



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CONGRATULATES ASIM REHMAN ON BEING SWORN IN AS THE FIRST SOUTH ASIAN AND MUSLIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE OF THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS

New York - July 12, 2022 - The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) congratulates its longtime member Asim Rehman for his historic appointment as New York City’s Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge to the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH). Commissioner Rehman was sworn in to the position in a ceremony held by Mayor Eric Adams on Wednesday, July 6, 2022. Commissioner Rehman will be the first Muslim American and the first person of South Asian descent to lead the office. With the wide scope and range of cases that the agency handles in the City of New York, Commissioner Rehman’s dedication to further the mission of OATH will greatly benefit many New Yorkers. This historic appointment is important to the Asian American, Muslim American, and South Asian community alike. Commissioner Rehman’s outstanding achievement highlights the community’s desire for representation within the government and public sector to be reflective of the diverse communities that they serve in New York City.

A native New Yorker, Commissioner Rehman attended Haverford College and the University of Michigan Law School. Commissioner Rehman started his legal career as a federal law clerk in the Southern District of New York for Honorable John S. Martin, Jr. He entered private practice at the firms Chaffetz Lindsey and Debevoise & Plimpton working on complex litigation, white-collar criminal defense, internal and government investigations, anti-corruption matters, and a broad range of *pro bono* cases. He then served as an in-house counsel for MetLife where he worked within the Global Litigation Unit assisting in managing disputes across borders.

Commissioner Rehman re-entered public service as the General Counsel and later as the First Deputy Inspector General of the Inspector General for the New York City Police Department (NYPD) in 2017 where he served as watchdog for the department. In this position, Commissioner Rehman worked on accountability recommendations for the NYPD to provide effective policing that upholds the protection of individuals’ civil liberties.

Commissioner Rehman also co-founded the Muslim American Bar Association of New York (MuBANY) in 2006. With its growing numbers, MuBANY is a community of Muslim attorneys who aim to educate “the local and national community about matters affecting the Muslim community, advancing and protecting the rights of Muslims in America, and creating an environment that helps guarantee the full, fair and equal representation of Muslims in American society.” Remaining true to the essence of MuBANY, Judge Rehman has testified before the United States Commission on Civil Rights regarding government engagement with Arab and Muslim communities in a post-9/11 world. Now, as the first Commissioner of Islamic faith at OATH, Commissioner Rehman’s appointment represents an important step in making the public and legal sector more diverse and inclusive.

“As stated by Mayor Eric Adams at the swearing-in ceremony, Commissioner Rehman is an ambassador and representative for his community and by appointing more individuals from diverse backgrounds, the city government is acknowledging the barrier and addressing the issue by advancing diverse candidates into positions of influence and impact,” stated AABANY President William Ng. “Commissioner Rehman as a Pakistani American Muslim appointed to lead OATH is truly emblematic of that trend. AABANY commends New York City Mayor Eric Adams for making this historic appointment.

“Commissioner Rehman’s appointment will continue to inspire many in the Asian American community,” continued President Ng. “As he breaks new ground in this new position, Commissioner Rehman paves the way for Asians, South Asians, and Muslim Americans who wish to pursue careers in the public sector. We anticipate that Commissioner Rehman will lead the agency to operate effectively and fairly as the Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge of OATH. AABANY wishes Commissioner Rehman all the best in his future endeavors in this important role.”

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 not-for-profit 501(c)(6) professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the AAPI community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

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