

KOREAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

OF CHICAGO

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May 2, 2022

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The Honorable Dick Durbin Chair Committee on the Judiciary **United States Senate** 711 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phillip Brest@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Chuck Grassley **Ranking Member** Committee on the Judiciary **United States Senate** 135 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 brendan_chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

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

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Korean American Bar Association of Chicago ("KABA Chicago") respectfully submits this letter in enthusiastic support of the confirmation of the Honorable John Z. Lee for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. For the last ten years as a U.S. District Judge, Judge Lee has continuously earned the respect of attorneys in the federal bar and throughout the United States based on his skill as a jurist in handling complex legal issues, his fair and neutral dealings with the parties who appear before him, and his unflappable temperament. Judge Lee's credentials speak for themselves, and we are confident that he would make an excellent judge on the Seventh Circuit.

In 1993, KABA Chicago was founded as an organization where lawyers of Korean heritage could gather to support their members to become leaders in the legal professional and those who would ably serve their communities with pride. In 2012, our 250 members celebrated Judge Lee-a longtime KABA Chicago member-becoming the first Korean American Article III judge to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. We are now comprised of over 400 members—it is altogether fitting that the continuing evolution of the face of the legal profession in

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Chicago would be better reflected in the judiciary with Judge Lee's historic elevation as the Seventh Circuit's first Korean American and Asian American judge.

With confidence and pride, KABA Chicago urges the swift confirmation of Judge John Z. Lee to serve as a judge in the United States District Court for the Seventh Circuit. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your service on the Senate Judiciary Committee and thank you for your careful consideration of this historic nomination.

Sincerely,

Peter Cheun President Korean American Bar Association of Chicago