



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2025**

**Contact: Yang Chen, Executive Director
(646) 653-2168**

**ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK APPLAUDS
APPOINTMENT OF JAY Y. KIM TO THE NEW YORK STATE COURT OF CLAIMS**

NEW YORK – June 18, 2025 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) congratulates and applauds the appointment of Jay Y. Kim to the New York State Court of Claims by Governor Kathy Hochul, announced on June 10, 2025. Judge Kim was sworn in on the same day and has been assigned to serve as Acting Supreme Court Justice in Bronx County Supreme Court, criminal term.

Judge Kim is a member of AABANY and the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY). He earned his J.D. from St. John’s University School of Law in 2008 and began his legal career as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Tort Division of the New York City Law Department, where he handled a wide array of civil litigation on behalf of the City.

In 2010, Judge Kim was selected to serve as Principal Law Clerk to the late Hon. Theodore T. Jones and later to the Hon. Jenny Rivera, both of the New York Court of Appeals. Following his distinguished clerkship, Judge Kim returned to the Law Department in 2013 as Senior Counsel in the Labor & Employment Law Division, where he handled complex matters involving discrimination and civil service law. He later joined the New York City Department of Education’s Office of Legal Services as an agency attorney.

While Judge Kim’s appointment is a cause for celebration, Asian American representation on the bench in New York remains disproportionately low. As of 2024, only 5% of New York State judges are of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) descent, despite AAPIs comprising approximately 9.8% of the state’s population. In New York City, AAPIs make up 14.7% of the population but represent only about 11% of the judiciary. Most notably, no AAPI jurist has ever been appointed to the New York Court of Appeals, the state’s highest court, and there remains no AAPI representation in the Appellate Divisions of the Second, Third, or Fourth Departments.

“AABANY proudly celebrates the appointment of Judge Jay Y. Kim to the New York State Court of Claims,” said Benjamin C. Hsing, President of AABANY. “Judge Kim’s path reflects the very best of public service—dedicated, principled, and tireless. His appointment marks another meaningful step toward a judiciary that reflects the rich diversity of our state. While we welcome this progress, we remain steadfast in our advocacy for greater AAPI representation at all levels of the judiciary, especially in our appellate and highest courts.”

AABANY remains committed to promoting equal access to justice and ensuring that the bench reflects the communities it serves. We look forward to seeing Judge Kim continue to serve with distinction in his new 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). AALFNY is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that has helped to fund the production of the documentary.

###

Additional information about AABANY is available at www.aabany.org

Follow our blog at www.blog.aabany.org

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aabany

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aabany