



June 19, 2024

Commemorating Juneteenth 2024

Sacramento, CA – On June 19th each year, we celebrate Juneteenth or as some call it, “Freedom Day.” Although we reflect on that day in 1865 when General Granger delivered the delayed message of freedom to enslaved African Americans in Texas, the holiday has a multiplicity of meanings to those who commemorate the day.

Juneteenth reminds me of the principles of Sankofa. Originating from Ghana, the Sankofa symbol is often represented as a bird with feet facing forward, and its head looking back. For me, this highlights the importance of understanding and learning from the past as a foundation for our future.

It is a time to reflect on the importance of justice, freedom, equality, and civil rights for all. As a jurist, Juneteenth reminds me that this is a time (in the words of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson) “to inspire people to understand the courts are here for them, that our courts should reflect the society that they serve and that all people can believe in the rule of law.”

The Honorable Myrllys Stockdale Coleman has served as judge on the Sacramento Superior Court bench since January 2023.

