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**ASIAN AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release February 15, 2018**

**ASIAN AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS (AALAM) AND**

**TEN OTHER BAR ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

**CONDEMN WEEI HOST CHRISTIAN FAURIA’S RACIST BEHAVIOR**

The Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts (AALAM), and ten other bar associations and community organizations (see full list below), strongly condemn the recent offensive, racist, and insensitive conduct of WEEI sports-talk radio host Christian Fauria on his last Friday’s program (2/9/18) wherein he mocked sports agent Don Yee, the agent for NFL players Tom Brady and Jimmy Garappolo, by imitating him using a racially stereotyped, over-the-top Asian accent.

Such behavior was not only hateful, ill-conceived and repugnant, but also perpetuates ignorant, inaccurate stereotypes about Asian Americans. This was not only an insult to Don Yee (who is U.S.-born and speaks English without an accent), but it also belittles all Asian Americans and minorities despite their accomplishments.

While AALAM appreciates that Fauria has personally apologized to Don Yee for his conduct, and that WEEI timely responded to criticism by issuing a 5-day suspension to Fauria and mandated sensitivity training for its employees, this is not the first time WEEI hosts have used disparaging and derogatory language during their radio shows. We call upon management and the larger community to take more proactive steps to ensure that WEEI and its employees reflect the values of inclusion, acceptance and mutual respect of their diverse audience.

To that end, AALAM applauds the recent actions of City of Boston Credit Union, Comcast Corp., Citizens Bank, the MA State Lottery Commission, and the MA Health Connector in suspending their advertising on WEEI following the Fauria incident.

As an affinity bar association, we stand firmly against divisive, racist and discriminatory behavior in all its forms. We urge WEEI and the sports and media community to stand tall with us to make clear that there is no place for racism in our community.

Other bar associations and community organizations signing-on to this statement include:

* Massachusetts Bar Association
* Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice
* Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association
* South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston
* Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association
* Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys
* Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys
* Asian American Civic Association
* Asian Community Development Corporation
* Women’s Bar Association

The Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts (AALAM) is a non-profit state-wide association of over 250 Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. Its members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal services and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government.

To learn more about AALAM, visit www.aalam.org, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter (@aalamlaw).