



ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

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AABANY APPLAUDS THE RECOMMENDATION OF LORNA SCHOFIELD FOR A SEAT ON THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK BENCH

NEW YORK – JANUARY 23, 2012 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) welcomes and applauds the news that Senator Charles Schumer of New York has recommended to the White House that Lorna Schofield be nominated to serve as a federal district court judge for the Southern District of New York.

“AABANY is very excited to learn that Lorna Schofield’s name has been submitted to the White House to serve on the SDNY bench” says Linda S. Lin, President of AABANY. “If confirmed, Ms. Schofield would be the first Filipino-American to serve as a federal judge in the history of this country, which would be a legacy of the Second Circuit and New York State. AABANY applauds Senator Schumer for his continued commitment to diversifying the federal judiciary.”

Asian Pacific Americans are significantly under-represented in the federal judiciary, including in New York State. In fact, although according to the 2010 Census approximately 8.3% of the population of New York State and 14.0% of the population of New York City consists of Asian Americans and the percentage continues to grow at a rate that outpaces all other ethnic groups in the State, there has only been *one* Asian American United States District Judge ever appointed to the Southern District of New York and no Asian American currently serves in the Southern District of New York.

Ms. Schofield has been a litigator at the firm of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP for over 20 years, where her practice has focused on complex commercial litigation matters and white collar criminal defense. She became the firm’s first minority litigation partner in 1991. Prior to joining Debevoise, Ms. Schofield served as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York (Criminal Division) for four years. In 2008, the National Law Journal named Ms. Schofield one of the nation’s 50 most influential minority lawyers. Moreover, she was the first Asian Pacific American to chair the Litigation Section of the ABA -- ABA’s largest section with over 60,000 members.

Ms. Schofield’s life story is the epitome of the “American Dream.” Growing up in New Haven, Indiana, she was the only child of a Filipina war bride who married an American service man. She was raised by her mother, who came to the United States and became a pharmacist, stressing hard work, achievement, independence and self-sufficiency. Ms. Schofield lived in a predominately Caucasian and blue collar community, where there was little ethnic diversity. Despite the odds against her, Ms. Schofield went on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude* from Indiana University. Thereafter, she graduated from New York University Law

School, where she was an editor of the Law Review and a Pomeroy Scholar. Ms. Schofield's achievements clearly did not stop there.

AABANY applauds Senator Schumer's recommendation that Ms. Schofield serve as a federal district court judge in the Southern District of New York.

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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.

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