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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **NAPIPA ENDORSES VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS FOR PRESIDENT**

The National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association (“NAPIPA”) endorses Vice President Kamala Harris for President of the United States of America.

Since NAPIPA was founded in 2011, we have grown to nearly 1,000 members with chapters across the country. Our mission statement is we are “dedicated to promoting justice and to advancing the interests of prosecutors of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) heritage.”

As gatekeepers to our legal system, prosecutors with diverse perspectives bring balance to the scales of justice. One of NAPIPA’s primary goals is to encourage qualified APIs to become prosecutors and leaders. Our country’s rich diversity, especially in our system of justice, strengthens the bedrock of our democracy. Whether you are a prosecutor or a president, our leaders need to reflect the people they serve.

While we have never endorsed a presidential candidate before, Vice President Harris embodies our mission statement as a stellar leader and prosecutor of API heritage. From 1990 to 1998, Vice President Harris served as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County, where she specialized in prosecuting child sex assault cases. In 1998, she joined the San Francisco District Attorney’s office as the managing attorney of the Career Criminal Unit, where she prosecuted three strikes cases and serial felony offenders. In 2004, Vice President Harris was elected as the first woman District Attorney in San Francisco’s history, and the first African American woman and South Asian woman in California to hold the office of elected prosecutor. In 2010, she was elected Attorney General of California where she oversaw the largest state justice department in the country.

The API community and the country’s first API vice president bore the brunt of the skyrocketing increase of anti-API hate crimes and incidents during the pandemic. The attacks were painful and personal. At a summit in 2021, Vice President Harris stated, “When we saw the targeting, when we’ve seen the hate, when we’ve seen the viciousness of it all ... As a member of this community, I share in that outrage and grief, and I believe we have an opportunity now to turn that pain into action.” Together with President Biden, the administration responded forcefully to the spike in anti-API violence with numerous actions, including signing the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law, which funded critical research to prevent and address bias

and xenophobia against the API community, justice programs, and law enforcement trainings on how to deal with anti-API crimes and incidents.

As a young prosecutor in Oakland, as the elected District Attorney of San Francisco, as the California Attorney General, as the United States Senator from California, and as the Vice President of the United States of America, Kamala Harris has a proven record in the courtroom and in the community to represent our country as the next President of the United States.