



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Lys Mendez

E: lpipress@luskin.ucla.edu

**STATEMENT FROM UCLA LATINO POLICY AND POLITICS INITIATIVE ON NEW CALIFORNIA
ATTORNEY GENERAL APPOINTMENT**

Statement from Sonja Diaz, founding director of the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative on Governor Gavin Newsom’s appointment of Assemblymember Rob Bonta to California Attorney General:

“Assemblymember Rob Bonta represents the future of California and the nation. A son of working-class labor leaders in the Central Valley, he has championed multi-racial, multi-ethnic coalition building to create more resilient communities for working Californians.

Assemblymember Bonta’s perspective in the face of regressive attacks on our most fundamental rights — from access to reproductive justice to freedom from police abuse and an outdated justice system that all too often criminalizes immigrants and Black and Brown communities in the face of growing economic inequality — is critical in this moment.

Assemblymember Bonta is a proven trailblazer in advancing civil rights and combatting racial discrimination in the courtroom and state legislature. In the face of rampant hate crimes against Asian and Pacific Islander communities and the proliferation of anti-Blackness, California needs a leader to uphold the law and advance justice transformations that can rebuild our failed systems. But more than that, all Californians need to see themselves in top-tier positions that govern law and policy. Asian Americans are the nation’s fastest growing demographic group and an emerging, youthful electorate that requires substantive representation to remedy their invisibility and address their socio-economic conditions.

I applaud Governor Gavin Newsom for making California a model for the country in how to rectify the willful neglect of growing and youthful communities of color who are left out of key

decision-making positions across our most fundamental institutions by sending the first Filipino to lead the nation's second largest Department of Justice.

California's leaders often move on to bigger national stages, and Bonta's appointment joins those of his colleagues, Senator Alex Padilla, Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary Xavier Becerra to usher in a new chapter of American politics with a California lens."

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ABOUT UCLA LATINO POLICY AND POLITICS INITIATIVE

The UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative addresses the most critical domestic policy challenges facing Latinos and other communities of color through research, advocacy, mobilization, and leadership development to expand genuine opportunity for all Americans.