



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. William K. Taylor
Administrative Judge
Seventh Judicial District**

**Contact: Hon. Fatimat Reid
Coordinating Judge of Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion for the
Seventh Judicial District
freid@nycourts.gov**

www.nycourts.gov/press

Date: May 20, 2022

New York's Seventh Judicial District Hosts Bicoastal Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK—Seventh Judicial District Administrative Judge Hon. William K. Taylor today joined the District's Embracing Our Community Committee and leaders from California's Santa Clara County Superior Court in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, observed throughout May to honor the history, culture and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans. Panelists and other participants, who included members of the legal community and local government, were able to attend the bicoastal event, held at the Monroe County Hall of Justice in Rochester, in person or online.

Comprising many distinct cultures and experiences, Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans are under-represented in the judiciary and legal profession. Today's program, which focused on the role of diversity and inclusion at the leadership table in spurring innovation, featured a video created in partnership with the Santa Clara Superior Court. Monroe County Court Judge and 7th JD AAPI Heritage Month Committee Chair Hon. Meredith Vacca was among those appearing in the video.

Following the video presentation, participants engaged in a panel discussion titled “Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration.” Panelists included Monroe County Assistant District Attorney Karen Chung, New York State Senator Jeremy Cooney (56th District), attorney Avik K. Ganguly of Ganguly Brothers PLLC, Tiffany H. Lee of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of New York and Seema Ali Rizzo, partner, Gallo & Iacovangelo LLP, with Wayne County Support Magistrate Sonali Suvvaru moderating the discussion. Among other issues, participants discussed strategies to promote diversity within the judiciary and legal profession and fight bias against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans.

“I am extremely grateful to the District’s Embracing Our Community Committee and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Subcommittee, and to our partners at the Santa Clara County Superior Court, for their collaboration in bringing to fruition this outstanding program highlighting both the achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans and the benefits of having a diverse, inclusive leadership team. The New York State Judiciary is deeply committed to eradicating bias systemwide and advancing diversity and inclusion—on the bench and at all levels of our non-judicial workforce—with today’s program helping guide us forward on that path,” said Judge Taylor.

###