APALC ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD CHAIR
Long-Time Board Member John Lim Becomes First Korean-American to Head APALC Board

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) announced the election of John S.C. Lim, Esq. of Lim, Ruger & Kim LLP as the next chair of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center’s Board of Directors. As a pan-Asian legal organization, APALC is proud to have its first Korean American board chair and its fifth board chair in its 26 year history.

Lim succeeds Martin V. Lee, Esq. of Fanco Investments, a second generation Chinese American whose family has deep roots in the Los Angeles Chinatown community. Lee led APALC’s Board for 6 very prosperous years, including completing its $4 million Building and Endowment Campaign, 30% staff growth, and landmark litigation cases.

APALC has always strived to connect with various ethnic communities within Los Angeles, and its board chairs have represented this commitment. Former board chairs include Japanese American Sandy Sakamoto, Esq. and Filipino American Hon. Casimiro Tolentino.

“We are very excited to welcome John as our next board chair,” remarked Stewart Kwoh, Esq., President & Executive Director of APALC. “John had demonstrated exemplary leadership on APALC’s board for the past 15 years and continues to be a leading attorney in the Los Angeles community. We are fortunate to have his leadership and vision as APALC builds stronger, more just communities.”

Lim is a senior partner in the transactions group of Lim, Ruger & Kim LLP and specializes in real estate development and financing, representing developers, financial institutions and investment entities. He received a law degree from the University of California, San Francisco, Hastings College of the Law, and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from California State University, Northridge. Born in Seoul, Lim immigrated to the United States at age 10 and his family settled in Los Angeles. Lim is connected to his local community through the Oriental Mission Church, which his father, Reverend Lim Dong Sun, founded in 1970.

Lim began working with APALC to help Korean storeowners and families recover from the losses incurred during the 1992 civil unrest. Their joint work included directing victims to relief programs, filing complaints against police, and finding pro bono counsel for storeowners whose insurance would not pay. That experience convinced him of the need for powerful legal team to provide effective legal representation to the most underserved Asian Pacific Americans in the community. Thus, he began his tenure on APALC’s Board of Directors.

“I am honored to follow these esteemed colleagues and friends as APALC’s next Board Chair,” stated Lim. “In these distressed economic times, the work of APALC is more critical than ever. Our vulnerable and struggling communities need our legal services and advocacy to face the challenges of foreclosures, layoffs, and the stresses caused by the economic crisis. Though the Asian Pacific American community is very diverse and its needs vary from one group to the next, I believe a single, strong, united Asian Pacific American voice resounds louder than separate ones. APALC has proven to be, and will continue to be, a voice for these needs.”

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