



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### **APALA-NJ APPLAUDS GOVERNOR MURPHY AND THE NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR JOINT EFFORTS TO DIVERSIFY THE NJSBA'S JUDICIAL & PROSECUTORIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE AND CONGRATULATES APALA-NJ PAST-PRESIDENT PAUL YOON, ESQ. ON HIS APPOINTMENT**

NEWARK, N.J. — The Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA-NJ) applauds Governor Philip D. Murphy and the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) for expanding the size of NJSBA's Judicial & Prosecutorial Appointments Committee (JPAC) to add three seats designated for members from underrepresented groups in the legal profession. Effective May 2018, one of those three seats will be filled by APALA-NJ Past-President Paul Yoon, Esq., a Partner at Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Cappelli, LLC.

"APALA-NJ has urged for the expansion of NJSBA's JPAC for years to include members from the Asian Pacific American legal community and other minority groups. We are grateful to Governor Murphy and the NJSBA for their joint efforts in giving minorities a seat at the table and are thrilled that APALA-NJ Past-President Paul Yoon was appointed," said Jhanice V. Domingo, Esq., Past-President of APALA-NJ and current Chair of APALA-NJ's Judicial & Prosecutorial Appointments Committee.

On March 13, 2018, NJSBA President Robert B. Hille, Esq. announced that Governor Murphy renewed the Judicial Compact with the NJSBA to continue the non-partisan role of the NJSBA in vetting candidates for bench and prosecutors' positions in New Jersey. In addition, Governor Murphy agreed to expand the size of the NJSBA's JPAC by three seats. Thus, in addition to the new Judicial Compact restoring the significant role for county bars in the confidential candidate review process, the addition of three At-large positions provides diverse attorneys an important role in protecting and promoting a fair, impartial and independent judiciary.

In recent weeks, NJSBA President-Elect John E. Keefe, Jr., Esq. appointed APALA-NJ Past-President Paul Yoon, Esq., along with Daniel Mateo, Esq. (Partner at Reed Smith LLP) and Joan Burke, Esq. (Executive Director of the Medical Practitioner Review, Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Law & Public Safety) to fill the three new At-Large seats. Yoon, Mateo and Burke each will serve a three-year term from May 2018 until May 2021.

Paul Yoon, Esq. is a Partner at Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Cappelli, who has significant litigation and trial attorney experience. Throughout his career, he has represented international and domestic clients in commercial litigation, criminal defense matters, and in government relations. His past experience includes serving as Assistant Prosecutor in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and as a law clerk to the Honorable Joseph P. Donohue of the Superior Court in New Jersey. He has been recognized by *New Jersey Super Lawyers* magazine as a Rising Star in the area of criminal defense. In 2015, Yoon was designated a CUP Catalyst Change Agent – Law by the Council of Urban Professionals which recognizes the accomplishments of leaders who simultaneously make a significant impact on their community, and previously received the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. Yoon also served on the Criminal Practice Committee for the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Yoon has been active with numerous community service organizations. He served on the Board of Directors for the Center for Hope and Safety, Korean American Family Service Center, and the Korean American League for Civic Action. He was also a Past-President of APALA-NJ and the Korean American Association of Fort Lee. Yoon lives in the Borough of Fort Lee, where he serves as Councilman. He also contributed to his community as a member of the Fort Lee Board of Adjustment.

“This is truly a proud moment for APALA-NJ,” said Jack Chan, Esq., President-Elect of APALA-NJ. “APALA-NJ congratulates Paul Yoon on this momentous appointment, and we applaud Governor Murphy and the NJSBA for expanding NJSBA’s JPAC to include underrepresented groups.”

For more information, the media may contact APALA-NJ President-Elect Jack Chan, Esq. via email at [apalanjinfo@gmail.com](mailto:apalanjinfo@gmail.com).

*The Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA-NJ) founded in 1985 and incorporated in 1993, is the largest specialty bar association that collectively represents the interests of Asian and Pacific American lawyers in the State of New Jersey. APALA-NJ educates its members and the community about issues of critical concern to Asian Americans, and it supports the entrance and advancement of Asian Americans into and within the legal profession. To learn more about APALA-NJ, visit [www.apalanj.org](http://www.apalanj.org).*