. Goodman  
2020 Steven H. Gurnee  
2019 Matthew C. Jaime  
2018 Hon. David I. Brown  
2017 Carl J. Calnero  
2016 Jesse M. Rivera  
2015 Douglas P. Adams  
2014 Dominique A. Pollara  
2013 Ernest A. Long  
2012 Walter H. Loving, III  
2011 James T. Anwyl  
2010 Robert H. Zimmerman  
2009 Nancy J. Sheehan  
2008 Daniel E. Wilcoxen  
2007 Robert A. Buccola  
2006 R. Parker White  
2005 John Quincy Brown, III  
2004 Bradley S. Thomas  
2003 Carol A. Wiecekowski  
2002 Roger A. Dreyer  
2001 Thomas O. Perry  
2000 Rudy Nolen, Jr.  
1999 Michael J. Conlan  
1998 Philip J. Birney  
1997 Jerome M. Varanini  
1996 James F. Gilwee  
1995 William C. Callaham  
1994 A. Irving Scott  
1993 Jack C. Sevey  
1992 Richard H. Caulfield  
1991 John D. Barr  
1990 Albert E. Cronin

#### Cal-ABOTA Trial Lawyer of the Year Recipients

Morton Friedman, 1988  
Roger A. Dreyer, 2004  
Robert A. Buccola, 2012

#### Sacramento Valley ABOTA

2520 Venture Oaks Way  
Suite 150  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
Tel: (916) 239-4086  
Fax: (916) 924-7323  
<http://sac-valley.cal-abota.org>

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Darrell Steinberg  
MayorCITY HALL  
915 I STREET, Fifth Floor  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2672PH 916-808-5300  
FAX 916-264-7680  
MayorSteinberg@cityofsacramento.org

---

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

August 11, 2023

Hon. Brad Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Presiding Justice Hill:

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend that the new Sacramento County courthouse be named after the Honorable Lloyd G. Connelly. I have worked alongside Judge Connelly for many years and can think of no one more deserving of such an honor. For more than three decades, Judge Connelly served Sacramento as a City Councilmember, Assemblymember, Superior Court Judge, Presiding Judge and CEO of the Sacramento courts.

Judge Connelly's dedication and perseverance was also the primary reason Governor Jerry Brown and the Legislature appropriated the hundreds of millions of dollars needed to build this new, iconic courthouse. He would not take no for an answer, and he overcame concerns about the cost of the new facility with a compelling argument that the crowded old courthouse is unsafe and that the new building would be a shining symbol of the state's commitment to justice.

It would be more than appropriate; it would be inspiring, for Sacramento's new court building to be named after the one individual most responsible for making it happen. Sacramento has never produced a finer public servant.

I also want to advocate that the Judicial Council find at least one major spot in the courthouse to be named after former Chief Justice & Sacramentan Tani Cantil Sakauye. The Chief Justice has made extraordinary contributions to Sacramento and to the cause of justice throughout California.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Steinberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darrell Steinberg  
Mayor, City of Sacramento

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Court of Appeal

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT  
STANLEY MOSK  
LIBRARY AND COURTS BUILDING  
914 CAPITOL MALL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

(916) 651-7255  
RON.ROBIE@JUD.CA.GOV



RONALD B. ROBIE  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

August 16, 2023

Hon. Brad Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
Judicial Council of California  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA

Dear Brad:

Please record my support for naming the new Sacramento Courthouse of the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, in honor of former Chief Justice Tani Cantil Sakauye.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron".

Ronald B. Robie



HON. STACY E. BOULWARE EURIE  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**Court of Appeal**  
THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT  
914 CAPITOL MALL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

TELEPHONE: (916) 654-0215

August 16, 2023

**VIA EMAIL**

Administrative Presiding Justice Brad Hill, Chair  
Judicial Council of California  
Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
[cfac@jud.ca.gov](mailto:cfac@jud.ca.gov)

Dear Presiding Justice Hill:

As a member of the Sacramento legal community for over 27 years, I write to express my support for the naming of the new Sacramento courthouse after former California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. I have reviewed all materials submitted to the Subcommittee on Courthouse Names for their August 11, 2023, meeting and I echo the extraordinary sentiments articulated in support of naming the new courthouse in her honor.

Appreciating that the Subcommittee's recommendation to name the new courthouse after the former Chief Justice will come before your full committee next, I am writing to address why such a naming would not only capture the former Chief's historical accomplishments but would also serve as a testament to the type of role model that embodies the best of our system of justice; the type of role model that we want our court users, law students, and lawyers to know exemplifies the excellence, fairness and impartiality that our trial court judges employ every day. The rule of law is colorblind and yet confidence in our legal system comes not only from a judiciary that looks like the members of the public who seek access to justice – whether in business, environmental, or personal contexts – but also from the lawyers who advocate on a client's behalf. Naming the new Sacramento courthouse after the former Chief Justice would signify the unique manner through which Sacramento's bench and bar, which are made up of members from different cultures, different ethnicities, different practices of law, and different socioeconomic backgrounds, reflect the diversity of the State Capitol and the broader diverse population of our state.

