**Do you know who is Dolly M. Gee?**

Federal Judge Dolly M. Gee is the first Chinese woman federal judge. She has had an outstanding career as a judge and today is playing a key role in the indictment of our 45th President.

**SOURCES:**



The first Chinese American woman federal judge is Dolly M. Gee, whose Senate confirmation as U.S. District Court Judge on Christmas Eve made history. Nominated by President Obama on the recommendation of Senator Barbara Boxer, Gee is serving in the Central District of California, the largest district by population of the 94 U.S. District Courts. Gee was born in California, educated at UCLA, and is a specialist in labor law and workplace harassment and discrimination cases. When nominated, Gee was a partner at Schwartz, Steinsapir, Dohrmann & Sommers LLP in Los Angeles, where she has been since 1986

Ms. Gee graduated with a B.A. (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) from UCLA in 1981. In 1984, she received her J.D. from UCLA School of Law. During law school, Ms. Gee externed for Hon. Allen E. Broussard of the California Supreme Court. After law school, she clerked for Hon. Milton L. Schwartz, U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of California, from 1984-1986.

Ms. Gee specializes in state and federal court litigation, administrative hearings, arbitrations, and the representation of teachers under the Education Code. In 2002, Ms. Gee and the firm's Of Counsel, William T. Payne, settled a class action ERISA lawsuit against the Walt Disney Company ensuring lifetime post-retirement health benefits for over 6,000 retirees and active employees.

Ms. Gee has extensive experience conducting independent workplace investigations of alleged employee misconduct, including race discrimination and sexual harassment. She also conducts training seminars on sexual harassment and other employment laws. She frequently advises employees regarding covenants not to compete, reviews employment agreements, and negotiates initial employment contracts and severance packages for professionals and executives in diverse fields, including academia and the accounting, banking, health care, and entertainment industries.

In 1994, Ms. Gee was appointed by President Clinton to serve for a five-year term on the Federal Service Impasses Panel ("FSIP") in Washington, D.C. As an FSIP member, she mediated and arbitrated numerous disputes and participated in hundreds of summary dispositions of impasses between federal agencies and federal sector labor unions. Ms. Gee currently serves as an arbitrator for the Kaiser Permanente Independent Arbitration System.

During the 1995-96, 1999-2000, and 2005-06 International Brotherhood of Teamsters Delegate and Officer Elections, Ms. Gee served as Regional Coordinator under the auspices of the Office of the Election Officer, established under the supervision of Hon. David N. Edelstein, U. S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. In that capacity, she investigated and recommended dispositions for hundreds of election protests relating to alleged violations of election rules.

Ms. Gee is a former Trustee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. She is a past president of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association and a founder and advisory board member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County. She also has served as a board member of the Western Center on Law & Poverty, the California Women's Law Center, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California. She was a member of the State Bar of California's Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission in which she evaluated candidates for state judicial positions. She served as a Central District lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and as a member of the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board. Since 2004, she has been named each year as a "Southern California Super Lawyer" by Los Angeles Magazine.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Judge of the United States District Court for the Central District of California

Incumbent

Assumed office

January 4, 2010

Appointed by Barack Obama

Preceded by George P. Schiavelli

Personal details

Born July 1, 1959 (age 64)[1]

Hawthorne, California, U.S.

Education University of California, Los Angeles (BA, JD)

Chinese name

Chinese 朱美瑜[citation needed]

Transcriptions

Dolly Maizie Gee (born July 1, 1959) is a United States district judge of the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

**Early life and education**

Gee was born in Hawthorne, California, the daughter of Cantonese immigrants from Taishan.[2][3][4] Gee's father was a World War II veteran who later worked as an aerospace engineer on projects like the Apollo missions and the Space Shuttle, while her mother was a garment worker.[3] Gee earned a Bachelors of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1981 and a Juris Doctor from University of California, Los Angeles School of Law in 1984.[5] From 1984 until 1986, Gee served as a law clerk for Judge Milton Schwartz of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.[5][6]

**Professional career**

In 1986, Gee joined the Los Angeles law firm of Schwartz, Steinsapir, Dohrmann & Sommers LLP. She served as an associate from 1986 until 1990, and became a partner in 1990. From 1994 until 1999, Gee also served as a member of the Federal Service Impasses Panel, a federal labor relations authority.[6]

**Expired nomination to federal district court under Clinton**

On May 27, 1999, President Bill Clinton nominated Gee to be a judge on the United States District Court for the Central District of California to replace Judge John G. Davies. However, with Republicans in control of the United States Senate, Gee's nomination languished, despite her meeting with Clinton on May 24, 2000.[7] Gee never received a hearing before the Republican-controlled United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and her nomination was returned to Clinton at the end of his presidency.[8] President George W. Bush later successfully nominated John F. Walter to the seat to which Gee had been nominated.[6]

**Nomination to district court under Obama**

On August 6, 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Gee to a seat on the United States District Court for the Central District of California, to fill the seat vacated by Judge George P. Schiavelli, who resigned in October 2008.[5] On October 15, 2009, the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary referred Gee's nomination to the full Senate. The Senate confirmed Gee by unanimous consent on December 24, 2009. She received her commission on January 4, 2010.[9] On March 19, 2010, Gee was inducted to California's branch of the United States District Court.[10] This makes her the first Chinese American woman to serve as an Article III Judge.[11][6]

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***Who Is Dolly Gee? A Look at the Judge Deciding the Fate of Trump’s Executive Order***

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Judge Dolly M. Gee of United States District Court for the Central District of California.Credit...NAPABA, via YouTube

**By**[**Tim Arango**](http://www.nytimes.com/by/tim-arango)**. June 21, 2018**

LOS ANGELES — Judge Dolly M. Gee has called the treatment of immigrant children in detention “deplorable” in a legal opinion. She has castigated the federal government for “fear mongering” when it argued that the detention of migrant families at the border was a necessary deterrent.

