



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CONGRATULATES
PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN AND VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT KAMALA HARRIS
ON THEIR HISTORIC ELECTION**

NEW YORK -- November 10, 2020. The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) acknowledges the historical election of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris in their victorious bid for the White House announced by the Associated Press on November 7, 2020. Vice President-elect Harris, the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants, is not only the first woman, but also the first South Asian and Black American to be elected to the Vice Presidency of the United States.

Both President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris spoke to racial equality, equity, diversity, and inclusion in their victory speeches on the night of November 7. Harris, who was first to take the stage, savoring the solo moment in a suffragette-white pantsuit, spoke of her Indian immigrant mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, by “thinking about her and about the generations of women, Black women, Asian, white, Latina, Native American women, who throughout our nation's history, who paved the way to tonight, women who fought and sacrificed so much for equality and liberty and justice for all.” Harris praised Biden as “a healer, a uniter, a tested and steady hand.” Biden then took the stage and stated, “You just heard from Kamala Harris, who makes history as the first woman, first Black woman, the first woman from South Asian descent, the first daughter of immigrants ever elected to this country. Don’t tell me it’s not possible in the United States. It’s long overdue.” He then pledged “to be a President who seeks not to divide but unify.”

“AABANY has for more than three decades been promoting the meaningful participation of Asian American, Pacific Islander and South Asian lawyers in the legal profession,” states Sapna Palla, AABANY’s first female South Asian President. “AABANY’s theme this year is ‘Stronger Together, Unity in Diversity,’ and in line with that theme, we commend Biden and Harris’ vision of greater inclusivity and finding power in diversity. The election of Kamala Harris as Vice-President is an important step towards greater representation of Asian Americans in government and politics. She has helped to pierce the Bamboo Ceiling and has led the way to break down barriers for all women of color.”

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), of which AABANY is the largest among nearly 90 affiliates, issued a statement on November 7 that stated:

“Amid a global pandemic and a contentious election, our nation has been tested. As members of the legal profession, we have a special responsibility to ensure the continuity of our best legal traditions, and to defend and uphold our commitments to justice, fairness, equity and the Rule of Law under our Constitution. We must work together to unite our membership and our nation to find common ground for a better path forward. NAPABA embraces the solidarity and strength of our robust and diverse community and is committed to our mission to serve as the voice of the AAPI legal profession.”

AABANY joins NAPABA in its congratulatory statement and looks forward to working with the Biden-Harris administration to stand Stronger Together and to find Unity in Diversity.

For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653-2168, or direct any inquiries to main@aabany.org.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian Pacific American community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the Asian Pacific American community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

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