Diversity is not a hollow word – and it is not a substitute for integrity, professionalism, and substance – but it is an effective vehicle through which our judiciary facilitates access to justice for all. Former Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye, whose default is excellence, is living proof of why diversity matters. She is a champion of the rule of law who lives her life on and off the bench as a role model for whom so many of the current generation, and generations to come, will strive to emulate as effective, impartial, and dedicated public servants whose guiding light is a commitment to equal access for all.

Respectfully,

*Stacy Boulware Eurie*

Stacy Boulware Eurie  
Associate Justice



JUSTICE  
SHAMA HAKIM MESIWALA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE: (916) 654-0199

## Court of Appeal

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT  
914 CAPITOL MALL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

August 18, 2023

VIA E-MAIL [brad.hill@jud.ca.gov](mailto:brad.hill@jud.ca.gov) & [cfac@jud.ca.gov](mailto:cfac@jud.ca.gov)  
Presiding Justice Brad Hill, Chair of the Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Dear Presiding Justice Hill,

I type this letter from the same chambers that then Associate Justice Cantil-Sakaue occupied when she served on the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. In my wildest dreams, I could not imagine sitting here. But she made this dream possible for me and so many others.

Cantil-Sakaue and I met in 2005 when she was appointed to the Third Appellate District. I had started there the year before but as a twenty-something research attorney. I was on the court's central staff and was assigned to draft opinions for her. She was a brilliant jurist who taught me legal analysis, succinct writing, and the role of the judiciary as the third and coequal branch of government. She demonstrated excellence in everything she did: judging; serving on the Judicial Council; participating in the robust affinity bars in our region such as the Unity Bar, the Anthony M. Kennedy Inn of Court, the Asian Bar, and Women Lawyers; parenting her two young daughters with her loving and engaged spouse Mark; and making time to mentor young attorneys like me. I was in awe.

One meeting in Cantil-Sakaue's chambers stands out in my mind. After we were done talking about cases, she mentioned I might think about a judicial career. I was speechless. But looking back at me was a person, indeed a justice, who shared many similar traits. Here sat a woman of color from an immigrant background, who was educated from kindergarten to law school in our state's public schools, and who had devoted her entire career to public service. I began to think that a judicial career might actually be a possibility for me.

I also vividly remember the day Governor Schwarzenegger announced he had selected Cantil-Sakaue to be our state's 28<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice. I was on maternity leave from the Third Appellate District caring for my two-month-old premature son when the radio broadcasted the news. I let out a yelp, picked up my son, looked him in the eyes with tears of joy, and told him what had just happened.

I close with this important observation. Virtually every courthouse of the Sacramento Superior Court bears the name of someone. The Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse houses civil and criminal trials, the Lorenzo Patiño Hall of Justice serves our jail population, the William

R. Ridgeway Courthouse serves families and children, the B.T. Collins Courthouse serves juvenile justice, and the Carol Miller Justice Center hears small claims, traffic cases, and unlawful detainers.<sup>1</sup> Our new downtown courthouse should continue this tradition and bear the name of our most prominent and distinguished state court jurist: the one who was born, raised, and still lives in Sacramento; the one who spent 15 years as a judge on the Sacramento trial court and 5 years a few blocks away at the Third Appellate District; and the one who as Chief Justice navigated our great state through the worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression and a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. Naming the new downtown Sacramento courthouse for retired Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shama Hakim Mesiwala', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shama Hakim Mesiwala  
Justice, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District

---

<sup>1</sup> There is only one courtroom in the Sacramento Superior Court that is a building that does not bear the name of someone. It is in a privately-owned building called the Civil Hall of Justice and where civil law and motion is heard.



LAURIE M. EARL  
PRESIDING JUSTICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**Court of Appeal**  
THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT  
914 CAPITOL MALL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

PHONE: (916) 654-0234  
LAURIE.EARL@JUD.CA.GOV

August 18, 2022

Hon. Brad R. Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Presiding Justice Hill,

I join with the many members of the Sacramento legal community in support of the naming of the new Sacramento County Superior Court downtown courthouse after former Chief Justice, Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye.

I have known Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye since 2001, first meeting her when I appeared as a young lawyer in her Sacramento courtroom. Since that time, I have enjoyed the benefit of her experience and wisdom as a mentor, friend, and colleague.

As you are aware, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has deep roots in Sacramento. She was born and raised here and spent her elementary and high school years attending Sacramento public schools. Following college and law school at the University of California, Davis, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye returned to Sacramento, where she began her storied legal career. She first worked as an attorney in the Sacramento District Attorney's Office and then as a valued member of Governor George Deukmejian's legal team.

