

APALA-NJ WELCOMES AND APPLAUDS THE APPOINTMENT OF GURBIR S. GREWAL TO SERVE AS PROSECUTOR FOR THE COUNTY OF BERGEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 4, 2013

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On September 12, 2013, Governor Chris Christie announced that he would nominate Gurbir S. Grewal to serve as Prosecutor in Bergen County. Mr. Grewal is the first county Prosecutor of South Asian descent and only the second of Asian Pacific American (APA) descent in the history of New Jersey.

“APALA-NJ congratulates Gurbir Grewal on his nomination to be the next Bergen County Prosecutor and applauds Governor Christie for his commitment to diversity. In view of his qualifications, Mr. Grewal will certainly be an asset to the citizens of Bergen County,” said Florelee Wan, President of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey.

Since 2010, Mr. Grewal served as an Assistant United States Attorney at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Newark as the Deputy Chief of the Economic Crimes Unit and Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Crimes Unit. Prior to joining that office, he was Of Counsel at the New York City office of Howrey Simon Arnold and White, LLP. Before Howrey, he was Vice President and General Counsel for ADPP Enterprises, Inc. from 2007 to 2008. From 2004 to 2007, he worked at the United States Attorney’s Office in the Eastern District of New York in the Business and Securities Fraud Unit, where he prosecuted several CEOs of publicly traded companies for various violations of the securities laws. Mr. Grewal began his career as a Litigation Associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Howrey from 1999 to 2004. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1995 and obtained his Juris Doctorate from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary in 1999.

“Mr. Grewal possesses distinct leadership skills, having risen to deputy chief in the U.S. Attorney’s Office as well as having served as a president of the South Asian Bar Association of New York. Mr. Grewal also brings astute prosecutorial and private law firm experience that will further support the work of a key law enforcement agency in New Jersey, particularly in the emerging area of technology-based economic crimes,” said Asaad Siddiqi, a member of APALA-NJ’s Judicial & Prosecutorial Appointments Committee.

Mr. Grewal’s appointment advances diversity in an office that does 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 14.5% of Bergen 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, Mr. Grewal's nomination to 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 level, as well as with leaders in the community, to ameliorate the glaring under-representation of APAs in the law enforcement arm of the Executive Branch.

"We applaud Governor Christie for nominating Mr. Grewal to protect the residents of Bergen County," said Rachit J. Choksi, Co-Chair of APALA-NJ's Judicial & Prosecutorial Appointments Committee. "Mr. Grewal's impressive background reflects a commitment to smart and just enforcement of the law. The residents of Bergen County are in good hands."

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.

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