



**Appellate Division
Supreme Court of the State of New York
Second Judicial Department
45 Monroe Place
Brooklyn, NY 11201**

**HON. HECTOR D. LASALLE
Presiding Justice**

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Date: May 24, 2024

NEWS RELEASE

PRESIDING JUSTICE LASALLE ANNOUNCES SECOND ANNUAL HON. RANDALL T. ENG AWARD PROGRAM

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK - Presiding Justice Hector D. LaSalle of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, today announced the upcoming presentation of the Second Annual Hon. Randall T. Eng Award Program in celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Named in honor of former Presiding Justice Eng, this award recognizes the extraordinary work and achievements of individuals for their notable services in the AANHPI communities within the Second Judicial Department. This year's award recipients will be New York State Senator Kevin M. Thomas and Chanwoo Lee, Esq. The Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, together with the Asian American Bar Association of New York and several other co-sponsors, will present the awards at a ceremony on **Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 12:45 p.m.** The program livestream can be accessed via this link [NYS Unified Court System \(nycourts.gov\)](https://www.nycourts.gov).

Senator Kevin M. Thomas immigrated to the United States with his parents when he was 10 years old. The freedom and opportunities that he experienced motivated him to be an active participant in democracy and give back through public service. In 2018, he was elected to represent the 6th Senate District in Nassau County, becoming the first Indian American in New

York History to serve in the State Senate. Senator Thomas currently serves as Chairman of the New York State Senate Consumer Protection Committee, aiming to strengthen consumer protections and safeguards. He also sits on the Rules, Finance, Health, Judiciary, Local Government, and Agriculture committees. Since taking office, he has been fully committed to working closely with community leaders and gun violence survivors, advocating to keep guns off the streets and keeping New Yorkers safe. Prior to his election, Senator Thomas served as an attorney and civic leader fighting for families across New York State.

Chanwoo Lee, Esq., was born in Seoul, South Korea and immigrated to the United States when she was 11 years old. Her family first arrived in Dallas, Texas, and after four years, they moved to Queens, New York. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from SUNY-Binghamton and her Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School. Ms. Lee started her career working for the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division in Queens County, where she learned all phases of criminal defense. Thereafter, she embarked as a solo practitioner focused on criminal defense and other general practices.

In 2019, Chanwoo Lee was appointed as a Commissioner to the New York State Board of Parole. She is an active member of various professional and community-based not-for-profit organizations. Chanwoo is a past president of the Queens County Bar Association. She has also served as a member of the New York City Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary, The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, as well as on the New York State Bar Association House of Delegates, among her other affiliations. Chanwoo currently serves as a Pro-Bono Attorney for the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York and the St. Paul Chong Hasang Catholic Church in Flushing, New York. She is also a board member of the Korean American Scholarship Foundations Northeast Chapter, and a flight volunteer for the Korean K9 Rescue.

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