

**Welcome Remarks for Presentation of Honorary Membership to Loretta Lynch**  
**New York City Bar Association**  
**October 4, 2018**  
**Introduction of Hon. Kiyoo A. Matsumoto**  
**By Roger Juan Maldonado,**  
**President, New York City Bar Association**

Good evening.

I'm Roger Juan Maldonado, President of the New York City Bar Association. It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you here tonight for this very special presentation of honorary membership to Loretta Lynch.

There is said to be an old Chinese curse that goes, "May you live in interesting times." Having googled the saying, I have it on good authority from Wikipedia that the saying is apocryphal.

That said, I don't think there's any doubt that the times we are living in are, indeed, "interesting," and I would venture to say that's because in these times the rule of law is being stress-tested as seldom before.

The rule of law is not just relevant to, but is at the core of tonight's proceedings. We are here to celebrate Loretta Lynch's career-long dedication to and accomplishments in upholding and strengthening the rule of law.

The City Bar Association was formed to combat corruption in our judicial system. As we approach our 150th anniversary in 2020, I submit there's never been a better time to reaffirm our commitment to the fundamental need to uphold the rule of law. Among all the lessons the past 150 years have taught us, is that supporting the rule of law is not a sometime proposition, but rather, it is a way of life, as is exemplified by tonight's honoree.

The challenge for the members of this association -- indeed, for all lawyers -- is to prove ourselves worthy of being officers of the court and stewards of the legal profession.

Which brings me to Judge Kiyoo Matsumoto, who will introduce our distinguished guest. I can think of no one more appropriate to honor Ms. Lynch on behalf of the City Bar than the chair of our honors committee.

Like our honoree, Judge Matsumoto was born in North Carolina, and she has recalled that in her home state at the time, I quote, "Nobody knew quite what to make of Asian Americans," including which water fountain they should drink from.

Both of Judge Matsumoto's parents -- and her grandparents -- were sent to internment camps during World War II. The observation made by Judge Matsumoto's parents that there were few Asian-American lawyers to contest the government's internment policies during the war, was on Judge Matsumoto's mind when she decided to become a lawyer.

We are so glad she did. It is my pleasure to turn the podium over to the Honorable Kiyo A. Matsumoto, United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of New York.