



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meng Lim to become Georgia's first Asian-American Superior Court Judge

ATLANTA, GA – On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Meng H. Lim will be sworn in as Judge of the Superior Court of Tallapoosa Circuit by Chief Justice Hugh Thompson at the Georgia Supreme Court Courtroom. Upon his investiture, Meng Lim will become the first Asian Pacific American (APA) Superior Court Judge in Georgia history. Hosted by the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA), the ceremony will begin at 2:00 PM. Members of the Georgia Supreme Court, Georgia Court of Appeals, and the Georgia General Assembly are expected to attend.

Meng Lim won election to the Superior Court bench in the July 22, 2014, primary runoff with 61.7% of the vote in rural Haralson and Polk Counties, where less than 0.6% of the population is Asian American. The race was especially significant as it was the first time in over 30 years that voters in the Tallapoosa Circuit were able to elect a Superior Court judge.

The road to the American Dream was a rough one. At the age of 9, Lim – a Chinese Cambodian -- walked with his family for a month in order to escape the tyranny of the Khmer Rouge. They crossed into neighboring Thailand to the safety of a Red Cross refugee camp before being sponsored to come to the United States by Jewish Family & Career Services of Atlanta.

Meng Lim and his family settled in Bremen in 1982. To survive, his parents -- a former principal and nurse -- worked as custodians for the local Baptist church and public schools. 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 earned a B.A. in History in 1995. Lim then attended Mercer University Law School, on a scholarship, receiving his J.D. in 1998.

After graduating from law school, Meng Lim returned to his roots to clerk in the same Superior Court to which he is now elected. He credits the clerkship as one of the most important experiences of his career. Lim then started a solo law practice, gaining 15 years of trial experience, and was appointed the Haralson County Attorney in 2005. Handling over 900 cases as lead attorney before the Superior Court, he gained a reputation for being "a lawyer with backbone." He is also the proud father of two children, Elizabeth and Nicholas.

GAPABA is proud to partner with multiple bar associations, non-profit organizations, and private individuals in co-sponsoring this historic event.

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