**And that was during the Obama administration.**

Soon, the national crisis over immigration, which has moved from searing scenes at the border of children being separated from their families, to the halls of power in Washington, will shift to a judge’s chambers in Los Angeles. That’s where Judge Gee is expected to consider President Trump’s executive order that ended the separation of migrant families but now seeks to hold them together for an indefinite period.

Judge Gee was appointed to the federal bench by President Obama in 2009. She is the daughter of Chinese immigrants — her father was an aerospace engineer and her mother a garment worker. At her confirmation hearing in 2009, Barbara Boxer, then a senator from California, [said](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/12/dolly-gee-confirmed-district-court-judge-chinese-american.html) that Judge Gee’s mother, “was a garment worker who never taught Dolly to sew because she did not want her daughter to have to stitch clothes for a living.”

The Trump administration, in issuing the executive order, is expected to ask the federal courts to alter a 1997 [consent decree](https://www.aclu.org/legal-document/flores-v-meese-stipulated-settlement-agreement-plus-extension-settlement) known as the Flores settlement that limits the detention of migrant families to no more than 20 days.

“Right now we have the lawful authority to detain a family unit together for up to 20 days,” Gene Hamilton, an adviser to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, [told reporters](https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2018/06/20/us/politics/20reuters-usa-immigration-court-families.html) in Washington on Wednesday. “What we are seeking with Judge Gee is a modification of that so we can detain beyond 20 days the entire family unit together.”

If Judge Gee’s record offers any indication for how she might rule, the Trump administration may have a tough road. Her previous rulings have limited federal detentions of migrant families — and have been critical of the conditions in which border agents hold detainees. In 2015, for example, in a case addressing the detention of families, not the separation of children from parents, [she ordered](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/26/us/detained-immigrant-children-judge-dolly-gee-ruling.html) the Obama administration to release children and their parents “without unnecessary delay” and ruled that the Flores settlement be applied to all children in detention, whether they arrived at the border with or without parents.

If there is one through line to her career, as a lawyer in private practice and then a judge, it is as an advocate for the underdog — immigrants, minorities and the working class.

“She’s compassionate,” said Henry M. Willis, a partner at Judge Gee’s former Los Angeles law firm, Schwartz, Steinsapir, Dohrman & Sommers, which specializes in labor and employment law. “She’s rigorous in the law.”

Judge Gee, 58, a graduate of the UCLA School of Law, had a long career in private practice before joining the bench, mostly as an advocate for labor unions. In Los Angeles, she became involved in other social causes, working with activists to oppose government efforts to end affirmative action, and working pro bono to help victims of the civil unrest in 1992 after the beating of Rodney King by the police.

Evincing little patience for efforts to obfuscate the truth as she sees it, Judge Gee began one of her Obama-era decisions on immigration with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: “An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody sees it.”

In a similar [decision](https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news-2/federal-court-judge-calls-trump-administration-improve-deplorable-conditions-children-detained-border) last year against the Trump administration, she was critical of family detentions, calling their conditions “deplorable and unsanitary,” and affirmed that Flores prohibits the lengthy detentions of children. She also waded into the Trump administration’s restrictions last year on immigration from Muslim countries, ordering that an [Iranian man](https://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/25/us/legal-aid-ordered-for-mentally-disabled-immigrants.html), who was in the United States with a valid visa, be brought back after he was put on a plane to Dubai. In an earlier case, in 2013, Judge Gee for the first time [ordered](https://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/25/us/legal-aid-ordered-for-mentally-disabled-immigrants.html) that immigrants with mental disabilities be provided with legal representation in immigration courts.

Even as her rulings suggest she is unlikely to agree with the administration’s plans to hold families longer than 20 days, going against the executive order would allow President Trump to blame her — an Obama appointee — and provide another opportunity to blame Democrats for the country’s dysfunctional immigration policy.

“I don’t imagine that gives her much concern,” Mr. Willis said. “She’s not the type to flinch from her obligations, just because someone might be unhappy.”

If Judge Gee rejects the order, by ruling that Flores prevents children from being detained for lengthy periods even with their parents, then the administration would have two options, to start separating families again, or allow adults to go free while their asylum cases proceed.

Some analysts believe that the Trump administration’s strategy may be to force a challenge to Flores, and then, once the executive order is struck down, push Congress to pass a law to override it.

“Maybe the aim is to get the court to strike down the order on Flores grounds,” said Alex Nowrasteh, senior immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute, a libertarian research organization. “And then Congress might act on this, and they could say it’s to keep families together.”

Still, there is a worry among immigration advocates: that the parameters of the debate have shifted, and that liberals could be more willing to accept the detention of migrant families if it means the end of heartbreaking images of distressed children that have galvanized the country.

“We are now at a different point from where we were two years ago, or three years ago,” said Elora Mukherjee, a professor at Columbia Law School and director of the school’s Immigrants’ Rights Clinic. “Now, well-meaning progressives are supporting the idea that well, maybe, the best we can get is families detained together for an indefinite period.”

Ms. Mukherjee said Judge Gee was, in “a difficult situation.”

“But I’m hoping she will abide by long-settled law,” **Ms. Mukherjee said. “She is a brilliant legal mind. She is careful in her legal reasoning, and she adheres to the law and upholds the Constitution.”**

She continued: “I’m optimistic about the federal judiciary being a bulwark against excesses and abuse by this administration.”