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May 5, 2022

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
info@dickdurbin.com

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
chuck.grassley@grassley.senate.gov

**Re: The Honorable John Z. Lee's Confirmation for Judicial
Vacancy in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit**

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area (AABA) writes in strong support of the historic confirmation of Judge John Z. Lee to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

AABA was formed in 1987 on the belief that a professional bar association could serve not only the interests of its members, but also the community from which its members came. AABA has continually reaffirmed its commitment to that belief and has grown to represent the interests of thousands of Asian American legal professionals and community members.

Judge Lee is an exceptional jurist and is highly qualified to serve on the Seventh Circuit. Judge Lee has a decade of experience as a U.S. District Judge and brings extensive litigation experience from his time practicing law prior to joining the federal bench. Judge Lee has a reputation for integrity, fairness, and impartiality. Judge Lee also brings strong leadership experience in ensuring justice for the most vulnerable in our community. He has served as President of the Board of Directors for the Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services in Illinois, which offers the highest-serving legal aid hotline in the nation.

If confirmed, Judge Lee would be the first Asian American judge to serve on the Seventh Circuit. Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in the United States, yet judicial representation by Asian Americans has been lagging and remains sparse in the federal judiciary. The confirmation of Judge Lee to the Seventh Circuit will be a big step in the right direction to have a judiciary that better reflects the diversity of this country and the communities within the Seventh Circuit's jurisdiction. Judge Lee's confirmation will also build confidence in our justice system for the Asian American community, which has experienced particular challenges in the past two years and, in response, has become more politically and socially engaged than ever before across the country.

Judge Lee has served on the Board of Directors of AABA. In addition, Judge Lee has been involved with the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Beyond the legal community, Judge Lee has served as President of the Board of Directors of Asian Human Services in Illinois, which provides social services to immigrants to help them become productive members of society. Throughout his career, Judge Lee has served as a role model for members of the legal profession and the Asian American community with his commitment to justice for all and his mentorship and support of many in our community.

Simply put, Judge Lee represents the best of the legal profession. He is exactly the jurist the country needs right now to take on the mantle of justice for one of the highest positions in our legal system. AABA wholeheartedly supports the swift confirmation of Judge Lee to serve as a judge on the Seventh Circuit.

We thank you for your service on the Senate Judiciary Committee.
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elin Park".

Elin Park
President

Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area