



**ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.**

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**THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY (APALA-NJ) APPLAUDS GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S NOMINATION OF NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DAVID F. BAUMAN TO SERVE AS NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

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On December 10, 2012, Governor Chris Christie nominated Judge David F. Bauman to a seat on New Jersey's highest court. Judge Bauman would be the first Supreme Court Justice of Asian Pacific American (APA) descent in the history of New Jersey.

"This is a proud day for the APA community. APALA-NJ commends Governor Christie for nominating yet another highly qualified APA candidate to the State's highest court," said Paul K. Yoon, President of APALA-NJ.

Judge Bauman was nominated to the New Jersey Superior Court by Democratic Governor Jon Corzine and unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and confirmed by the full Senate in 2008. He currently serves as Presiding Judge of the Civil Division in Monmouth County. Prior to taking the judicial oath in July 2008, Judge Bauman was a partner at Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C., specializing in general litigation with a focus on complex civil and criminal matters. From 1988 through 1991, he served on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps, working as a prosecutor, defense counsel, and lead trial attorney for high profile criminal matters. He held positions in the Marine Corps Reserve, such as staff judge advocate, company commander and appellate government counsel. His service awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, Letter of Commendation, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, and Certificate of Commendation, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines.

"We applaud and enthusiastically support Governor Christie's commitment to diversity in the New Jersey judiciary in general and the Supreme Court in particular. We proudly support Judge Bauman's nomination and know that he will be a prestigious addition to the New Jersey Supreme Court," said Jhanice V. Domingo, APALA-NJ Vice President and Co-Chair of APALA-NJ's Judicial & Prosecutorial Appointments Committee.

According to the 2010 Census, APAs represent over 8.3 percent of New Jersey's population. New Jersey is among the top five U.S. states with the largest APA population. 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. APAs were also the fastest growing minority group during the past decade nationwide.

Notwithstanding, APAs remain underrepresented in the state judiciary. There are only three judges of APA descent out of approximately 360 Superior Court judges. Judge Bauman's confirmation would

advance diversity in a branch of government that does not today adequately reflect the entire constituency of New Jersey. Throughout the state's history, there have only been two African-American and one Hispanic Justice, and not one APA has ever served on the New Jersey Supreme Court. While there is still much work to be done to diversify the state judiciary, Judge Bauman's confirmation to the State's highest court would be a step in the right direction. APALA-NJ will continue to work with its sister bar associations on the state and federal level and leaders in the community to ameliorate the glaring underrepresentation of APA's in the judiciary.

*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.com](http://www.apalanj.com).*

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