

A Stain on American Jurisprudence: What *Korematsu vs. United States* Means for Us Today

Virtual Panel featuring: Dr. Karen Korematsu | Dale Minami | Lane Nishikawa

Thursday, December 16 @ 6:30 pm

[Dr. Karen Korematsu](#)

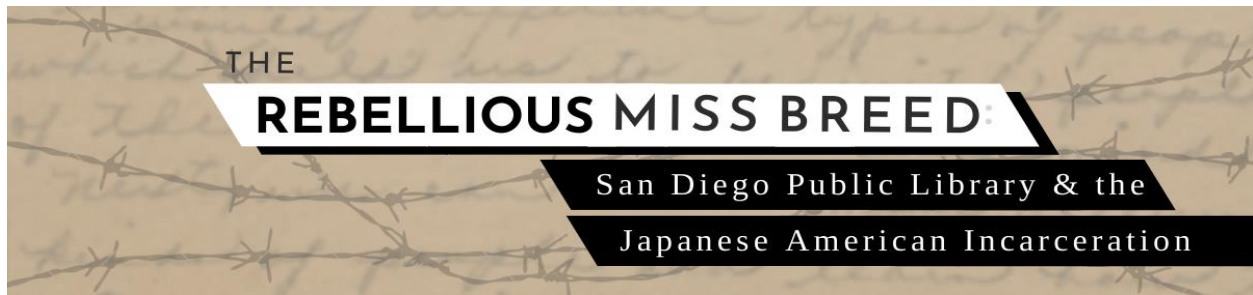
Dr. Karen Korematsu is the Founder and Executive Director of the [Fred T. Korematsu Institute](#) and the daughter of the late civil rights icon, Fred Korematsu. She serves on the board of directors of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC and NAPABA Law Foundation and has signed on to various amicus briefs opposing violations of constitutional rights. Karen travels the country advocating for civil liberties, ethnic studies education, and social justice, encouraging Covid-19 vaccinations in AAPI communities, and promoting the [Fred Korematsu Day](#) of Civil Liberties and the Constitution on January 30. Karen has received numerous awards and honors including the ACLU-Chief Justice Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award, the NAPABA Presidents Award and the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Community Leadership Award. Karen recently was recognized to serve as a State of California Education Ambassador.

[Dale Minami](#)

Dale Minami is senior counsel with the law firm of [Minami Tamaki LLP](#) in San Francisco. He has been involved in significant litigation involving the civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities, including *Korematsu v. United States*, *United Pilipinos for Affirmative Action v. California Blue Shield* (the first class action employment lawsuit brought by Asian Pacific Americans), and *Spokane JAAC v. Washington State University* (a class action which established an Asian American studies program at Washington State University). Minami received his law degree from UC Berkeley and helped found the Asian Law Caucus and the Asian American Bar Association. He served on both California's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation and Senator Boxer's judicial screening committee and as chair of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, appointed by President Clinton. He has received awards for his work including the ABA's Thurgood Marshall, Spirit of Excellence, and ABA Medal Awards and NAPABA's Trailblazer Award. He's had a dorm named after him at UC Santa Cruz and a Public Interest Fellowship was established in his name at Berkeley Law. He has also received honorary degrees from the Pacific McGeorge and USF schools of law.

[Lane Nishikawa](#)

Lane Nishikawa has been in the film, television and theatrical industries for over 35 years. His plays have toured to over 75 cities across the U.S., Canada and Europe. His dramatic feature film, *Only The Brave*, appeared in over 18 film festivals, internationally, screened in over 25 cities across the U.S., broadcast on national PBS, Showtime Television, Armed Forces Network,



and distributed to over 15 countries worldwide. He was Artistic Director of the Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco for ten seasons before forming Mission From Buddha Productions, a film and theater production company, which he ran for 14 years. His new company, [West River Productions](#), just completed production of his new documentary feature film, *Our Lost Years*, a comprehensive examination of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the film is currently touring the U.S. He is in development of a new documentary, *Our League of Dreams*, the story of the 100 year history of the Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the U.S.

Lane has taught at Stanford University, San Francisco State University, C.S.U. Monterey Bay and the University of Hawaii, Maui Campus. He has been published in *Time To Greez: Incantations From The Third World*, *Ayumi: The Japanese American Anthology*, *Bridge Magazine*, *The 20th Anniversary Edition of Gidra*, and most recently, his first novel, *Give Me Strength (Ikiru Yuuki)*. He has received numerous awards including, ABC Television – Profiles in Excellence, the National Endowment of the Arts’ Solo Performance Fellowship, the Harvard Foundation’s Intercultural Race Relations Award, the Japanese American Community Cultural Center Humanitarian Award, the George Nakashima Peace Award, the White House Millennium Council, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Ruby Shaar Yoshino Playwrights Award and the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Award from the National Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL), the Hawaiian International Film Festival, the Starz Denver International Film Festival, and the G.I. Film Festival. He has received grants from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, the Japanese American Community Foundation, the National Park Service – Japanese American Confinement Sites Program, and the JAACL Legacy Fund. Lane currently sits on the advisory board of the San Diego JAACL, and served on the advisory boards of the Pacific Arts Movement, and the Go For Broke National Education Center.