

Bench-Bar Coalition
Quarterly Membership Meeting

Monday, August 3, 2026

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting Room

Agenda

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

4:00 – 4:05 p.m.

Welcome

Mr. Philip Nulud, cochair

Hon. Russ Roeca, cochair

4:05 – 4:50 p.m.

**Presentation: The Meaning of the Declaration of Independence
and Judicial Independence at Year 250**

Professor Erwin Chemerinsky

Hon. Audra Ibarra & Hon. Terry Truong

For Legal Community updates please see attached materials

Calendar Review

- Monday, August 17, 2026: Executive Committee Ratification Membership Meeting
- Friday, October 23, 2026: In Person Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, San Diego

BIOGRAPHIES

PROFESSOR ERWIN CHERMERINSKY



Erwin Chemerinsky is Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He has been a professor, teaching Constitutional Law and related subjects for 46 years, and has been on the faculty of DePaul College of Law, University of Southern California Law School, Duke Law School, and founding Dean of University of California, Irvine School of Law. He is the author of twenty-two books, including leading casebooks and treatises about constitutional law, criminal procedure, and federal jurisdiction. His most recent major books are *Campus Speech and Academic Freedom* (with Howard Gillman) (Yale Press 2026) and *Taking Sides: The Supreme Court October 2025* (American Bar Association 2025). He also is the author of more than 200 law review articles and writes regular columns for several publications. In 2016, he was selected to be a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

JUDGE AUDRA IBARRA



Judge Audra Ibarra was appointed to the Santa Clara County Superior Court in December 2018 and served as a pro tern justice on the Second District Court of Appeal, Division 7, from June 2021 to January 2022. She has been appointed to the Judicial Council's criminal law advisory committee and strategic plan for technology workstream. She is a founding member and the treasurer of California Women Judges and the co-chair of the Bench-Bar Coalition. She serves on the advisory board of California Education of the Bar (CEB). She teaches evidence and criminal law primary assignment orientation for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research. She is guest faculty for Stanford Law School's trial advocacy workshop and moot court competition. She co-writes the book *California Objections Civil and Criminal*, distributed by James Publishing and currently in its 19th edition, with Judge Gregory H. Ward (ret.). She is a former president of the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association and a former voting member of the Judicial Council.

Before her appointment, Judge Ibarra was counsel at the firm California Appellate Law Group (now Complex Appellate Litigation Group) in San Francisco. She was a supervising Assistant U.S. Attorney and Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of California and an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of California. She was a litigator at Pillsbury Madison & Sutro in San Francisco and a Deputy District Attorney at the Solano County District Attorney's Office. She served as a member of the Judicial Council and the committee on appellate courts for both the State Bar of California and the California Lawyers Association. She was on the board of directors of the California Minority Counsel Program, on the executive committee of the board

of governors of California Women Lawyers and the chair of its amicus committee. She was certified as an appellate specialist by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. She earned a J.D. from the New York University School of Law and a B.A. from the University of California at Berkley.

JUDGE TERRY TRUONG



Judge Terry T. Truong was appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles by Governor Gavin Newsom on December 23, 2022. She is currently assigned to the Juvenile Court hearing juvenile dependency and juvenile justice cases. Prior her appointment, she served as a commissioner and referee with the same court for a total of 15+ years, presiding over juvenile, traffic, and misdemeanor courts. She also worked as a deputy county counsel at the Los Angeles County Counsel's Office, as a research attorney at the Court, and as an attorney representing children and parents in the Los Angeles Dependency Court system.

Judge Truong is active in local and statewide committees, including the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, California Judges Association Elimination of Bias and Inequality in the Judiciary Committee as Co-Chair, and the Judicial Council CJER Juvenile Law Curriculum Committee. Additionally, she is the current President of the California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association as well as past treasurer. Locally, Judge Truong is Co-Chair of the Experts Committee, and a member of the Law Clerk and Research Attorney Committees. Judge Truong graduated from the University of California, Irvine and University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

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Legal Community Partners Updates

August 3, 2026 Quarterly Meeting

1. Organization Name

**ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL OFFICERS
(AACJO)**

2. What has your organization accomplished since the last BBC meeting?

AAACJO has held community outreach programs at elementary schools/high schools and law schools. We have also held brown bag lunches for judges and "Keys to Success" events in Los Angeles and are actively planning one in Northern California. These events are all organized on a quarterly basis.

Bench-Bar Coalition

Legal Community Partners Updates

August 3, 2026 Quarterly Meeting

1. Organization Name

CALIFORNIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

2. What has your organization accomplished since the last BBC meeting?

CalATJ has been authorized in the State Budget to make \$10 million in grants to legal aid organizations for innovations or infrastructure improvements to serve low income people, seniors, veterans and other disadvantaged people. The State Budget also funds a new \$750,000 Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Safety Net to reimburse student loan payments made by legal aid lawyers whose payments would have been forgiven, but for the operation of a new federal regulation that can remove PSLF eligibility from a nonprofit based on its activities on behalf of immigrants or other vulnerable communities. This new program is an extension of the existing Loan Repayment Assistance Program that CalATJ for legal aid lawyers that has administered since 2024.

3. What is something new you are working on that would be of interest to the BBC membership?

CalATJ is working with legal aid organizations, pro bono lawyer programs, and County Law Libraries to assist immigrant and military families in making preparations to authorize caregivers and , where needed, joint guardians for their children in the event of a separation such as the detention, deportation, and deployment of the parents. CalATJ has received the help of two law student interns on this project funded by the Beverly Hills Bar Association and Foundation. We are grateful to the BHBA and also to the Bench Bar Coalition, since BHBA learned about our project during the most recent Coalition meeting.

Bench-Bar Coalition

Legal Community Partners Updates

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1. Organization Name

STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

2. What is something new you are working on that would be of interest to the BBC membership?

The State Bar seeks public input on proposed amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct addressing the use of artificial intelligence. The State Bar seeks public comment on the California Supreme Court's version of rule 9.45.1 to establish a California community justice worker program. These and other public comment opportunities can be accessed here:

<https://www.calbar.ca.gov/public/public-meetings-comment/public-comment>