



OAPABA
OREGON ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OAPABA TO PRESENT JUSTICE LYNN NAKAMOTO AWARD POSTHUMOUSLY TO MIN YASUI AT 2016 GALA DINNER

OAPABA is pleased to announce that Minoru Yasui, a native of Hood River, Oregon, the first Japanese-American graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law, and the first Japanese-American member of the Oregon State Bar, will be posthumously awarded the 2016 Justice Lynn R. Nakamoto Award. OAPABA will present the award at its annual Gala Dinner on September 22, 2016, at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

The Nakamoto Award honors leaders who have demonstrated leadership, professionalism, mentorship, and commitment to the promotion of APAs in the Oregon legal community. Although Mr. Yasui passed away in 1986, he paved the way for APA lawyers in Oregon. His heroic challenge of the discriminatory wartime restrictions targeting Japanese-Americans and Japanese nationals during World War II, and his commitment to fight for the civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race, nationality, or ethnicity, makes him an ideal choice to receive this award. Mr. Yasui was awarded the 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom for his commitment to justice, and in 2016 the Oregon Legislature unanimously passed legislation declaring March 28 of each year as Min Yasui Day. Mr. Yasui's receipt of the 2016 Nakamoto Award also honors the team of APA lawyers, educators, and civic leaders who worked on these endeavors.

The theme of this year's Gala Dinner is "Recognizing Our Heroes: Voices of Change." OAPABA is also excited to announce that the keynote address will be provided by David Lat, founding and managing editor of legal blog Above the Law and author of the book "Supreme Ambitions."

About the Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association: OAPABA's mission is:

Advancement: To promote the professional development and advancement of APA attorneys through education, research, and programs.

Advocacy: To act as a vehicle and forum for expressing opinions on matters of concern to APA attorneys and our communities.

Communication: To encourage and foster communication among APA attorneys on issues affecting our work, communities, and government.