

## **Judge Thomas Tang**

### *Discussion Point:*

Judge Tang played a part in the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 when he opined that Asian Americans in Alaskan canneries were being discriminated against because they were denied promotions and forced to sit in segregated lunchrooms. While the US Supreme court did not completely agree, Tang's decision, along with other high court decisions making job-discrimination lawsuits harder to win, resulted in congressional action: congress passed the civil rights act of 1991, undoing the Supreme Court's decision restricting federal anti-discrimination laws.

Judge Tang's convictions cost him his position at one point when in 1967, applying *In Re Gault* he refused to send 2 teenage boys to adult prison, instead placing them on probation until they turned 21.

- If this case were argued in a 2010 court, would the outcome likely have been the same?
- What do you feel Judge Tang's decision says about his faith in the judicial system?