



Donald K. Tamaki

**Managing Partner | Minami Tamaki, LLP
Co-Founder | Stop Repeating History**

Donald K. Tamaki received his BA, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of California at Berkeley in 1973, and also his JD from Berkeley in 1976. He is Managing Partner of Minami Tamaki LLP in San Francisco, representing business and non-profit clients.

In 1976, he received a Reginald Heber Smith fellowship to practice poverty law in San Jose, and co-founded the Asian Law Alliance, which has represented thousands of poor and low-income clients. From 1980 to 1983, he was Executive Director of the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco,

and served on the legal team which reopened the 1944 U.S. Supreme Court case of Fred Korematsu, overturning his criminal conviction for defying the removal of almost 120,000 Japanese Americans. The reopening was based on newly discovered evidence from the Justice Department, Navy, FBI, and FCC which had been suppressed from the Court, admitting that Japanese Americans had committed no wrong and posed no threat.

In 2012-13, he served on the legal team representing the California State Bar urging the state supreme court to admit Sergio Garcia to the bar, notwithstanding his undocumented immigrant status. The combined efforts of Garcia, the State Bar and the legislature resulted in the court admitting Garcia. Other states have followed this ground-breaking decision, including Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Wyoming and Utah.

In 2017-18, he served on the legal team filing an amicus brief in *Trump v. Hawaii* for the children of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui, reminding the court that in 1944 when it abdicated its role as a check on the executive branch, it was a civil liberties disaster, demonstrating the peril to democracy when courts blindly defer to the government's unsubstantiated claim that national security justifies curtailment of fundamental liberties. Justice Sonia Sotomayor cited the brief in her dissent.

Don is a 2020 recipient of the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award, and has received the State Bar of California's Loren Miller Legal Services Award in 1987, the ACLU (Northern California) Civil Liberties Award in 2003, the NAPABA Trailblazer Award in 2003, NAPABA President's Award co-recipient in 2018, and *SuperLawyer* designation since 2004.