

# APALA-NJ

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

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## APALA-NJ WELCOMES AND APPLAUDS THE APPOINTMENT OF GRACE H. PARK TO SERVE AS ACTING PROSECUTOR FOR THE COUNTY OF UNION

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On May 23, 2013, New Jersey State Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa appointed Grace H. Park to serve as Acting Prosecutor in Union County. Ms. Park is the first County Prosecutor—acting or confirmed—of Asian Pacific American (APA) descent in the history of New Jersey.

“APALA-NJ congratulates Grace Park on her appointment as Acting Prosecutor for Union County and applauds the State Attorney General for his commitment to diversity,” said Florelee Wan, President of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA-NJ).

Most recently, Ms. Park served as Senior Corporate Counsel with Pfizer, Inc. Before that, she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Newark from 2003 to 2010. During her time with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, she prosecuted cases involving terrorism, narcotics, violent crime, health care and government fraud, and economic crimes. Her prosecutions included complex investigations of public and private companies, as well as of individual defendants. Ms. Park began her legal career at the New York law firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore from 2000 to 2003. She is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard Law School, and she previously served as a law clerk for Senior United States District Judge William H. Walls in Newark, New Jersey.

“Grace Park is an exceptional choice to be the Acting Union County Prosecutor. As a former federal prosecutor, her depth of criminal experience, litigation skills, and seasoned judgment will be an asset to the County and the State,” said Aney K. Chandy, former President of APALA-NJ and Co-Chair of APALA-NJ’s Judicial & Prosecutorial Appointments Committee (2010-2011).

Ms. Park’s appointment advances diversity in county prosecutor’s offices state-wide, offices that do not today adequately reflect the entire constituency of New Jersey. According to the 2010 Census, APAs represent over 8.3% of New Jersey’s population, but there has never before been a County Prosecutor of APA descent. Between 2000 and 2010, the APA population more than doubled in 110 New Jersey municipalities, and every county in New Jersey experienced double-digit growth of its APA population. In fact, at least one in every three residents is APA in nine municipalities. The APA community now constitutes more than 4.6% of Union County’s population. New Jersey remains among the top five U.S. states with the largest APA populations, and APAs were also the fastest growing minority group during the past decade nationwide. While there is still much work to be done to diversify the State Executive Branch and law enforcement offices and agencies, Ms. Park’s appointment to Acting Prosecutor is a decisive step in the right direction. APALA-NJ will continue to work with its sister bar associations on both the state and federal levels, as well as with

leaders in the community, to ameliorate the glaring under-representation of APAs and other diverse candidates in the Executive Branch.

“We applaud Attorney General Chiesa for choosing Ms. Park to protect the residents of Union County,” said Rachit J. Choksi, Co-Chair of APALA-NJ’s Judicial & Prosecutorial Appointments Committee. “Ms. Park’s impressive background reflects not only a commitment to fighting crime, but also a demonstrated ability to lead and to make tough decisions.”

Ms. Park was sworn in as Acting Prosecutor of Union County on June 17, 2013. As the chief law enforcement officer in Union County, Ms. Park oversees an office of 250 employees with a \$19.5 million budget and coordinates the law enforcement efforts of approximately 2,000 police officers in 21 local police departments, the Sheriff’s Office, and the Union County Police Department.

*The Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA-NJ) is New Jersey’s only Pan-Asian bar association serving Asian Pacific American attorneys across the state. Founded in 1983, APALA-NJ continues to be a strong advocate for increased diversity in the federal and state judiciaries. To learn more about APALA-NJ, visit [www.apalanj.org](http://www.apalanj.org).*

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