



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**AABANY APPLAUDS THE APPOINTMENT OF HON. MARGARET CHAN TO NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT**

**July 25, 2025 — New York, NY** — The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) congratulates the Honorable Margaret Chan, an AABANY member, on her historic designation by Governor Kathy Hochul to the Appellate Division, First Department of the New York State Supreme Court. Justice Chan is the first Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) woman to serve on this appellate court, continuing her legacy as a trailblazer, mentor, and respected jurist.

“These designations to the Appellate Division are part of my continued commitment to building a judiciary that embodies the highest standards of legal excellence and reflects the rich diversity of New York,” declared Governor Hochul in her official announcement. “Each of these jurists brings a wealth of experience and perspective that will strengthen our courts and help ensure that justice is served fairly and equitably across our state.”

Justice Chan was elected to the New York State Supreme Court in 2021 and currently serves in the New York County Commercial Division, where she presides over complex business disputes. Prior to her election, she served as an Acting Justice beginning in 2012, handling a wide range of matters including mass torts and constitutional litigation. She was first elected to the New York City Civil Court in 2006, becoming the first AAPI immigrant woman to serve as a judge in New York.

Born in Hong Kong, Justice Chan immigrated to Canada at age seven and moved to Brooklyn at fourteen. She earned her degree in economics from Brooklyn College while working full time, then attended Touro Law Center on scholarship, where she was managing editor of the Law Review. She later spent five years as a senior court attorney at the Appellate Division, Second Department. Justice Chan has served on several court committees, including the Committee on AI and the Courts and the Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions – Civil, and taught legal writing and judicial externship courses at Fordham Law School from 2018 to 2024.

AAPI jurists remain underrepresented on New York’s appellate courts, particularly in the First Department. As of 2024, only 5% of New York State judges are of 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. As such, Justice Chan’s designation to this role marks a historical milestone in the representation of AAPI jurists in New York City.

“Justice Chan is a deeply respected judge whose career exemplifies integrity, intellect, and an unwavering dedication to fairness,” stated Benjamin Hsing, President of AABANY. “Her

historic appointment is a milestone not only for the AAPI community, but for all New Yorkers who believe in a judiciary that is truly representative and inclusive.”

AABANY applauds Governor Hochul for her leadership in promoting judicial diversity and for recognizing Justice Chan’s exemplary qualifications. We look forward to her continued contributions on the bench and to the community at large.

For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653-2168, or direct any inquiries to [main@aabany.org](mailto: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.*

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