



NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

September 3, 2010

Robert Bauer, Esq.  
Counsel to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Letter of Support for the Nomination of an  
Asian Pacific American to be the next United States Solicitor General

Dear Mr. Bauer:

On behalf of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“NAPABA”) and the undersigned Asian Pacific American organizations, we write to strongly encourage the nomination of an Asian Pacific American to be the next United States Solicitor General and to support the candidacies of two outstanding individuals for the position: Preeta Bansal and Neal Katyal. The nomination of either Ms. Bansal or Mr. Katyal would be a landmark appointment for the nation and the Obama Administration. Either candidate would be the first Asian Pacific American United States Solicitor General as well as the country’s highest ranked Asian Pacific American at the United States Department of Justice in history. The Asian Pacific American community strongly supports the candidacies of both Preeta Bansal and Neal Katyal.

**Preeta Bansal** has been nothing less than a legal trailblazer in her career. She is exceptionally well qualified to be Solicitor General and her appointment would bring a remarkably talented advocate with tremendous depth and diversity of experience to the office. She is currently the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of Management and Budget, and previously served as Solicitor General of the State of New York and argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Bansal has also served as a Special Counsel for the Clinton White House and in the Department of Justice. She was a law clerk for Justice John Paul Stevens after a clerkship on the Second Circuit. She was raised in Lincoln, Nebraska and received both her undergraduate and law school degrees *magna cum laude* from Harvard. While at Harvard Law School, Ms. Bansal served as a Supervising Editor for the Harvard Law Review.

**Neal Katyal** is exceptionally well qualified to be the next Solicitor General. He is currently the Acting Solicitor General for the United States, and he has also served as the Principal Deputy Solicitor General since January 2009. Mr. Katyal has argued nine cases before the Court, including victories in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* and in a major constitutional challenge to the Voting Rights Act. He has been a constitutional, national security, and criminal law scholar

at Georgetown University Law School since 1997. Mr. Katyal was a law clerk for Justice Stephen Breyer after a clerkship on the Second Circuit. He received his undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from Dartmouth College, and his law degree from Yale Law School, where he served on the Yale Law Journal.

This is an opportune moment to make history with two outstanding candidates for the job. Both Ms. Bansal and Mr. Katyal are already prominent members of the Indian American community and either would be an exceptionally well-qualified diverse nominee. The appointment of either Mr. Katyal or Ms. Bansal as Solicitor General would make him or her the only high-ranking Indian American in the Obama Administration outside of Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator of USAID. Thus far, the highest ranked Asian Pacific American official at the DOJ has been Viet Dinh, who was appointed Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy by President George W. Bush in 2001. In the history of the United States, there has never been an Asian Pacific American who has served in any of the top four positions at the Department of Justice. President Obama can make history by nominating Preeta Bansal or Neal Katyal to serve as the next United States Solicitor General.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Centeno  
President

On behalf of:

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
Arizona Asian American Bar Association  
Asian American Bar Association of Kansas City  
Asian American Bar Association of Ohio  
Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area  
Asian American Justice Center  
Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area  
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies  
Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey  
BPSOS  
Dallas Asian American Bar Association  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Korean American Bar Association of San Diego  
Missouri Asian American Bar Association

Robert Bauer, Esq.  
September 3, 2010  
Page 3

National Association of Asian American Professionals  
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium  
OCA  
Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California