AALAC Congratulates Judge Meng Lim, first Cambodian American elected to Georgia Superior Court

Atlanta, GA, June 24, 2013 — AALAC congratulates Meng H. Lim, who made history this week by winning the contested seat for Superior Court Judge of Tallapoosa Circuit in the Georgia Primary run-off elections on July 22nd. Judge Lim is the first elected Asian American Superior Court Judge in Georgia.

"We are ecstatic to hear of Judge Lim’s win, because of both his commitment to local communities and unwillingness to hide his Asian refugee heritage," said Helen Kim Ho AALAC's Executive Director. "Tallapoosa Circuit is rural with a small Asian American population; his win shows we don't have to sacrifice our roots or principles to be seen as leaders in Georgia," said Ho.

Lim participated earlier this year in AALAC’s “How to Win an Election” nonpartisan campaign training that drew approximately 12 current, former, and potential minority candidates to get nuts and bolts, locally specifically training on how to design and run a successful campaign.

"It was nice to meet some wonderful people at the training," said Judge Lim. "I learned through the training that social media can have a tremendous impact on a political campaign especially in a small town."

Lim’s ties to this northwest corner of Georgia are strong, his family having settled in Bremen, Georgia in 1982. At the age of 9, he and his family were Cambodian Chinese refugees, fleeing war-torn Southeast Asia. Lim detailed how he and his family walked for a month in order to escape by crossing into Thailand. They finally were sponsored to come to the United States by the Jewish Family & Career Services of Atlanta.

When Lim’s family arrived in Bremen, his parents worked as custodians for the Bremen First Baptist Church and the Bremen school system. Speaking almost no English when he arrived, Lim rose to become the 1991 valedictorian of his high school. He was accepted by Emory University under the Georgia Governor’s Scholarship, where he obtained a B.A. in History in 1995. Lim then entered Mercer University Law School with a scholarship, receiving his J.D. in 1998.

For more information on Judge Lim, please visit https://www.facebook.com/mengforjudge or contact David Tarpley at ktarpley888@charter.net.

About Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.