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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

Secretary

I am a Filipino American who has been practicing law for close to fourteen years. This is my second year running for the position of secretary, and I hope this year will be more successful.

During my career, I have worked as a litigator for The Legal Aid Society of New York – recognized as the largest public defender's office in the country – and three law firms with over 100 attorneys (including my current employer, Wolff & Samson PC, of West Orange, New Jersey). Yet, in all of those years, I have worked with only one attorney who, like me, was of Filipino descent. This fact never occurred to me until about a year ago, when I began attending APALA events, where the issue of under-representation of Asians in the profession, in government, and in the judiciary was discussed. I would like to be actively involved in changing this unfortunate condition. This is why I am taking the first step of running for Secretary.

I am well prepared and qualified to take on the responsibilities of this office. My experience as a litigator for large, highly regarded firms has allowed me to develop the communication and organizational skills necessary to successfully carry out the duties of this office. More importantly, I am enthusiastic about helping APALA realize the goal of diversity in the profession. In this regard, as a relatively new member of APALA, I hope to provide a new

perspective and fresh ideas, much as I have as an active member of Wolff & Samson's Diversity Committee.

As for my involvement with APALA affairs and activities, for the last seven months, I have been actively engaged, as a co-chair, in planning the 4th Annual APALA Golf Outing. This year's outing will be a unique and exciting event, inasmuch as it will take place in the premier public course in New Jersey, Ballyowen Golf Club, in Sussex County. As co-chair, I have gained knowledge in coordinating a significant event, and I will bring this experience with me, if I am elected to the position of secretary.

If I am fortunate enough to get your vote, I will not disappoint you.