Ninth Circuit Judge A. Wallace Tashima Presented with UCLA’s Award for Professional Achievement

SAN FRANCISCO – Senior Circuit Judge A. Wallace Tashima, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, received the University of California Los Angeles’ Award for Professional Achievement in a ceremony held May 21, 2022, at UCLA’s Luskin Conference Center.

Established in 1962, the UCLA Award for Professional Achievement honors alumni with superior achievements in their field and who are recognized as leaders, innovators and change makers. Recipients must have a sterling record of distinguished career accomplishments and have set new standards of excellence in their field. The alumni department created this video for the event: https://vimeo.com/user7518594/review/704248889/1365013740.

Judge Tashima received his judicial commission as a district judge for the Central District of California on June 30, 1980, and was elevated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Jan. 4, 1996. He assumed senior status on June 30, 2004, and continues to serve. He is the first Japanese American and the third Asian American to be appointed to a United States Court of Appeals.

Judge Tashima grew up in the Los Angeles area, except for three years during World War II, when he, along with his family, was interned at the Poston, Arizona, War Relocation Authority Internment Camp. He has served on a number of judicial committees including the Standing Rules Committee of the Judicial Conference of the U.S., the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and the Ninth Circuit’s Court Executive Committee.

Judge Tashima has been active for many years in legal reform projects abroad on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, the World Bank and various NGOs. He has lectured and participated in demonstration projects and bilateral exchanges in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, China, Hong Kong and Japan.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Tashima was in private practice, a corporate attorney, deputy attorney general for the State of California and a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant. He earned a B.A. from UCLA and an LL.B. from Harvard Law School in 1961.