



ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 3656
New York, N.Y. 10163-3656

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Yang Chen

January 18, 2013

(718) 228-7206

AABANY APPLAUDS THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE DAVID F. BAUMAN TO THE NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT

NEW YORK – JANUARY 18, 2013 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) welcomes and applauds the news that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has nominated New Jersey Superior Court Judge David F. Bauman for one of the two vacancies on the New Jersey Supreme Court, the highest court in the New Jersey State system.

“As an organization that has a significant number of its members residing in the Garden State, AABANY is thrilled to learn that the Honorable David F. Bauman has been nominated for this position,” says Jean Lee, President of AABANY. “If confirmed by the New Jersey Senate, Judge Bauman would become the first Asian American to serve on that court. AABANY joins our friends and colleagues across the Hudson River in applauding Governor Christie for this historic nomination and his continued commitment to diversifying the judiciary.”

Asian Americans are significantly under-represented in the judiciary, including in New Jersey. According to the results of the 2010 Census, although Asian Pacific Americans (APA) represent only about 5.5% of the U.S. population, they comprise over 8.3% of New Jersey – the state with the fourth largest Asian American population. In fact, 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. Asian Americans are now a majority (57.8%) among Palisade Park Borough’s (Bergen County) residents, and at least one in every three residents is Asian in nine other municipalities: Middlesex County’s Plainsboro, Edison, South Brunswick, and Piscataway townships; Bergen County’s Englewood Cliffs, Fort Lee, Edgewater, and Leonia boroughs; and Mercer County’s West Windsor Township. Hudson County’s Jersey City and Middlesex County’s Edison Township also have the largest Asian populations, and four other municipalities in Middlesex County (Woodbridge, Piscataway, and South Brunswick) and Morris County (Parsippany-Troy Hills) also had large (more than 15,000) Asian populations. Indeed, several New Jersey communities such as Edison and West Windsor have elected Asian mayors. Asians were also the fastest growing minority group during the past decade nationwide.

Notwithstanding this, APAs remain underrepresented in the state judiciary. There are only three judges of APA descent out of approximately 360 Superior Court judges. The confirmation of Judge Bauman, who is Japanese-American, would advance diversity in a branch of government that currently does not reflect the communities that it serves.

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. Before ascending to the bench, 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.

Admitted to the New Jersey Bar and a member of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, Judge Bauman participated as a lawyer in numerous activities, including the New Jersey Supreme Court Municipal Court Practice Committee, the New Jersey Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee, the New Jersey Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, the NJSBA Franchise Law Committee, the NJSBA Special Committee on Military Law and Veterans Affairs, and the Board of Advisors for the Criminal Justice Program for Fairleigh Dickinson University. In 2008, the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey honored him with an achievement award. Judge Bauman is a graduate of Columbia University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and Boston College Law School. Judge Bauman has taken an active role in organizing programs for the New Jersey Judicial College, and AABANY presented the Vincent Chin trial reenactment that he helped organize for that event, to much acclaim.

AABANY applauds Governor Christie's nomination of Judge Bauman to serve as a Justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court.

###

The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian Pacific American community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the Asian Pacific American community as a whole. AABANY is the New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA). To learn more about AABANY, visit www.aabany.org.

© 2013 Asian American Bar Association of New York. All rights reserved. Logo is a registered trademark of the Asian American Bar Association of New York.