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API Legislative Caucus Congratulates Assemblymember Rob Bonta on becoming California's First Filipino American Attorney General

Sacramento, CA – Today, the Honorable Rob Bonta was officially sworn in by Governor Gavin Newsom as California's first Filipino American Attorney General.

As Attorney General, Bonta is California's top law enforcement official. His legal, legislative and lived experiences will ensure the state's diversity is well represented. In particular, his appointment comes at a critical time for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Since the start of the pandemic, the Stop AAPI Hate reporting project has documented more than 3,700 incidents of anti-Asian attacks nationwide. Almost 50% of the attacks occurred in California and around 70% of the reports came from women. In 2021 alone, more than 500 reports of anti-Asian discrimination have been reported.

"I want to congratulate my friend, Attorney General Rob Bonta," said **Senator Richard Pan (D-Sacramento), Chair of the API Legislative Caucus**. "Rob Bonta is eminently qualified to serve as our state's top lawyer to represent us in the courts, safeguard our safety and provide the State of California with sound legal counsel. As our community faces another wave of hate, the API Legislative Caucus is grateful to Governor Newsom for hearing our community in appointing one of our own to meet the needs of all Californians. Representation matters, and Rob Bonta broke another glass ceiling as the first Filipino American and only second Asian Pacific Islander to serve as California's Attorney General."

"Rob Bonta's historic accomplishment in becoming the first Filipino American sworn in as Attorney General of California is a moment of immense pride for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community," said **Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley), Vice Chair of the API Legislative Caucus**. "Right now, we need a champion to combat the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and discrimination, and Mr. Bonta's record of service gives me confidence that California will leave no stone unturned in addressing this monumental crisis."

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The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse API communities throughout California. It seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government.

Website of the California API Legislative Caucus: <http://apicaucus.legislature.ca.gov>