

For Immediate Release:

American Arab-Anti Discrimination Committee – New Jersey Chapter (ADCNJ)

ADC-NJ Congratulates Former Executive Board Member Hany Mawla on his appointment as a Superior Court Judge.

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Clifton, NJ, 01/28/2010 (<http://www.adcnj.us>) - ADC-NJ extends its congratulations to former Executive Board Member Hany Mawla on his historic appointment to the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey. Judge Mawla, the son of immigrant parents from Egypt, has the distinction of being the first American-Arab Muslim, in fact, the first American Muslim of any background to ascend to the Superior Court in New Jersey. Judge Mawla has distinguished himself in the legal world as one of the youngest partners at a one of New Jersey most prominent law firms. He has also served the state in many other capacities including as a Commissioner to the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights and as the Chairperson of the groundbreaking New Jersey Arab-American Heritage Commission. He brings a unique and important perspective to the bench and helps New Jersey's judiciary to be more reflective of the wonderful and diverse mosaic of its residents.

Equal to the historic appointment of Judge Mawla's ascension was the symbolism of the venue and the overflow attendance at the Swearing In ceremony. It was held in the Historic Somerville Courthouse, literally blocks away from Wallace House, the winter headquarters of Gen. George Washington during the winter of 1778-1779. In attendance were elected officials from both parties and fellow Superior Court Judges from all corners of the state, former Governor Jon Corzine, colleagues from the legal profession and of course friends and family from all backgrounds and walks of life.

Salaheddin Mustafa, President of ADC-NJ stated that, "Judge Mawla has been a trusted friend and advisor to so many people in our community and his quiet dignity and grace have earned him the status as one of our community's most respected leaders. But even more telling is that with his extraordinary vision, temperament and dedication he has earned the respect of all communities throughout the state. I am certain that everyone that steps into Judge Mawla's courtroom will come away eminently satisfied that his decisions were fair and equitable and ultimately upheld the highest ideals of our justice system and our nation".

ADC-NJ would also like to extend its sincere gratitude to the many elected officials who helped to make this historic appointment a reality. Particularly ADC-NJ thanks former Governor Jon Corzine for having the courage to make this important nomination. ADC-NJ also thanks the State Senate and its Judiciary Committee for unanimously confirming Judge Mawla. Special thanks to Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-8), Bergen County Sheriff Leo McGuire and State Senators Bill Baroni (R-14), Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R-16), Jennifer Beck (R-12), Barbara Buono (D-18), John Girgenti (D-35), Bob Smith (D-17), Joseph Vitale (D-19) for the instrumental role they played in making this historic appointment become a reality. ADC-NJ very much appreciates their dedicated support, advocacy, and kind and compelling words on behalf of this richly deserving candidate.

NOTE TO EDITORS: ADC-NJ is a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting civil rights and promoting the rich and diverse heritage of people from the Middle East. The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which is non sectarian and non partisan, is the largest Arab-American civil rights organization in the United States. It was founded in 1980 by former Senator James Abourezk. ADC has 38 chapters nationwide, including chapters in every major city in the country, and members in all 50 states.