

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Korematsu Day 2020 Celebrated at the Santa Clara County Superior Court

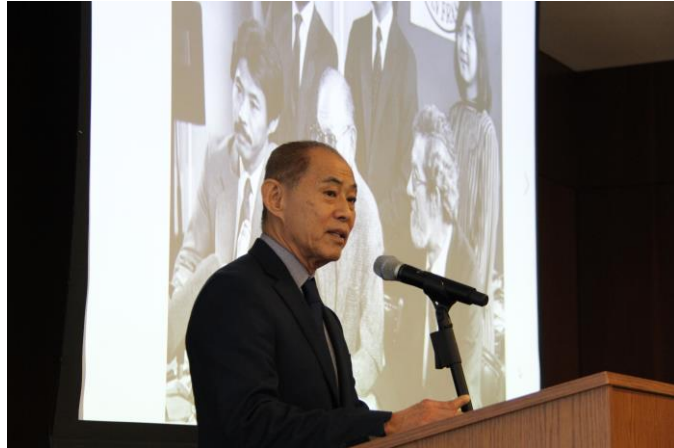
SAN JOSE, California (February 20, 2020): In recognition of Korematsu Day 2020, the Santa Clara County Superior Court hosted and sponsored events to inform our community about the lasting legal impact and enduring legacy of Fred Korematsu. Beginning in 2015, the Santa Clara County Superior Court, through its Community Outreach Committee, has participated in numerous community events to recognize the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution.

“Fred Korematsu’s court case is studied in law schools across the nation. His life and his actions in pursuit of equality and defense of civil liberties will inspire the legal community for generations to come,” Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan stated.

Over 100 people, from high school students to Japanese Americans in their 90s, attended a mock trial event at the Santa Clara University School of Law. Current and former judges of the Santa Clara County Superior Court heard arguments in Fred Korematsu’s suit against the United States for violating the civil rights of 120,000 U.S. residents removed from their homes and detained because of their Japanese ancestry. Weaving together historical facts with modern civil rights law, the students explored the tension between national security concerns and civil rights protections which, 75 years later, still resonate today. This event was made possible through a partnership with the Asian Law Alliance, Council for American-Islamic Relations, Japanese-American Museum of San Jose, Santa Clara University School of Law, and The Korematsu Institute. These organizations provide advocacy and education about the ongoing effort to ensure equal protection of civil rights guaranteed by our Constitution.

Hon. Roberta Hayashi noted, “For the fifth consecutive year, our Court has joined together with our community partners to honor an ordinary man who spoke up for what is right and inspires all of us to pursue justice for all.”

A second event hosted by the Santa Clara County Superior Court included keynote remarks from the 2019 American Bar Association Gold Medal recipient Dale Minami, who led the team of attorneys that challenged Fred Korematsu’s criminal conviction in 1983. Event attendees were provided a rare opportunity to see the 55 minute Emmy award-winning documentary by Eric Fournier, “Of Civil Wrongs & Rights: The Story of Fred Korematsu.”



Dale Minami addresses the Superior Court on Fred Korematsu Day.



Judge Roberta Hayashi speaks about the importance of Fred Korematsu's life and work



From L to R: Hon. Audra Ibarra, Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan, Hon. Roberta S. Hayashi, Dale Minami, Hon. Patricia M. Lucas

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