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July 25, 2011

**APALA CONGRATULATES AND CELEBRATES THE APPOINTMENTS OF
THE HONORABLE SOHAIL MOHAMMED & THE HONORABLE ADAM E.
JACOBS TO THE NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY**

On June 29, 2011, the Senate confirmed Governor Christie's nominations of two APALA NJ members, Sohail Mohammed and Adam E. Jacobs. Both newly appointed judges have been assigned to the Family Division of the Passaic County Vicinage of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

Judge Mohammed's appointment adds diversity to the bench. He is of Indian-American descent and the second Muslim judge in the State of New Jersey. Asian Pacific Americans have long been underrepresented on both the state and federal levels of the judiciary. Hence, this is truly a cause for celebration. APALA NJ is proud to have supported Judge Mohammed's nomination and we wholeheartedly endorse his appointment. Additionally, we are especially grateful for Senator O'Toole's courageous stand to end the scrutiny and irrelevant line of questioning by some members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

APALA NJ acknowledges Judge Mohammed's dedication and service to the Asian and legal community. He is most renowned for his work after September 11, particularly in eradicating misunderstanding and misconceptions about the Muslim community. He has worked extensively in educating and training federal, state and local law enforcement about Muslim culture and promoting dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims. Notably, he established a non-denominational praying area at Giant Stadium after the FBI detained and questioned Muslim fans found praying near the stadium's main air duct. This praying area was the first of its kind for the NFL. He also represented more 9/11 detainees than any other attorney in the country.

Judge Mohammed has received numerous awards and accolades for his commitment and service to the legal community. He has been designated as a New Jersey Super Lawyer by Law & Politics, noted as one of the most influential people in New Jersey by New Jersey Monthly, included in "Who's Who in America in Law," awarded by the National Lawyers Guild for his immigration work, and received the New Jersey Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's 1997 Professional Achievement Award.

In addition to his practice, Judge Mohammed has served as General Counsel to the American Muslim Union and the Human Rights, Education and Law Project, Inc., as a Public Defender for the City of Clifton, as a Trustee of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, and as an Executive Board Member of the New Jersey Bar Association.

Judge Mohammed graduated with honors from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and obtained his Juris Doctor from Seton Hall University School of Law.

APALA also applauds Judge Jacobs, another member of the organization, for this significant achievement. Prior to his appointment, Judge Jacobs had his own private law practice in Jersey City where he specialized in all aspects of criminal and family law. Additionally, he has handled real estate, commercial transactions, wills, partnership dissolutions and landlord tenant matters. Judge Jacobs also brings with him over two decades of experience as a public defender in both the municipal and state courts.

Judge Jacobs has served as a panelist for the New Jersey Legal Service and the Federal Bar Association on substantive and procedural criminal matters.

Judge Jacobs has been involved with his community at large as a volunteer firefighter for the Wayne Township Fire Department and as a Member of the Board of Trustees for Temple Beth Tikvah in Wayne.

Judge Jacobs received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and law degree from Rutgers Law School. Judge Jacobs is a recipient of the Eli Jarmel Memorial Prize for his interest and proficiency in public interest law.

Judge Mohammed and Judge Jacobs were prominent attorneys in their respective communities and APALA NJ expects great things from them as jurists.

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