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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CONGRATULATES KAREN R. KING ON RECEIVING AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION’S 2023 PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARD

NEW YORK–June 15, 2023. The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”), is proud to announce that AABANY member Karen King has been honored with a 2023 Pro Bono Publico Award for her outstanding commitment to providing pro bono legal services for low-income and disadvantaged persons. The award recognizes attorneys and institutions in the legal profession that have enhanced the human dignity of others by improving or delivering volunteer legal services to our nation’s poor and disadvantaged.

Karen King is a partner at Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello PC where her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and regulatory compliance. She was also a Co-Chair of AABANY’s Pro Bono and Community Service Committee, is an active member of AABANY’s Anti-Asian Violence Task Force and is a member of the Federal Bar Council and Second Circuit Pro Bono panel. In one of her more recent pro bono representations, Karen worked with Sanctuary for Families to assist survivors of domestic violence cases. She represented Narkis Golan in a widely followed case spanning over four years. The case concerned an Italian citizen who filed a petition with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York to return his child to Italy through the Hague Convention. The case centered on the question of the grave risk of harm to children who witness domestic violence. In 2022, King obtained a unanimous victory before the U.S. Supreme Court in Saada v. Golan and is credited with providing trauma-informed legal representation and strategy that will guide other victims of domestic violence and their children in similar situations.

AABANY congratulates Ms. King’s well-deserved award for her commitment to being a champion of civil rights and anti-AAPI discrimination. Her pro bono work in this area has been prolific. In 2021, Karen was named a "Notable Woman in Law" by Crain's New York Business. She is also a recipient of the Federal Bar Council’s Thurgood Marshall Award for Exceptional Pro Bono Service and the Pro Bono award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), of which AABANY is the largest affiliate. In 2019, Ms. King received NAPABA’s Pro Bono Award recognizing her work on a case that lasted for over 10 years, involving bias and discrimination in the promotion practices of the New York and New Jersey Port Authority against Asian American police officers. To counter the anti-Asian hate that exploded during COVID-19, Ms. King led AABANY in writing and publishing the report entitled A Rising Tide of Hate and Violence against Asian Americans in New York During COVID-19: Impact, Causes, Solutions, as Co-Executive Editor. She then served as an Executive Editor on a second report in 2022 on the continuing surge of anti-Asian hate in a report entitled Endless Tide: The Continuing Struggle to Overcome Anti-Asian Hate in New York. Following these reports, she presented on their findings at many speaking engagements with students, bar associations, law enforcement, corporate groups, victims and community members.
AABANY proudly recognizes Karen King for being a recipient of the 2023 Pro Bono Publico Award for her unflagging perseverance in promoting social justice,” states AABANY President Karen Kim. “We applaud her consistency in delivering excellent volunteer legal services and spearheading efforts to uplift our nation’s underserved communities. Her leadership in AABANY’s own well-recognized and well-established pro bono and anti-Asian hate programs lend further support to this well-deserved accolade from the American Bar Association. Congratulations to Karen King on receiving the ABA’s Pro Bono Publico Award.”

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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