FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK APPLAUDS GLENN D. MAGPANTAY AS THE FIRST LGBTQ ASIAN AMERICAN AND FIRST FILIPINO AMERICAN APPOINTED TO THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

New York – March 23, 2023 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) commends Majority Leader Chuck Schumer’s appointment of Glenn D. Magpantay as a Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (“Commission”), an independent, bipartisan federal agency that advises the President and Congress on the enforcement of federal civil rights laws and development of national civil rights policy. Mr. Magpantay is a current AABANY member, as well as Founder and Co-Chair of the LGBT Committee.

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner on February 13, 2023, Mr. Magpantay served on the New York Advisory Committee to the Commission. Commission Staff Director Mauro Morales officially swore-in Mr. Magpantay on February 15, 2023. He will take his seat at the Commission’s next meeting on March 24, at which a ceremonial swearing-in will take place.

On Friday, March 24, 2023, Mr. Magpantay will join the Commission for a briefing on the federal government’s response to anti-Asian racism in the United States. The Commission’s investigation seeks to examine the federal government’s role in documenting, prosecuting, and preventing hate crimes against persons of Asian descent. The hearing will take place at:

The National Press Club
529 14th Street NW, 13th Floor
Washington, DC 20045
(202) 662-7506

The briefing will be live-streamed on the Commission’s YouTube page starting at 1 pm ET, at https://www.youtube.com/@USCCR.

Mr. Magpantay has worked with the Commission since 1992, prior to becoming a lawyer, highlighting his commitment to civil rights for over 30 years. Since becoming a lawyer, Mr. Magpantay has gained national recognition as a voting rights attorney and LGBTQ rights activist. He co-founded and served as Executive Director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (“NQAPIA”), a national federation of Asian American and South Asian LGBTQ organizations. Mr. Magpantay also previously served as Democracy Program Director at the Asian...
American Legal Defense and Education Fund (“AALDEF”). He is currently a George Soros Equality Fellow at the Open Society Foundations; Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Asian American Studies Program at CUNY’s Hunter College, and the principal of Magpantay & Associates, a nonprofit consulting and legal services firm.

Mr. Magpantay’s dedication to civil rights, together with his extensive and diverse background and experience, make him highly qualified to serve as Commissioner. “We applaud the appointment of Glenn Magpantay as Commissioner,” said William Ng, President of AABANY. “As the first LGBTQ Asian American and first Filipino American Commissioner, we celebrate this meaningful step toward increasing diversity on the Commission.”

See some photos below courtesy of Glenn Magpantay.

For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653-2168, or direct any inquires 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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