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**APALA-NJ CONGRATULATES AND CELEBRATES THE NOMINATION OF
PHILLIP H. KWON AND BRUCE A. HARRIS TO THE NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT**

On January 23, 2012, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie nominated Phillip H. Kwon and Bruce A. Harris to the New Jersey Supreme Court. Mr. Harris is the first openly gay African American to be nominated to the New Jersey Supreme Court. Mr. Kwon is the first Asian Pacific American attorney to be nominated to the highest state court in New Jersey.

While Asian Pacific Americans represent a significant segment of New Jersey's population, they are severely underrepresented in the state's Judiciary, representing a mere one (1%) percent. APALA-NJ applauds Governor Christie for his commitment to diversity and for taking an active approach in transforming the landscape of the Judiciary. Within a year, Governor Christie has appointed a judge of South Asian descent to the Superior Court of New Jersey, and now has nominated another distinguished member of the Bar of Korean American descent and an openly gay African American to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Mr. Kwon has an incredibly impressive resume. He is currently a member of the Attorney General's executive staff serving as First Assistant Attorney General. In this capacity, he oversees the management of over 6,500 personnel across 12 separate divisions and commissions of New Jersey's largest agency, the Department of Law and Public Safety. Prior to joining the Office of the Attorney General, Mr. Kwon served for more than ten years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. As part of the Criminal Division, he focused on prosecutions involving drugs, gangs, counterfeiting, white-collar fraud, and immigration fraud. Mr. Kwon also served in the Special Prosecutions Division where he worked specifically on corruption cases and trials, including those involving Robert Janiszewski, Nidia Davila-Colon, William Braker, Clinton Van Berry, and Zachary Turner. Among his many achievements, Mr. Kwon was instrumental in securing convictions of criminals involved in the sale of fraudulent birth certificates from the Hudson County Registrar's Office and one of the leading prosecutors on the trial team that convicted Sharpe James and Tamika Riley in a federal corruption case.

In 2005, Mr. Kwon was named as Chief of the Violent Crimes Unit where he supervised the Attorney General Office's gang prosecutors. In 2006, Mr. Kwon was named as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division and directly oversaw the Commercial Crimes Unit, the Terrorism

Unit, and the Violent Crimes Unit. APALA-NJ is proud to endorse one of its most distinguished members to the New Jersey Supreme Court. Mr. Kwon is a recipient of the APALA-NJ Trailblazer Award (2010).

Mr. Kwon earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1989 from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where he majored in History. He graduated from Rutgers University School of Law School in Newark, New Jersey in 1994. From 1994 to 1997, Mr. Kwon was an associate at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae in Newark, New Jersey. From 1997 to 1999, he served as law clerk to the Honorable Harold A. Ackerman, a Federal District Court Judge sitting in Newark, New Jersey.

Mr. Harris is Of Counsel to Greenberg Traurig. His practice is limited to commercial lending and asset based lending, real estate and construction financing, syndicated loans, and letters of credit in bond transactions. He is currently the mayor of Chatham, New Jersey.

Founded in 1983, the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey represents the interests of attorneys from 53 different countries. According to the Census Bureau, over 650,000 Asian Pacific Americans reside in New Jersey, representing nearly eight (8%) percent of the total population of New Jersey. From 2000-2007, there was a thirty-two (32%) percent increase in the state's Asian Pacific American population and every county in New Jersey experienced double-digit growth of the Asian Pacific American population during this time period. This trend continues as Asian Pacific Americans settle in New Jersey to meet the state's growing demand for a strong workforce. As the bar association that represents one of the fastest growing minority populations in the state, APALA-NJ continues to focus on ensuring greater representation of Asian Pacific American attorneys in various sectors of the legal profession as well as in government and the Judiciary.

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