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Kitagawa Admitted to Practice Before Supreme Court

Lisa Michiko Kitagawa was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in the first group swearing in ceremony in Washington D.C. of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Raymond Mushal, Esq., the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section Senior Counsel, was her sponsor for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kitagawa founded the Orange County Japanese Lawyers Foundation in 1989 and is a business lawyer who is admitted to practice in California and Georgia. She was the third and last U.S. lawyer to graduate



Kitagawa

from Kyoto University. The U.S. Supreme Court Clerk, William K. Suter, met with the group and provided the script and format for the ceremony. The group was then escorted into the U.S. Supreme Court and seated on the left side inside the bar in the order in which our names would be called. The sponsors sat on the right side inside the bar. Suter then announced,

“Oyez, oyez, oyez, the Court is now in session!” and everyone rose. Six justices appeared and were seated, including Chief Justice Roberts, and Justices Thomas, Kennedy, Ginsberg, Souter and Alito.

For the admission ceremony, the sponsor’s name, Raymond Mushal, was announced.

The Supreme Court Justices congratulated and welcomed the new admittees, who then rose and left the courtroom. The admission ceremony took about eight minutes to complete, but it took a lifetime to get there.