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Eric Gonzalez
District Attorney

TO: All Staff

FROM: Eric Gonzalez, District Attorney

SUBJECT: City Bar to Honor Red Zone Trial Bureau Chief Kin Wang Ng for the Thomas E. Dewey Medal

DATE: November 29, 2020

I am thrilled to announce that Kin Wang Ng, Chief of the Red Zone Trial Bureau, will be honored by the New York City Bar Association with the 2020 Thomas E. Dewey Medal. Each year, the City Bar presents the Dewey Medal to one outstanding prosecutor from each of the five New York City District Attorney's Offices and the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. It is truly a distinguished award.

Over nearly 30 years, Kin has been an accomplished prosecutor, a gifted and supportive mentor, and a tireless champion of justice both in the Office and in the community we serve. In 2017, Kin became the first Asian Pacific American promoted to Chief of a major trial bureau in a New York City prosecutor's office, and he continues to work closely with the Asian American community. He has organized and attended too many community events to count while forging enduring partnerships with the Asian American community that create and expand community trust in the justice system – an essential part of our Office mission.

Kin joined the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office in 1991. He tried a full range of felonies in the the Blue Zone Trial and Domestic Violence Bureaus and was a Deputy Bureau Chief in the Early Case Assessment Bureau (ECAB) and Criminal Court before being promoted to Bureau Chief in the Domestic Violence Bureau. From 2007-2013, Kin served as the Office's Director of Legal Training, welcoming more than 500 new prosecutors into the Office during that time. A charismatic and energetic teacher, Kin also successfully created a "Felony Boot Camp" program and has trained many police officers in various capacities Citywide.

After returning to supervising felony Assistants in 2014, he was later appointed the second Chief of the Office's groundbreaking Immigrant Fraud Unit (now the Immigrant Affairs Unit) in 2015. As you know, protecting and supporting our immigrant communities has been a central policy focus for the Office. Kin zealously pursued those taking advantage of that vulnerable population and preying on the unique circumstances prevailing in those communities. Kin was instrumental in prosecuting so-called "Chinese blessing scams," where thieves took advantage of their knowledge of indigenous customs and religious traditions to convince targets that they had been beset by a curse which could only be lifted by bringing large sums of cash and jewelry to the scammers, who would then "lift" the curse through a "ritual." The ritual was actually the theft of the victims' currency and jewelry. Kin obtained hate crimes convictions in several of these cases and, just as importantly, successfully publicized the scam in immigrant communities to prevent further victimizations. (Kin's work in the case was featured in a 2017 *New Yorker* magazine article.) Kin's unit also prosecuted many other defendants who victimized our immigrant friends and neighbors while continuing our series of Immigration Forums.

Kin lectures regularly on issues relating to the criminal justice system, public service, diversity, and leadership in government, and works with local and foreign media to educate and raise awareness in the immigrant community regarding criminal justice issues. From 2013-14, Kin was an Adjunct Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Kin is also an active member of the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY). In 2008, he co-founded and co-chaired AABANY's Prosecutors Committee and, in 2011, he co-founded the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors' Association (NAPIPA) to represent Asian Pacific Islander prosecutors nationwide. He is currently on NAPIPA's National Executive Board and the President of its New York Regional Chapter.

Kin has been repeatedly recognized for his dedication to public service, including both the Community Leadership Award (2019) and the Community Service Award (2016) from the Brooklyn Community Improvement Association (BCIA), the Norman Lau Kee Trailblazer Award at AABANY's 9th Annual Fall Conference, the 2012 Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) Outstanding Alumni Community Service Award, and the 2011 special Community Service Award from the Chinese American Planning Council (CPC). In 2010, Boston University School of Law's Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Kin was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. with his family at the age of eight. He is a proud product of the New York City public schools and publicly funded after-school and summer programs of the CPC. He went on to attend New York University's Stern School of Business and the Boston University School of Law. Outside the law, he pursues his passions with equal fervor. Kin is a founder—and for five years, was head coach and general manager—of the DCH Dragonboat Racing Club, fielded one of two crews that represented the United States as Team USA in the 2001 Dragonboat World Championships in Philadelphia.

Kin's boundless energy has served the Office and the community well, and his steady, compassionate leadership is invaluable. He is an integral part of the fabric of this Office and the borough we serve. Our Office, Brooklyn, the City, and the criminal justice system are all the better for his contributions, which will no doubt continue for many years to come. I am very proud of his accomplishments and commend him on his receipt of the 2020 Thomas E. Dewey Medal.

This year's awards will be virtual – I hope you will all join us for the City Bar Dewey Medal Ceremony on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 6:00 P.M., to view the ceremony and congratulate our friend and colleague. You can access the video stream by clicking [here](#) (an alternate link can be found [here](#)).