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## Third Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture: Justices of Color at the Top: Great Responsibility, Unique Challenges

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**Justices of Color at the Top: Great Responsibility, Unique Challenges***Golden Gate University School of Law**Third Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture**Distinguished Lecturer: Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye**National Panel of Justices of Color**Tuesday, October 18, 5pm-7pm**PG&E Auditorium, 77 Beale Street, San Francisco*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA On Tuesday, October 18, Golden Gate University School of Law will hold the Third Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture, a program that explores the experiences of justices who serve on some of the most influential courts in the nation. This year, the Lecture and panel discussion that follows proudly feature Justices of Color, including, as the 2011 Distinguished Lecturer, California's Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye assumed office in January, 2011 as California's second female and first minority Chief Justice. She leads a Supreme Court that, for the first time in the state's history, has a majority of justices who are female and persons of color.

Following the Lecture, Justice Cantil-Sakauye will participate in an illuminating conversation with four other distinguished judicial leaders of color. The panel discussion will include the Chief Justice of California; District of Columbia Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric Washington, who chairs the Conference of Chief Justices; Justice Michael Douglas, immediate past Chief Justice of Nevada; Chief Judge James Ware of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California; and Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice Fernande Duffly, former President of the National Association of Women Judges. Moderating the panel will be Senior Presiding Justice of the California Court of Appeal Joan Dempsey Klein, who sits on California's three-member Commission on Judicial Appointments.

"We are delighted to spotlight, in the name of California's extraordinary former Chief Justice, people of color at the helm of our highest courts," says Dean Drucilla Ramey. "We hope that this candid discussion will probe both the unique opportunities and special issues facing jurists of color serving at the top of their respective judiciaries, particularly at a point in our nation's history when diversity in the legal profession and the judiciary may well be at renewed risk."

About the Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture Series

Golden Gate University School of Law established the Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture Series for Chief Justices to share their unique perspectives on their experiences in their states' justice systems and to shine a spotlight on the critical importance of the state courts in American jurisprudence. The Lecture Series is named for The Honorable Ronald M. George, who joined the Supreme Court of California as an Associate Justice in 1991 and served as the Court's 27<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice from 1996 until January 2011. Throughout his career, Chief Justice George demonstrated an unwavering commitment to equal access to an impartial system of justice for all Californians.

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