

Governor Appoints Kendee Yamaguchi

Gov. Chris Gregoire announced the appointment of Kendee Yamaguchi as the executive director of the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Yamaguchi is a third generation Japanese American born and raised in Washington.



Kendee Yamaguchi.

"I am confident Kendee's broad range of experience will serve this commission well," Gregoire said. "She is an emerging leader who brings a solid record of legislative, legal, management and communications experience to the position. I know she will build and nurture strong relationships to ensure the needs of our Asian Pacific American communities are met."

"I am honored to be selected to serve the people of Washington. Our communities thrive when the doors of opportunity are open for all," Yamaguchi said. "I

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Racist Comments of FOX News Guest

News Release: The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, was disgusted by the behavior of one of the guests on Don Imus' radio show this past Monday. Bo Dietl, a former NYPD detective and a regular guest on Imus' show, made disparaging, racist comments against Asian Americans as part of a rant on Katie Couric's appearance.

During Imus' show, Dietl began criticizing Katie Couric's appearance, saying, "She's got her eyes pulled so far, she's starting to look Chinese herself," and "Ten years ago she looked American. Today, she looks Oriental." Dietl even goes as far as to pull back his eyes to demonstrate his point, in a gesture painfully familiar to any Asian American.

The JACL condemns Dietl's offensive, racist behavior. In addition to their misogynistic undertones, Dietl's comments attack the immutable physical characteristics that have long been used to alienate and humiliate Asian Americans. Bill Yoshino, JACL's Midwest Regional Director, has sent a letter to the CEO of Fox News, Roger Ailes, objecting to Dietl's behavior. In the letter, Yoshino stated, "By continually inviting Dietl as a guest, Fox News gives credence to his childish behavior and the racist, hateful views he demonstrates." Dietl's comments are neither amusing nor illuminating, and the JACL believes Fox News has an obligation to its viewers to ensure that such racist behavior is not given a platform.

Japanese American Memorial Wall

How was your time spent this Veterans Day? It is a sad truth that most people do not celebrate Veterans Day by remembering the war dead or the living veterans who have served our country. Some complained that this year's holiday was in the middle of the week so people could not make plans for a three-day vacation.

In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)
Canadian Army

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

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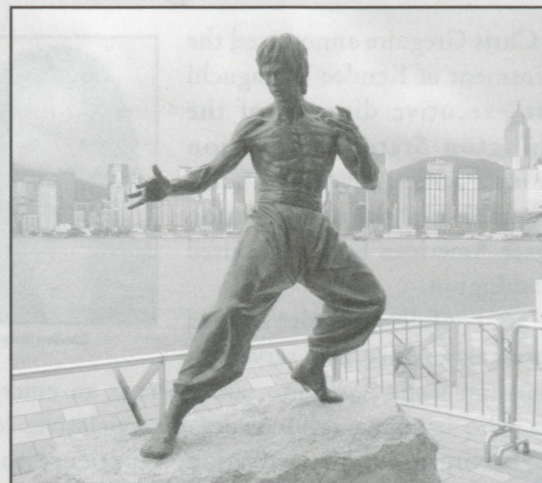
Media Release

In upholding Article VI of the Bill of Rights, which ensures the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) agrees with the statements included in the amicus brief submitted by the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, the Asian Bar Association of Washington, the South Asian Bar Association of Washington and the Washington Women Lawyers.

The case involves a medical malpractice lawsuit, *Turner v. Stime*, which was tried in Spokane County in 2007. The jury found the defendant not guilty of negligence despite testimony from the expert witness for the defense conceding that the doctor had been negligent in several areas of his treatment of the plaintiff. A new trial was granted after the trial court ruled that several jurors had repeatedly and intentionally mispronounced the name of plaintiffs' attorney and made inappropriate

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What Seattle resident studied history and philosophy at the University of Washington?



Answer for previous issue

“When I left Arizona in 1999, Griffey gave me a bat signed— See You In Seattle.”

“I wanted the challenge of competing against the best players in the world.”

“I want to be the first player to show what Japanese batters can do in the major league.”

“Everybody in the states is so relaxed, and everybody in Japan is so uptight.”

“I had a dream. And I made that dream come true.”

“Baseball has been the greatest things in my life, but the cameras and the media surrounding baseball have not been fun. It’s unnecessary. How many times do they see me stretch? How many times do they see me walk? It is a big concern. If it affected the team in a negative way, I don’t know what I would do.”

“As professionals we have a responsibility of providing a good show for the fans. Getting hits and home runs is what they want to see.”

The answer is of course, Ichiro Suzuki.

Born in 1973, he developed an early passion for baseball. He joined a Little League when he was six, two years before the approved age limit.

Ichiro came to the Pacific League in 1992, when he was only 18. During the 1994 season, he became known to fans as Ichiro instead of as Suzuki. Ichiro was the first Japanese player in the United States to play for an American team.

Prior to Ichiro landing a contract with the Seattle Mariners, there were Japanese players who were pitchers only. Within one year of wearing a jersey that had “Ichiro” on it, his name became a household icon. Both Japanese and American coaches were originally reluctant to sign him because he was considered too small. Ichiro is truly an inspiration to both American and Japanese fans. While there are 6.5 million residents in Washington State, the total fan viewing audience in Japan estimated to be around 20 million fans.

