



## Supremely Qualified

### *Voices From Across New Jersey Agree, Governor Christie's "Groundbreaking Nominees" Are "Well-Qualified" And "Historic"*

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"I first met Phil Kwon when we were students at Rutgers Law School, and subsequently had the pleasure of working with Phil at a law firm in Newark. Our time working together made clear that Phil is an extremely talented and hard-working attorney, and a very supportive colleague. Since practicing at the firm, Phil has dedicated his professional career to public service. I could not be more pleased that Phil has been nominated to the New Jersey Supreme Court. His legal skills, excellent judgment, and vast maturity make him exceptionally well suited for service on the Court."

– **Louis Smith**

Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP; Former Law Clerk, NJ Supreme Court

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"I'm supporting Phil, not because of the historic milestone that his nomination represents to the Asian American community and all New Jerseyans, but because he is an accomplished attorney, thoughtful independent, and a person of high integrity. As a lifelong Democrat, New Jersey would be fortunate to have a man of his quality, fairness, judgment and perspective on the state's highest Court. "

– **Jun Choi**

Former Mayor of Edison

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"Having worked with Bruce Harris at Riker Danzig for over 12 years, I came to know Bruce as an accomplished lawyer with a sharp legal mind and common sense approach to the law. I firmly believe that Bruce's intellect, demeanor and experience – both personal and professional – will be extraordinary additions to New Jersey's highest court."

"During my many years working closely with him at Riker Danzig, I not only saw Bruce's ability to manage complex legal transactions, but also saw his unique ability to bring people together and deal with issues in a practical, principled manner. I have no doubt that those same qualities will serve New Jersey extremely well with Bruce on the Supreme Court."

– **Mark Rattner**

Counsel, Riker Danzig

"I have known Bruce Harris for over 15 years and have served with him on the Chatham Borough Governing Body, Environmental Commission, Planning Board and Open Space Advisory Committee, as well as the Morris County Open Space and Farmland Trust Fund Committee. He has always impressed me with his work ethic, fairness, logic and attention to detail. I know he will make an impressive addition to New Jersey's Supreme Court."

– **Richard Plambeck**

Former Mayor of Chatham Borough

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"I have worked with Bruce for over seven years. I have observed Bruce approach all issues with a clear and balanced thought process. His analysis of issues shows a thoughtful and keen intellect which continues to be a hallmark of his approach to all the problems that society faces today."

– **James J Collander**

Chatham Borough Council President

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"I have known Phil Kwon since 1999 when he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Newark office. I was serving as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division at the time and had the pleasure of supervising Phil. It was clear to me from the outset that he possessed great intellect and superior analytical skills. Phil was known for being a quick study."

"If confirmed, I am confident Phil will exhibit the kind of judicial intellect, independence and temperament that has for many years made the New Jersey Supreme Court both a model of excellence and one of the most respected Courts in the nation. "

– **John A. Azzarello, Esq.**

Arseneault, Whipple, Fassett & Azzarello, LLP

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"I have known Mr. Kwon for over 10 years, and he has always conducted himself with the highest integrity, honesty, and professionalism. I commend Governor Christie for his selection of Mr. Kwon, an outstanding lawyer and person.

"I first met Mr. Kwon while I was an Assistant Federal Public Defender representing indigent defendants in Federal Court. While I was an AFD, Mr. Kwon began his career as an Assistant United States Attorney for the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. As adversaries, Mr. Kwon and I had numerous cases. On all occasions, Mr. Kwon demonstrated a mastery of law and the facts of each case. He was also fair and exercised considerable judgment in reaching a resolution of a case. He was also mindful of the unique difficulties facing assigned counsel, as all public defenders are, and this awareness aided in reaching a resolution of difficult matters. In court, he conducted himself in a professional and respectful manner while also getting to the heart of an issue.

"I have also had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Kwon on a personal level through various Federal Bar functions. He is gracious, courteous, and polite. In short, I believe that Mr. Kwon would make an excellent addition to the Supreme Court of New Jersey."

– **Stacy Biancamano**  
Partner, Arleo, Donohue & Biancamano

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"I have known Bruce and have worked with him for over 15 years. Together, we have worked on many important projects for the benefit of New Jersey governmental entities and not-for-profit corporations.

"You already know that Bruce has impeccable academic credentials. In addition, and more importantly, Bruce possesses the highest degree of professional and personal integrity. I have always found him to be a zealous advocate for his clients and at the same time fair, reasonable and respectful of all transaction participants. As a public finance attorney, Bruce is required to be expert in constitutional law, statutory interpretation, securities law, tax, contracts, commercial law, real estate and a host of other disciplines.

