

Plenary: “Insights into Difficult Conversations”



Esther Kim is a partner in the law firm Turner, Huguet, Adams & Farr, in Martinez, where she represents clients in estate planning, trust administration, and probate matters. She is a co-Chair and an active member of the Estate Planning and Probate Section of the Contra Costa County Bar Association and a past Board Member of the Diablo Valley Estate Planning Council. She formerly worked as a civil litigator at Cooley Godward and as a staff attorney for the Santa Clara County Bar Association, where she helped to develop and implement an early court-

administered ADR program. She is also a trained mediator having received her training from Pepperdine University as well as community-based mediation with Community Boards, a nonprofit dispute resolution provider in San Francisco. She is an adjunct instructor at UC-Berkeley School of Law, where she has taught negotiations since 2019. Ms. Kim earned her undergraduate degree from Penn State, her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, and an LL.M in Taxation Law from Golden Gate University.



Jonathan U. Lee is an Assistant United States Attorney who is appearing in his personal capacity. He has served as Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime Strike Force section since 2022 and has experience prosecuting violent crimes, as well as internet-based crimes against children, labor trafficking, fraud, and embezzlement. He formerly practiced civil litigation for a private firm in San Francisco, for the San Francisco City Attorney's Office and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Mr. Lee is a Director of the Contra Costa County Bar Association and is Chair

of the Port Chicago Task Force. He serves as a court-appointed mediator for the federal and state courts, and he is an adjunct law instructor at UC-Berkeley and UC-San Francisco College of Law and has taught at John F. Kennedy School of Law. Mr. Lee co-taught negotiations with Ms. Kim at UC-Berkeley School of Law from 2019-2023. He earned his undergraduate degree from Washington University and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.