With over 3,000 home runs, Ichiro has earned his place in the Baseball Hall of Fame. He hit his 3,000th homerun on July 29, 2008. (1,805 on U.S. Soil, the rest in Japan)

Seattle Mariners — No. 51
 Right fielder
 Bats: Left
 Throws: Right
 Professional debut
 NPB: July 11, 1992 for the Orix BlueWave
 MLB: April 2, 2001 for the Seattle Mariners
 Selected MLB statistics (through 2008 season):
 Batting average .331
 Hits 1,805
 Runs 885
 Runs batted in 469
 Stolen bases 315
 Slugging percentage .430

Teams:
 Orix BlueWave (1992-2000) (NPB)
 Seattle Mariners (2001-present)

Sources: Baseball Hall of Fame, Baseball Forum, Jock-Blo (all web sources).

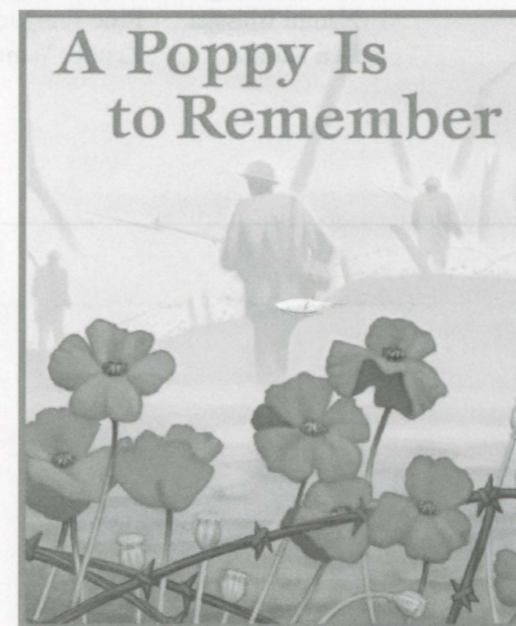
Yamaguchi, continued from page 1

look forward to working with the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in furthering our state’s efforts toward making that a reality.”

Yamaguchi was a director in the Office of Management and Administration at the White House. Prior to this position, she worked in the Office of Public Liaison on the signing of the executive order establishing the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She has experience working as a television executive and a staff member in the Legislature. More recently, she worked as an attorney in private practice.

Yamaguchi earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and public communications with a minor in international affairs from American University. Yamaguchi also earned a juris doctorate from the Seattle University School of Law.

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Source: The poppy poem and photos are from the web.

The orange poppy has become a symbol of veterans, inspired by the 1915 poem, In Flanders Fields. You can see this flower sold to raise funds by thousands of veterans here in the United States, as well as in Canada where the tradition began. Even if you have nothing to give, remember our own Nisei Vets who have made the citizens of this state, and the Japanese American community in particular, so very proud.

In our community, the Nisei Vets endeavor to build a permanent memorial to honor all our Nisei Vets. Please visit their website at www.seattlencv.org for more information on the Memorial or how you may become involved. The Memorial will be built brick-by-brick with your help. Each brick will cost \$250. Get a group of your friends and family together to buy one. In addition, bricks may be purchased for members of your family that were interned at one of the 12 camps here in America.

Sources for this article include: the Web and Keith Yamaguchi, Commander, Nisei Vets.

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and discriminatory remarks during the deliberations. Two examples of jury misconduct based on affidavits include:

- Intentional and repeated reference to plaintiffs’ attorney, Mr. Kamitomo by jurors using names such as “Mr. Kamikaze,” “Mr. Miyashi” and “Mr. Miyagi.”
- On the day that the verdict was rendered, and after yet another instance of disparagement, one juror remarked that such mockery against plaintiffs’ attorney was “almost appropriate,” given that it was Pearl Harbor Day.

The trial court found that there was sufficient evidence for the court to consider whether the remarks and juror conduct improperly caused a verdict in favor of the defendant and issued an order for a new trial. The defendant appealed the grant for a new trial.

At issue on appeal was whether discriminatory or racially derogatory remarks by jurors about a litigants’ attorney, constitutes jury misconduct thereby justifying a new trial.

The JAACL position is as follows:

- This case may set precedence with regard to racially derogatory remarks by jurors about a litigant’s attorney and may affect the legal standard by which juror statements can be considered when granting a new trial.
- Juror remarks should be considered in the context of the history of discrimination against people of Japanese ancestry, Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans in the United States.
- Social science literature on the impact of biased remarks demonstrates how bias directed against an attorney negatively affects the jury’s decision-making process, where group pressure is particularly strong.
- Failure to address discriminatory conduct and remarks by jurors will result in a failure to provide justice in this particular case, and may be detrimental to similar cases in the future.
- Discriminatory juror conduct, if left unchecked, may have a negative impact within the legal profession for attorneys of color due to unfair/biased consideration when determining the representation and staffing of cases.
- Fear or anticipation of bias within the judicial system may result in a decrease in diversity within the legal profession that will result in certain communities being underserved and underrepresented.

As such, the Seattle chapter will request that the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission work to establish jury instructions about bias language and the consequences of use of such language.

The Japanese American Citizens League is dismayed that even after the passage of Redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 for the unwarranted incarceration of nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry during WWII and extensive public education during the last 60 years, such bias still exists today.

Mission Statement: The Seattle Chapter JAACL is a non-profit, grassroots civil rights organization dedicated to empowering our local community through high-quality programs and strategic partnerships focusing on activism, education, and youth leadership development. As a chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we strive to be a leading Asian American advocacy group for civil and human rights while promoting and preserving the values and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Chapter Board Meeting: Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 6 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at the chapter office, 316 Maynard Ave. S, Seattle. Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Dawn Rego prior to the meeting.

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Article and Event Submission: Board members should submit materials to the editor [redacted] by the Friday after the monthly board meeting. Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

Seattle Chapter JAACL website: www.jaacleseattle.org

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Seattle, WA 98104-2927

671 S Jackson St

KAREN YOSHITOMI



Japanese American Citizens League
Seattle Chapter
P.O. Box 18558
Seattle, WA 98118-0558

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