

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Jesse White Hosts Celebration for Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month**

*White honors first Asian-American Judge in Illinois with Inaugural Judge Laura C. Liu Trailblazer Award*

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White hosted the office's 16th annual Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month reception today featuring Linda Yu, anchor for ABC 7 Chicago; the Honorable Judge Jessica Arong O'Brien, recipient of the Judge Laura C. Liu Trailblazer Award; Dr. Nguyen-Trung Hieu, founding director, Asian-American Coalition of Chicago; Tamin Kim, CEO, Chade Foundation, Inc; and Honorable Jong-Kook Lee, Consul General, Republic of Korea.

"Each May, we gather to celebrate Asian-Pacific American heritage and the community leaders who work diligently to advance our communities," White said. "I encourage everyone to learn more about the contributions Asian-Americans have made in our great state throughout history."

White also honored a host of local humanitarians at the event held at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. Humanitarian Service award recipients include Shah Musaddek of the Bangladeshi community, Jane Mien of the Cambodian community, Dr. Jerry Yeo of the Chinese community, Dr. Alma Jaromahum of the Filipino community, Kalpesh Joshi of the Indian community, Srie H. Ramli of the Indonesian community, Wanja Yook of the Korean community, Yin Kean of the Malaysian community, Benimadhve Kandel of the Napalese community, Anjia Ali of the Pakistani community, Al-Mirah Kabani of the Pan Asian community, Chamni Sripraram of the Thai community and Jimmy Nguyen of the Vietnamese community.

"From journalists to local business owners, doctors, lawyers and students leading our next generation," said White. "We salute our honorees for their hard work, leadership and standard of excellence they have set forth for others," said White.

The event featured cultural performances by the Robert Healy Elementary School students, who performed the Chinese Lion Dance, and the Yelin Korean Traditional Drumming Troupe, as well as the presentation of colors by the Marine Leadership Academy.

Katie Kim, reporter at NBC 5 Chicago, emceed the event.

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