In 1990, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye began her career in California's judicial branch, having been appointed by Governor Deukmejian to the Sacramento Municipal Court. She was subsequently elevated to the superior court in 1997 by Governor Pete Wilson. Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye spent over 15 years as a trial judge in the Sacramento Superior Court where she presided over both civil and criminal cases. She quickly became an expert in an issue she cared deeply about, and in 1997 she established and presided over one of the Sacramento Superior Court's original "collaborative court," a court devoted solely to both offenders and survivors of domestic violence.

In 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye to the court that I proudly serve on, California's Third District Court of Appeal. She served the citizens of California as an associate justice for five years before Governor Schwarzenegger nominated her as the first Asian-Filipina American, and only second woman, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court.

As a member of California's judiciary, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye's focus was always on the citizens she served. Before becoming its chair, she served on countless Judicial Council of California advisory committees. She served as a special master to hear disciplinary proceedings of judicial officers before the Commission on Judicial Performance. As Chief Justice, she created the *Power of Democracy*, a civic learning initiative focused on engaging California's youth in learning about our courts. In 2013, she introduced her *Vision for Access 3D* to increase access to justice for California's court users. As you can see, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye's judicial career has been devoted to improving California's justice system which quite frankly earned her status as an icon in California's judiciary.

Throughout her legal career, and despite her increasing duties and pressures, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye has remained a strong advocate and ally of Sacramento's legal community. For years she served on the Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court, hosted by McGeorge School of Law, including a tenure as its president, promoting ethics, civility, and professionalism in the legal profession. She remains active in local bar associations as a member of the Sacramento County Bar Association, the Sacramento Asian Bar Association, and an advisory board member of the Sacramento Federal Judicial Library and Learning Center Foundation.

Since her retirement from the judiciary, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye continues her dedication to improving our community. On January 1, 2023, she became the president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California, whose stated mission is "to inform and improve public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research."

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye is a person who embodies "justice," defined in Webster's dictionary as "the quality of being just, impartial, or fair; conformity to this principle or ideal: righteousness." Naming the new courthouse after Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye

Hon. Brad Hill  
August 18, 2023  
Page 3

would be a deserved honoring of her work. Naming the courthouse after a person synonymous with "justice," would be a deserved honoring of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie M. Earl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie M. Earl  
Presiding Justice  
Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District

LME/jfb

cc: Chris H. Magnusson, Supervisor, Facilities Services, Judicial Council

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0026  
(916) 319-2026  
FAX (916) 319-2126

DISTRICT OFFICE  
20111 STEVENS CREEK BOULEVARD, SUITE 220  
CUPERTINO, CA 95014-2307  
(408) 446-2810  
FAX (408) 446-2815

E-MAIL  
Assemblymember.Low@assembly.ca.gov



COMMITTEES  
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE  
ELECTIONS  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
CHAIR: ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER  
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS  
CO-CHAIR: CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE  
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CAUCUS

August 16, 2023

Honorable Justice Brad Hill  
Chair, Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Presiding Justice Hill:

I am writing to share my wholehearted support for naming the new Sacramento Courthouse in honor of former Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the first Filipino American and the second woman to serve as California's Chief Justice. Her extraordinary career as a public servant and commitment to justice is second to none, and her impact on our state's judicial system warrants distinct recognition.

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye represents all that is great about this state and nation: she is a daughter of farmworkers and immigrants who rose to California's highest judiciary position through hard work with a public school education and a public service career—she is the embodiment of the California Dream. Her roots in Sacramento are deep and reflective of our state's diversity. Representation matters, and Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye's story reflects those of many.

With a combined thirty-two years of service to the Superior, Appellate, and California Supreme Courts, Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has tremendously shaped our state's judiciary. Through all this, she continued to keep everyday Californians at the forefront of her work—she strove to increase the accessibility of the courts and stood firm in her conviction that everyone has a right to equal access to justice. Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye's unwavering commitment is evident as she fought for the rights of all court users and even kept our courtroom doors open through the COVID-19 pandemic.

I cannot imagine a better name for the new Sacramento Courthouse to be named than for this champion and daughter of California. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Evan Low  
Assemblymember, 26<sup>th</sup> District  
Chair, California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus



HARRY E. HULL, JR.  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# Court of Appeal

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT  
914 CAPITOL MALL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE: (916) 654-0228  
harry.hull@jud.ca.gov

August 30, 2023

Presiding Justice Brad Hill  
Judicial Council Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Re: *The New Sacramento County Superior Court Courthouse*

Dear Justice Hill;

I wholeheartedly support naming the new Sacramento County courthouse in honor of Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye.

Having had the honor and the pleasure of serving with retired Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye for six years on this court and, from 2011-2022, on the California Judicial Council, I have witnessed her steady hand and her wisdom in successfully leading the Judicial Branch through many difficult times during her tenure as Chief Justice of California.

With Sacramento County as her life-long home, the county has not seen a more eminent jurist and able administrator than Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and the new courthouse should bear her name.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harry E. Hull, Jr.", written over a blue horizontal line.

Harry E. Hull, Jr.