



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

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Sacramento Superior Court Hosts South Asian Panel Discussion

Sacramento, CA—Sacramento Superior Court last week hosted an educational panel discussion on how to better serve the South Asian community for its judicial officers and court staff, area lawyers, and law students.

Judge Jaya Badiga moderated the panel, which featured Judge Renuka George, Judge Satnam Rattu, and attorney Sameera Ali with the Central California Appellate Project.

“In Sacramento County, we serve a diverse community with a wide array of cultural, linguistic, and social backgrounds,” said Presiding Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi. “We recognize the importance of providing accessible, equitable justice for all.”

The hour-long discussion took place on Thursday, Nov. 14, at the Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse and was broadcast via Zoom.

The panel was presented by the Sacramento Superior Court’s Community Engagement and Fairness Committee, which strives to eliminate inequities, disparities, and biases in the court system.

“The court’s Community Engagement and Fairness Committee is essential in promoting inclusivity and understanding within our legal system,” said Awoniyi. “Through outreach, education, and dialogue with various communities—including our vibrant South Asian community—the court aims to ensure every resident feels seen, heard, and respected within our courtrooms.”

The South Asian panel discussion topics included personal experiences with bias and stereotypes. Panelists covered the diversity of South Asians, including language, religion, and culture, and best practices for the legal community to consider.

The Community Engagement and Fairness Committee aims to better serve Sacramento County’s diverse community and ensure all people feel welcomed, valued, and included at Sacramento Superior Court.

This week’s program was the latest in a series of panel presentations coordinated by the committee members: Judge Steve Acquisto, Judge Andi Mudryk, Deputy District Attorney Ron Linthicum, and Supervising Public Defender Mark Slaughter. The committee previously hosted panels for its employees about serving Hispanic, Black, and LGBTQ+ populations and a workshop on disabilities.

“I would like to thank Judge Acquisto and the committee for assembling this latest presentation,” said Awonyi. “This work is instrumental in helping the court uphold its commitment to fairness and justice, and we look forward to continuing these collaborative efforts.”

More information about the committee can be found on the Sacramento Superior Court website at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/outreach/community-engagement-and-fairness-committee.aspx>.

