



Superior Court of California County of Orange **News Release**

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West Justice Center to be named after first Asian American Orange County Superior Court Judge S. K. Tamura

Stephen K. Tamura's name will grace Orange County Superior Court's West Justice Center to honor the late Judge's legacy of groundbreaking successes and to serve as recognition of the contributions of Asian Americans to Orange County and the United States.



"It was a real privilege to submit the application to name West Justice Center in honor of the late judge," said Superior Court Presiding Judge Kirk Nakamura, discussing the application submitted by Orange County community members to the Judicial Council of California, which owns and oversees all Court facilities throughout the state.

"He was a man of many 'firsts' and I am very proud to have followed his footsteps to the Bench," Presiding Judge Nakamura added.

Judge Tamura was the first Asian American attorney in Orange County, the first Asian American to serve as County Counsel in Orange County, the first Asian American Superior Court Judge and Presiding Judge in Orange County, and **the first Asian American Justice on an appellate court in the continental**

United States. During his time on the Appellate Court, he also served as Justice Pro Tempore on the California Supreme Court until his retirement.

After his retirement, he served as a member of the California Judicial Council from 1979 to 1981. He died in 1982.

The publication of the decision of the Judicial Council of California to name West Justice Center in Westminster for Judge Tamura coincided with the celebrations of Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, giving the action added significance for Orange County's Asian Pacific Islander community and the Japanese American community more specifically.

