



NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

April 15, 2010

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re.: Nomination of Goodwin H. Liu to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions:

I write on behalf of the undersigned Asian Pacific American organizations to support President Barack Obama's nomination of University of California Berkeley School of Law Associate Dean and Professor Goodwin H. Liu for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The organizations represent diverse constituencies on a wide variety of issues but share a common interest in ensuring that qualified Asian Pacific Americans have the opportunity to succeed and excel in the legal profession.

Professor Liu's confirmation is important and significant to the Asian Pacific American community, which currently has no representation in the federal appellate courts. Professor Liu is the second Asian Pacific American nominated to the federal appellate courts by President Obama, who earlier nominated Judge Denny Chin for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Out of approximately 875 federal judgeships nationwide, there are only 10 Asian Pacific American judges. If confirmed, Professor Liu would be the only Asian Pacific American among the 25 active federal appellate court judges in the Ninth Circuit. That statistic is particularly troubling given that over 12% of the population of the Ninth Circuit is Asian Pacific American. Moreover, it has been over five years since there has been an active Asian Pacific American federal appellate court judge and only four Asian Pacific Americans have ever served as federal appellate court judges.

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Professor Liu has impressive credentials and a broad range of experiences that make him well qualified to serve as a federal appellate judge. A distinguished graduate of Stanford University, Oxford University, and Yale Law School, Professor Liu is a Rhodes Scholar, a former Supreme Court clerk, and a member of the American Law Institute. He is also a nationally recognized scholar and distinguished Professor at U.C. Berkeley School of Law who earned tenure and promotion to Associate Dean in only five years.

Professor Liu also has the practical experience necessary for a federal appellate judge. He served as a Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education, where he advised the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on a range of legal issues, including the development of guidelines to implement a \$134 million congressional appropriation in 2000 to help turn around low-performing schools. In addition to his public service, Professor Liu was a corporate litigation attorney with O'Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C.

Professor Liu's background is an inspiring story for all Asian Pacific Americans. He was born in Augusta, Georgia, to Taiwanese doctors recruited to work in the United States by American medical institutions seeking assistance in serving underserved areas. Living in Georgia and then Florida in the late 1960s and early to mid-1970s, Professor Liu did not learn to speak English until kindergarten because his parents worried that he and his brother would acquire an accent if they were taught at home. Professor Liu's interest in public service and the law was sparked when he served as a page in the U.S. House of Representatives, thanks to the sponsorship of the late Congressman Robert Matsui.

Professor Liu is an outstanding and qualified judicial candidate who will bring intellect and objectivity to his service as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Accordingly, we proudly support the nomination of Associate Dean and Professor Goodwin H. Liu for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and urge for his speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Centeno
President
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

On behalf of:

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
Arizona Asian American Bar Association
Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area
Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area
Asian American Bar Association of Houston

Asian American Citizens for Justice / Asian American Center for Justice
Asian American Institute
Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian American Justice Center
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Law Caucus
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of D.C.
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Virginia
Asian Pacific American Community Support and Service Association
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association – New Jersey
Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Asian Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento
Asian Pacific Bar of California
Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote
Boat People S.O.S.
Dallas Asian American Bar Association
Filipino Bar Association of Northern California
Japanese American Bar Association of Greater Los Angeles
Japanese American Citizens League
Korean American Bar Association of Southern California
Korean American Bar Association of Washington
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (Chicago)
Korean Resource Center (Los Angeles)
Missouri Asian American Bar Association
National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association – Minnesota
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Association of Asian American Professionals
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium

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Orange County Asian American Bar Association

Orange County Korean American Bar Association

Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA)

Philippine American Bar Association of Los Angeles

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund

South Asian Americans Leading Together

South Asian Bar Association of Northern California

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association

Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California

Vietnamese American Bar Association of Southern California