

ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CONGRATULATES JUDGE MIKE PAEK FOR HISTORICAL APPOINTMENT AS THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER BANKRUPTCY JUDGE IN THE SECOND CIRCUIT

NEW YORK, July 25, 2024 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) congratulates Kyu Young (Mike) Paek on his historic appointment as the first Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Bankruptcy Judge to serve in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Mr. Paek will sit in the Southern District of New York in Poughkeepsie, expanding AAPI representation among judges in the Second Circuit.

Mr. Paek graduated with a B.A. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin, followed by a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. Mr. Paek began his legal career as an associate at Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP in the Business Reorganization Group. Following his time at Schulte Roth he commenced his judicial career as a law clerk. Mr. Paek has more than a decade of experience in the field of bankruptcy law clerking with Bankruptcy Judge James M. Peck (ret.) and Bankruptcy Judge Stuart M. Bernstein (ret.). Currently, Mr. Paek is the Chief Deputy Clerk for the Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Court, managing the court’s operational and administrative matters.

In addition, Mr. Paek has numerous academic achievements. As an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Law, he teaches “Advanced Business Bankruptcy” and is a frequent speaker at various panels and training programs. He has written several articles for publications such as the *American Bankruptcy Institute Journal*, the *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, and the *Collier Bankruptcy Practice Guide*.

Mr. Paek’s accomplishments have been celebrated through his selection as one of the American Bankruptcy Institute’s “40 under 40” Emerging Leaders in Insolvency Practice in 2021, a recognition of his deep expertise in bankruptcy law.

Mr. Paek has also received the Honorable Denny Chin Alumni Award for Excellence in the Legal Profession, an award given to Fordham Law alumni for their contributions to the AAPI community. Mr. Paek is also an active member in AAPI organizations, including AABANY, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Americans are more likely to appear in bankruptcy court than any other federal court, and yet the demographic of bankruptcy judges does not accurately reflect the diverse population of the United States. A 2019 report from the Judiciary’s Administration Office showed that only 2% of the United States’ bankruptcy judges identify as AAPI, highlighting the need for continued advocacy for greater diversity on the bench. Mr. Paek’s continued involvement in the AAPI community shows his commitment to further increase AAPI representation in bankruptcy law and diversifying the bankruptcy bench.

“Mr. Paek’s sterling reputation among the Court’s leadership as well as his decade-plus experience with the Court will make his transition to the bench a seamless one,” President Joseph Eng states. “AABANY congratulates Mr. Paek for his historic appointment as a Bankruptcy

Court judge and applauds his passion for serving the community and enhancing the representation of AAPI lawyers and judges in bankruptcy law.”

For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653-2168, or direct any inquiries to main@aabany.org.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the AAPI community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

###

Additional information about AABANY is available at www.aabany.org