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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK APPLAUDS FIVE ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER JUDGES ELECTED AND APPOINTED TO NEW YORK JUDICIARY

New York—January 25, 2022—The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) commends the successful campaigns of three Asian American Pacific Islander (“AAPI”) judges who were elected to the New York City bench and assumed office on January 1, 2022: Judge Andrea Ogle to the Queens County Civil Court, Judge Christopher Chin to the New York County Civil Court, and Judge Soma Syed to the Queens County Civil Court. AABANY also applauds the appointments of two AAPI judges to the New York Judiciary: Judge Omer Shahid to the New York City Housing Court and Judge Simiyon Haniff to the New York City Civil Court, both of whom have been on the bench since January 1, 2022.

Judge Andrea Ogle practiced for most of her career in Family Court, where she specialized in immigration, criminal, and housing law, and also represented individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders in Family Treatment Court. Judge Ogle is a former special education impartial hearing officer for New York State and former revocation hearing officer for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Judge Ogle received her bachelor’s degree from Queens College and her J.D. from Seton Hall Law School.

Judge Christopher Chin is a former staff attorney at Greater New York Insurance Companies and former associate and trial attorney at several law firms. During his time in private practice, Judge Chin specialized in personal injury cases and matters involving violations of labor laws. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University at Albany–State University of New York and his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. Judge Chin is an active member of AABANY’s Litigation Committee and Judiciary Committee.

Judge Soma Syed is a former Special Prosecutor of the Village of Hempstead and private practitioner, who founded her own practice handling real estate transactions, corporate deals, family and immigration matters, and other civil litigation cases. Judge Syed received her bachelor’s degree from The City College of New York and her J.D. from Albany Law School of Union University.

Judge Omer Shahid is a former court attorney to the Honorable Kimberley Slade of the Kings Housing Court. Prior to public service, he previously spent several years in private practice.

Judge Simiyon Haniff started his career in the Intake, Domestic Violence, Appeals and Felony Trial Bureaus at the Queens County District Attorney’s Office. After his time in public service, Judge Haniff started his own practice and specialized in private criminal defense matters and 18B felony work. He then returned to the Queens County District Attorney’s Office and eventually became Supervising Attorney of the Criminal Court Bureau’s Part AP-2. Judge Haniff received his bachelor’s degree from St. John’s University and his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School.

“We celebrate Judge Ogle, Judge Chin, Judge Syed, Judge Shahid, and Judge Haniff being elected and appointed to the New York bench,” said Terry Shen, President of AABANY. “We are proud of the growing AAPI presence in the New York Judiciary. At the same time, more progress is needed before the New York bench reflects the incredibly diverse communities that it serves. The AAPI community, in particular, remains underrepresented as the number of AAPI judges in New York City is disproportionately low when compared to the number of AAPI individuals who call New York City their home. As this new group of AAPI jurists joins the New York bench, we remain hopeful that we will continue to make progress with regard to maintaining and fostering diversity in our justice system. We thank these recently appointed and elected AAPI jurists for their ongoing commitment to public service and wish them all successful tenures on the New York bench.”

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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