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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ORANGE COUNTY ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 29TH ANNUAL  
INSTALLATION DINNER WITH RESOUNDING SUCCESS**

Newport Beach, California - July 17, 2023 - The Orange County Asian American Bar Association (OCAABA) recently concluded its highly anticipated 29th Annual Installation Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach. This sold-out event, held on July 6, 2023, brought together a diverse community of legal professionals, dignitaries, and esteemed guests to honor outstanding achievements within the Asian American legal community.

The highlight of the evening was the presence of California Attorney General Rob Bonta as the evening's keynote speaker. Attorney General Bonta delivered inspiring remarks that resonated with the attendees. OCAABA's incoming president, Jessica Cha, presented Attorney General Bonta with the organization's second-ever Trailblazer Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements, commitment, and leadership as an attorney, paving the way for the advancement of other Asian American legal professionals.

Justice Joanne Motoike was awarded the Judicial Trailblazer Award in recognition of her achievements, contributions, and leadership in making a lasting impact on the judiciary. Judge Kazuharu Makino was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating his remarkable career spanning decades and his unwavering dedication and service to the Orange County Superior Court.

As part of the evening's program, Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley introduced Attorney General Rob Bonta; Orange County Superior Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez presented remarks on behalf of Presiding Justice Kathleen O'Leary of the CA Court of Appeal, 4<sup>th</sup> District 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in recognition of Judge Makino's Lifetime Achievement Award; Commissioner Robert Kohler introduced Justice Joanne Motoike in recognition of her Judicial Trailblazer Award, Assistant Presiding Judge Cheri Pham presented OCAABA's law student scholarship recipients; Judge Joseph Kang swore in the new Executive Officers and Board of Directors; and Judge Nathan Vu introduced the incoming president, Jessica Cha.

For her year as President, Jessica intends to highlight and emphasize the role and responsibility that attorneys have to act in service of the public, and will continue fostering educational and professional development opportunities for OCAABA's members, to empower them to make lasting contributions to the legal landscape.

The resounding success of the event resulting from the support and attendance from the Orange County legal community underscores the impact of OCAABA's contributions to the local legal community and the Asian American community at-large.

OCAABA remains as committed as ever to championing diversity, equity, and inclusion, not only within the association but also within the legal profession as a whole. By recognizing exceptional achievements and fostering a vibrant community, OCAABA seeks to continue making a lasting impact on the legal profession and the communities it serves.

For more information, please visit the OCAABA website at [www.ocaaba.org](http://www.ocaaba.org).

#### About OCAABA:

The Orange County Asian American Bar Association ("OCAABA") was officially formed in December of 1993. Through its programs and events, OCAABA serves to foster professional development of its members, serve as mentors to local law students, promote diversity in the private and public sectors, volunteer for legal clinics for low income and disadvantaged communities and support causes which affect and advance the needs of Asian Pacific Americans and the public at-large. OCAABA hosts events throughout the year to provide opportunities for its members and supporters to become more involved in OCAABA and the communities it serves.

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