

**Provost's Lecture on Diversity and  
The Distinguished Owen J. Roberts Lecture in Constitutional Law**



IMPLICIT  
**BIAS**

STRUCTURAL  
**BIAS**

AND IMPLICATIONS FOR  
LAW AND POLICY

**Speaker: The Honorable Goodwin Liu**

**Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

**4:00 PM**





The Roberts lectureship was established in 1957 to honor Owen J. Roberts, an extraordinary jurist whose devotion to the law and to the Constitution marked every stage of his career. After earning an LLB in 1898 from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Roberts served for 20 years as a member of the Penn Law faculty. He developed a highly successful private practice during this time but chose to spend most of his career in service to the public: as assistant district attorney of Philadelphia, special U.S. prosecutor in the Teapot Dome cases, chairman of the commission appointed by President Roosevelt to investigate the Pearl Harbor attack, chairman of the Clemency Board following World War II, and as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1930 to 1945.

From 1948 through 1951, Roberts served as dean of Penn Law, where he taught a seminar in constitutional law. The Owen J. Roberts Lecture in Constitutional Law was established as an annual lectureship to be delivered by “a nationally prominent person, in either public or academic life, who might be expected to make a significant contribution in legal thought.” Over the years such distinguished jurists and scholars as Felix Frankfurter, William Hastie, Archibald Cox, John Rawls, Antonin Scalia, Guido Calabresi, Amartya Sen and Ruth Bader Ginsburg have been Roberts Lecturers.

At its formation, the lecture series was jointly sponsored by the Law School and its Chapter of the Order of the Coif. Since 1974, the law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker and Rhodes, which Owen J. Roberts founded, has funded an endowment to assure the long-term continuation of the lecture series.



## **Associate Justice Goodwin H. Liu**

Justice Goodwin Liu is an Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court. Nominated by Governor Jerry Brown, Justice Liu was unanimously confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments and sworn into office on September 1, 2011. He was retained by the electorate in 2014. Before joining the state’s highest court, Justice Liu was Professor of Law and Associate Dean at the UC Berkeley School of Law. His primary areas of expertise are constitutional law, education law and policy, and diversity in the legal profession.

The son of Taiwanese immigrants, Justice Liu grew up in Sacramento, where he attended public schools. He went to Stanford University and earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1991. He attended Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship and earned a master’s degree in philosophy and physiology. Upon returning to the United States, he went to Washington D.C. to help launch the AmeriCorps national service program and worked for two years as a senior program officer at the Corporation for National Service.

Justice Liu graduated from Yale Law School in 1998, becoming the first in his family to earn a law degree. He clerked for Judge David Tatel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and then worked as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. He went on to clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg during the October 2000 Term. From 2001 to 2003, he worked in the litigation practice of O'Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C.

Justice Liu continues to teach constitutional law as a visiting professor at Harvard Law School. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Law Institute. He serves on the Council of the American Law Institute, on the Board of Directors of the James Irvine Foundation, and on the Yale University Council. He has previously served on the California Commission on Access to Justice, the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science, Technology, and Law, the Board of Trustees of Stanford University, and the governing boards of the American Constitution Society, the National Women's Law Center, and the Public Welfare Foundation.

*This program has been approved for 1.0 Ethics CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should make a payment via the online registration link in the amount of \$40.00 (\$20.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys). In order to receive the appropriate amount of credit, passwords provided throughout the program must be noted in your evaluation form.*

*Penn Law Alumni receive CLE credits free through The W.P. Carey Foundation's generous commitment to Lifelong Learning.*

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