



ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

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ASIAN AMERICAN GROUPS CONDEMN RACIALLY TINGED CAMPAIGN TACTICS OF CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE IN QUEENS

NEW YORK – October 31, 2009 – The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY), the Organization of Chinese Americans, New York Chapter (OCA-New York), and the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY) strongly condemn the campaign tactics of Dan Halloran, a candidate for City Council representing District 19, covering northeast Queens. In the latest series of racially-themed campaign ads, Mr. Halloran has disseminated an ad that portrays his opponent, Kevin Kim, as a proponent of “overdevelopment” by Asian American developers and therefore a threat to the white residential neighborhoods that he is seeking to represent. The ad attempts to accomplish this by superimposing a less than flattering image of Mr. Kim onto a backdrop of Main Street, Flushing, which is not even within District 19, dotted with signs in Korean and Chinese. On the reverse side of the ad, Mr. Halloran is shown playing bocce ball with a group of white residents in a suburban setting.

AABANY President, James P. Chou, stated, “This kind of politics is offensive and has no place in any election campaign, much less a campaign in a city as diverse as New York City. Candidates should focus on substantive issues rather than fanning the flames of fear and racism. Mr. Halloran should apologize to the Asian American community immediately.”

Vicki Shu Smolin, President of OCA-NY, commented, “Just as President Barack Obama signs the Hate Crimes Enhancement Act into law, Mr. Halloran seeks to fan the flames of hate. There is no place for his type of politics in New York City.”

Lena Chun, President of KALAGNY, remarked, “The racially-divisive and misleading tactics used by Dan Halloran’s campaign are an outrage to all New Yorkers. As residents of our cosmopolitan city, we must unite to denounce this kind of close-minded and backward attitude.”

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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.

Founded in 1973, OCA is a national non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. With a national headquarters in Washington DC and over 80 chapters and affiliates across the country, OCA embraces the hopes and aspirations of the nearly 12 million Americans of Chinese and Asian/Pacific Islander ancestry in the United States. The New York Chapter was founded in 1976 and holds an annual "Hate Crimes Prevention Art Contest," which focuses on reaching out to New York City high school students of all backgrounds.

Incorporated in 1986, the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY) is a professional membership organization of attorneys and law students concerned about issues affecting the Korean American community in greater New York. KALAGNY seeks to encourage the professional growth of its members as well as provide legal support for the Korean American community.