



**Name in English:** Goodwin Liu  
**Name in Chinese:** 刘弘威 [劉弘威]  
**Name in Pinyin:** Liú Hóngwēi  
**Gender:** Male  
**Birth Year:** 1970  
**Birth Place:** Augusta, Georgia  
**Current location:** California

## California Supreme Court Justice

**Profession(s):** Professor, Legal Writer, Judge

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Biology, Stanford University, 1991; Master of Arts/Master of Science, Philosophy/Physiology, 1993; Juris Doctorate, Yale University, 1998

**Awards:** 2007, Steven S. Goldberg Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Education Law, Education Law Association; Year, Name of Award, Complete name of organization giving the Award; Year, Name of Award, etc

**Contribution (s):** Goodwin Liu is a respected member of the national legal community and a Justice of the California Supreme Court. His writings on constitutional law, education policy, civil rights, and the Supreme Court have appeared in national newspapers such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times.

Justice Liu was born in 1970 in Augusta, Georgia to Wen-Pen and Yang-Ching Liu, two physicians originally from Taiwan who were recruited to provide medical services in underserved areas in the United States. The Liu family moved to Clewiston, Florida and eventually settled in Sacramento, California, where Goodwin Liu went to high school. He attended Stanford University, and received his bachelor's degree in biology in 1991. He then attended Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship to earn his masters degree in philosophy and physiology in 1993. He received his juris doctorate from Yale University in 1998.

Before becoming a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, Justice Liu had a distinguished career in Washington, D.C. He worked as an appellate litigator at O'Melveny & Myers. He clerked for Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as well as for Judge David S. Tatel of the Court of Appeals for the Washington DC Circuit. He went on to serve in the US Department of Education and then as senior program officer for higher education at the Corporation for National Service. With the Corporation for National Service, he helped launch AmeriCorps, an organization which provides community support throughout the United States.

Justice Liu joined the UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law faculty as a professor in 2003. He was warmly received by the university. He became Associate Dean of the school as soon as he achieved tenure. In 2008, he was elected to the American Law Institute. In 2009, Justice Liu won the UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award, the university's most prestigious award.

In 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Justice Liu to fill a vacancy on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, headquartered in San Francisco and by far the largest of the nation's thirteen courts of appeals. His nomination faced intense political opposition. After months of oftentimes rancorous debate, Justice Liu, while expressing the deep honor he felt by the president's nomination, decided to withdraw his name from the proceedings. "With no possibility of an up-or-down vote on the horizon, my family and I have decided that it is time for us to regain the ability to make plans for the future," he said.

On July 26, 2011, Governor Jerry Brown of California nominated Goodwin Liu for a seat on the California Supreme Court. He was confirmed to the appointment on August 31, 2011, becoming the first justice of the California Supreme Court without previous judicial experience and the third of Chinese and partial Chinese descent following Justices Ming Chin and Joyce Kennard respectively.

Justice Liu serves on the Board of Trustees of Stanford University, and chairs the Board of Directors of the American Constitution Society. He also serves on the boards of the Public Welfare Foundation, the Alliance for Excellent Education, and the National Women's Law Center.

**Publications/Patents:**

"Education, Equality, and National Citizenship," Yale Law Journal (2006)

**External Links:**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-nominates-goodwin-liu-united-states-court-appeals-ninth-circuit-jud>

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/07/26/BA071KF8DV.DTL>

<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/4542.htm>

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/08/31/BAKN1KUAUI.DTL&tsp=1>