"His career as a public finance attorney, coupled with his even temperament and high integrity, provide Bruce Harris with the skill set and real world experience needed in order to craft solutions to the complex legal questions and issues faced by the New Jersey Supreme Court. "

– **Chuck Toto**  
Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP

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"My practice area is devoted primarily to serving as bond counsel for various bond issuers in the State of New Jersey.

During the over 30 years I have been engaged in that practice, I have worked with most of the top attorneys around the State who are involved in public finance transactions. I have worked with Bruce Harris on a number of such transactions.

"Bruce Harris is one of those attorneys that has always stood out in my memory as being very professional to deal with and very attentive to the interests of his client. Bruce is very bright and he takes nothing for granted in his review of lengthy and complicated transaction documents. He is extremely thorough and exacting. An important aspect of Bruce is his ability to deal with difficult issues that arise during the course of a matter and to be able to fashion a resolution of the problem.

"Bruce's natural abilities and deep experience in the public finance arena should stand him in good stead to serve as a Supreme Court Justice. It is my honor to provide my support for Bruce's nomination to the State Supreme Court."

– **Bernard S. Davis**  
Wolff & Samson PC

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"I am familiar with the legal abilities and the professional character of Phil Kwon because I have been involved in various matters in which he was my adversary while he was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey. At least two cases were high-profile prosecutions of public officials.

"Mr. Kwon was extremely well-respected by the Court as someone who had significant knowledge and understanding of the Hobbs Act and other relevant law. I personally interacted with him on numerous occasions and found that he was a highly intelligent and capable lawyer whose character and integrity as a prosecutor were unparalleled.

"In my humble opinion, I cannot think of a person who would be a more qualified nominee."

– **Thomas R. Ashley**  
Law Office of Thomas R. Ashley

**NEW JERSEY NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO PRAISED THE NOMINATIONS**

*Philadelphia Inquirer*: "It's good to see Gov. Christie consider diversity in making his nominations to the New Jersey Supreme Court...Christie made a historic and bold move with two nominations this week - Bruce Harris, an openly gay African American, and Phillip Kwon, who would become a Korean American on the court if confirmed." (Editorial, "Nod to diversity now doesn't make up for past," [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 1/28/2012)

- "Christie does deserve praise for the nod to diversity. The court also made history last year when another Christie appointee, Anne Patterson, was confirmed, giving the court a female majority for the first time in its history."

*Courier-Post*: "[W]e applaud Gov. Chris Christie for clearly having a mind to diversifying the state Supreme Court while fulfilling the most important priority of selecting judicial nominees who are qualified because they intimately know the law." (Editorial, "Christie Wise To Aim For Diverse Picks," [Courier-Post](#), 1/25/12)

- "We applaud the governor for selecting two nominees who appear to be well-qualified and who will bring new perspectives to the court because of their backgrounds."

*Press of Atlantic City*: "[C]onfronted with two openings on the court, Christie has taken a historic step toward making the New Jersey Supreme Court look more like the rest of the state. That's hard to argue with. And no one is questioning Harris' or Kwon's credentials." (Editorial, "Christie's Supreme Court Picks / Wow, He's Good," [Press of Atlantic City](#), 1/25/12)

*Times of Trenton*: "[T]he governor is breaking down barriers. And it brings the state another step closer to a time when all the glass ceilings are shattered, a time when there no longer will be "firsts" associated with nominations, appointments and achievements." (Editorial, "Gov. Christie's Effort To Bring Diversity To N.J. Supreme Court Deserves Praise," [Times of Trenton](#), 1/25/12)

- "Christie's choices are a positive step toward making the court more reflective of the state's changing population."

*Gloucester County Times*: "Gov. Chris Christie's nomination Monday of not one, but two, groundbreaking nominees to the state Supreme Court deserves praise for its contribution to diversity." (Editorial, "Diverse Court Choices A Plus," [Gloucester County Times](#), 1/25/12)

*Burlington County Times*: "Thumbs-up: To more diversity on the state's highest court. Gov. Chris Christie moved to diversify the state's all-white Supreme Court last week with two firsts: the nominations of a gay black man and a Korean-born prosecutor to fill two vacancies. With the nation's demographics changing, it's time for wider representation on the high court." (Editorial, "Thumbs up and down for the week," [Burlington County Times](#), 1/29/2012)