

PRESS RELEASE:

**Contact: Maria T. Fasulo
Clerk of the Court
Appellate Division, 2nd Judicial Department**

(718) 722-6472

Release: Immediate

**PRESIDING JUSTICE ANNOUNCES THE FIRST ANNUAL
HONORABLE RANDALL T. ENG AWARD PROGRAM**

NEW YORK Presiding Justice Hector D. LaSalle of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department today announced that in recognition of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Court will conduct its first Annual Honorable Randall T. Eng Award Program on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, from 12:45-2:15 P.M. at the Appellate Division, Second Department courthouse in Brooklyn Heights.

The Honorable Randall T. Eng was born in China and raised in New York where in 1972, he earned his juris doctor degree from St. John's University School of Law. Justice Eng began his esteemed legal career in public service in Queens County as the first Asian American Assistant District Attorney in New York State history. Subsequently, he served first as the Deputy Inspector General of the New York City Correction Department and then as the Inspector General until 1983 when he was appointed to the Criminal Court of the City of New York, becoming the first Asian American to become a judge in the State. In 1988 Justice Eng was designated an Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court to which he was subsequently elected to two full terms, during the second of which he was appointed Administrative Judge of its Criminal Term in Queens County. In 2008, Justice Eng was appointed to the Appellate Division, Second Department - the busiest and largest Judicial Department in the State of New York and in 2012, became its first Asian American Presiding Justice, a position he held until retiring from the bench in 2017 and joining Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C., as of counsel.

Justice Eng, along with United States Congresswoman Grace Meng, who is serving in her sixth term in the United States House of Representatives, are the program's first honorees. Congresswoman Meng is the first and only Asian American member of Congress from the State and its second female member from Queens. Congresswoman Meng serves on the House Appropriations Committee, the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee and the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies subcommittee. She also serves as the first Vice-Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a Co-Chair of the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism, and as a Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus.

Presiding Justice LaSalle will preside over the ceremony along with Associate Justices Lara J. Genovesi and Lillian Wan who co-chaired this historic event.