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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley Announces Erica Yew as New CEO

Nationally recognized judge and community leader cites “ALF’s legacy of innovative collaboration.”

SAN JOSE, CA, January 27, 2026 – Judge Erica Yew will become American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley’s Chief Executive Officer on February 1. Yew, a San Jose native, retired after 24 years as a Superior Court judge in January. She brings decades of visionary leadership, judicial excellence, and a deep commitment to strengthening communities throughout Silicon Valley.

Yew said, “I am excited and honored to join ALF Silicon Valley’s staff and Senior Fellows in continuing and growing American Leadership Forum’s legacy of innovative collaboration and impactful leadership. My parents immigrated to California for their education, and my father was an early Silicon Valley entrepreneur, starting ETEC and other companies. I grew up recognizing that the Valley is a special place and ALF Silicon Valley plays an outsized role in connecting all the sectors that make it so.”

Yew brings a track record of national, state, and local leadership to the role as American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley’s fifth CEO over four decades. She served as President of the 2300-member California Judges Association in 2023-2024. She chaired the commission that supervises the work of all state judges, the California Commission on Judicial Performance, a watchdog agency that ensures all California judges adhere to high ethical standards.

“At a time when non-partisanship, ethics, and the rule of law are so central to Silicon Valley and American Leadership Forum’s future, we simply couldn’t have found a more perfect candidate,” said incoming board chair and interim CEO David Yarnold.

Governor Gray Davis first appointed Yew to the Santa Clara County Superior Court on October 2, 2001, the first Asian-American female to sit on the county’s bench. She also chaired the Programs Committee of the National Center for State Courts, where she collaborated with state supreme court and local judges from across the country. She helped establish the creation of the California Judicial Mentor Program, a statewide initiative to create a more inclusive judiciary.

Yew’s commitment to the Silicon Valley community runs deep. She is a Senior Fellow of American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley (Class XV) and currently co-facilitates the organization’s AAPI Caucus affinity group. She received ALF Silicon Valley’s highest honor, the John W. Gardner award, in 2014. Other honors include the Santa Clara County Bar Association Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award and a 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Her extensive board service includes ReSurge International, the SCC Law Library Board, and the Good Samaritan Hospital Board, along with leadership roles in numerous bar associations and legal aid initiatives. Judge Yew is also an accomplished educator, having taught on judicial ethics, access to justice, and, most recently, on the impact of generative AI on litigants and the courts. She is an alumna of UC Berkeley and UC College of the Law, San Francisco.

“Judge Erica Yew exemplifies extraordinary leadership through vision, impact, and results. She possesses exceptional common sense and sound judgment, guiding every decision with clarity and purpose. A highly skilled and artful communicator, she speaks with precision, confidence, and authenticity, in a way that inspires trust and respect,” said Judge Rise Pichon, an ALF Senior Fellow (Class XVIII) who served with Yew as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Pichon said, “Her ability to accomplish so much is remarkable, as if time itself pauses to accommodate her efforts. Hardworking, confident, and virtually fearless, she leads with strength and determination while remaining humble, compassionate, warm, and approachable.”

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With this appointment, American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley reaffirms its mission “to join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good.” Through its signature year-long Fellows Program, American Leadership Forum brings together leaders from across sectors to engage in dialogue, support a thriving Silicon Valley community, and forge lasting relationships. This unique approach enhances Fellows’ capacity to address critical public issues collaboratively, thanks to a dynamic, curated network of nearly 850 leaders now 39 years in the making.

Yew said, “My job as a judge has required me to listen to all views and be as inclusive as possible with a goal of working toward consensus. I’m excited to jump into the ALF network now to partner with Senior Fellows who have had similar training and a common lexicon. There is no telling what we will accomplish.”

For more information about American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley and the ALF Fellows Program, visit **alfsv.org**.

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Judge Erica Yew’s full bio and publication-ready images can be found here: **alfsv.org/erica-yew**

Media advisory: Judge Yew will be available for interviews as of 2/2/26. Please contact Richard Ángel Vega, Chief Marketing Officer—**richard@alfsv.org, 408-554-2004**.