

## **2025 Chao-Fujioka Family Scholarships**

The AABA Law Foundation is honored to administer and award the annual Chao-Fujioka Family Scholarships for Public Law/Government Service and International Law.

Inaugurated in 2022, these two scholarships are funded by the Honorable Margaret Fujioka (Alameda County Superior Court), and Cedric Chao, founder of Chao ADR, PC and former litigation partner of Morrison & Foerster and DLA Piper. Judge Fujioka and Mr. Chao have made a \$100,000 commitment to fund these scholarships. In 2025, there will be two \$5,000 scholarships.

The Chao-Fujioka Family Scholarships are intended to recognize and financially assist high performing law students who are interested in civil public law/government service or international law practice and who aspire to become future leaders in these fields.

Applicant requirements (application is attached):

- 2L or 3L law student
- A commitment and demonstrated interest in either civil public law/government service (distinguished from traditional “public interest” work) or international law practice.
- A strong academic record and/or other indicators of future career success
- A meaningful personal connection to California (e.g., growing up in California, enrollment in a California-based law school, or intent to practice in California)
- Financial need will be considered
- Membership in AABA will be considered, and in-person acceptance at the AABA Summer Diversity Reception is expected
- Essay explaining the applicant’s career aspirations, the inspiration for the applicant’s targeted field of practice, and the steps the applicant has taken, and will take, to achieve their goals. Maximum 3 pages, double-spaced.

### **About the Honorable Margaret Fujioka and Cedric Chao**

**The Honorable Margaret Fujioka.** A hallmark of Judge Fujioka’s distinguished legal career has been her deep commitment to public law and government service. Born in Los Angeles, California, she earned degrees from UC Berkeley and Hastings College of the Law (now UC Law San Francisco). After law school, Judge Fujioka embarked on her public service career, serving over 18 years as a Deputy City Attorney in the Oakland City

Attorney's Office, and 6 years as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Oakland, Alameda County, and the City and County of San Francisco. Judge Fujioka is a Past President of both AABA and NAPABA. She was elected to the Piedmont City Council in 2008, and re-elected in 2012, both times receiving the highest number of votes in hotly contested races. She was unanimously elected Mayor by her fellow Councilmembers in 2014, serving for two years. In 2016, she was elected to the Alameda County Superior Court. Judge Fujioka was inspired to pursue a career in public law/government service by her uncle, Ted Fujioka, who, despite being incarcerated with the Fujioka family at Heart Mountain Concentration Camp during WWII, volunteered to serve in the famed 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Unit and was killed in action in 1944. Her Uncle Ted, the first student body president of Heart Mountain High School, aspired to be a lawyer or run for public office.

Judge Fujioka currently serves on the Court Security Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council of California, the Criminal Law Executive Committee of the Alameda County Bar Association, and chairs the Judicial Safety Committee of the Alameda County Superior Court.

**Cedric Chao.** Following a U.S. District Court clerkship, Mr. Chao served for several years as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco. He thereafter joined Morrison & Foerster (MoFo) where he worked as a senior associate and young partner with MoFo's top trial partner on "bet-the-company" commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense matters. In 1983, he became the first lawyer of Asian descent to be admitted into the partnership of a major San Francisco law firm. In 1996, MoFo's management asked him to start the firm's international litigation and arbitration practice, which he led for 17 years until 2013. That year, he moved to the 4500-lawyer firm DLA Piper to serve as the U.S. head of DLA's global international arbitration practice.

In 2019, Mr. Chao launched Chao ADR, PC, and now sits as an arbitrator and mediator of international and domestic commercial disputes, in addition to acting as corporate counsel or advisor on select international disputes. In 2018, Mr. Chao was named by California's legal publication, The Daily Journal, as one of "California's Top 100 Lawyers." In 2019, he received The Daily Journal's prestigious California Lawyer Attorney of the Year award for thought leadership in international arbitration. Best Lawyers in America named him the 2018 San Francisco Arbitration Lawyer of the Year and the 2020 San Francisco Mediation Lawyer of the Year based on peer feedback. Mr. Chao is the former Chair of the Litigation Section of the California State Bar, a past President of AABA, and a Fellow of the invitation-only professional organizations Litigation Counsel of America, the Chartered

Institute of Arbitrators (London), the College of Commercial Arbitrators, and the American Law Institute. He is the co-author of the Mediation chapter in Thomson Reuters' treatise, *Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts* (5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2021). Mr. Chao, a first-generation American born in the U.S., attended Stanford University and Harvard Law School.

Judge Fujioka and Mr. Chao have two grown children, a lawyer and an architect.



## **2025 Chao-Fujioka Family Scholarship Instructions and Application**

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

**A complete Application consists of the following: a completed Application Form, a resume, and a personal statement of no more than three pages, double-spaced, addressing the following issue:**

**Please explain your career aspirations, the inspiration(s) for your targeted field of practice (civil public law/government service or international law) and the steps you have taken, and will take, to achieve your goals.**

Please submit your complete Application in a single PDF file. The deadline for Applications is **Monday, April 28, 2025 at midnight**. Applications should be submitted via e-mail to [aaba.bayarea@gmail.com](mailto:aaba.bayarea@gmail.com), with “2025 Chao-Fujioka Family Scholarship Application – [your name]” in the subject line.

Finalists will be notified if they are selected for an interview in **May 2025**.

Interviews will be held **on Saturday, May 31, 2025 via videoconference**.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Asian American Bar Association Summer Diversity Reception at UC Law SF in San Francisco on **June 26, 2025**.

## APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which scholarship for which you are applying:

Public Law/Government Service Scholarship ☐

International Law Scholarship ☐

Are you a member of AABA? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Law School: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2025 Summer or Post Grad Employment (if applicable/known): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the first person in your immediate family to attend law school in the United States?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Law School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Law School Honors and Activities:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate School: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Honors and Activities:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Graduate School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages Spoken and Degree of Fluency:

\_\_\_\_\_

Education Level of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Education Level of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Aid/Need Information:

*Law School Financial Aid Information*

Loans (Federal and Private): \_\_\_\_\_

Grants: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Job or Work/Study Earnings: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Law School Debt as of date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Projected Law School Debt in Entirety: \_\_\_\_\_

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Undergraduate Loan Debt: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Law School Graduate Loan Debt (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Statement of Financial Circumstances (attach additional page if necessary):

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