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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Korean American Executive Files Federal Civil Rights Lawsuit Against Octagon Credit Investors LLC and CEO Andrew Gordon**

NEW YORK, NY, May 15, 2019 – The Law Offices of Veronica S. Jung, PLLC filed suit against Octagon Credit Investors LLC (“Octagon” or the “Company”) and its Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gordon on behalf of Sungho Matthew Lee, a Korean American executive who had worked at Octagon for over twenty (20) years.

Octagon is a privately-owned investment services firm with over \$20 billion of assets under management. The Complaint, filed today in the Manhattan courthouse of the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleges that Mr. Lee encountered a “glass ceiling” at Octagon. The Complaint also alleges that Octagon retaliated against Mr. Lee for complaining to the CEO about race and national origin discrimination and a failure to promote diversity in Octagon’s upper management.

For over two decades, Mr. Lee served Octagon as a faithful employee and generated millions of dollars in revenue for the company. However, Octagon’s CEO repeatedly passed Mr. Lee over for promotion. The Complaint alleges that, in 2018, Mr. Gordon told Mr. Lee that the Company would not promote Mr. Lee further. According to the Complaint, Mr. Lee, a Korean American, struggled for years to work his way into Octagon’s overwhelmingly White management, only to be repeatedly denied.

Mr. Lee alleges that, after specifically complaining to Octagon’s management about the “glass ceiling” at the Company, Octagon retaliated against him. For example, the Complaint alleges that Octagon falsely declare that Mr. Lee had “resigned” and subsequently terminated Mr. Lee’s employment. Mr. Lee, whose consistently outstanding performance and record at Octagon earned him roughly one million dollars a year, was left without a job. Lead attorney Veronica S. Jung noted that “Mr. Lee has brought this action in Federal court to ensure that Octagon and its CEO are held responsible for its continued violation of its employees’ civil rights.”

Octagon is controlled by Conning, an investment management firm, which in turn is owned by Cathay Financial Holdings, a multinational Taiwanese financial conglomerate. Mr. Lee brings this lawsuit at great personal risk to ensure that all three companies are in compliance with federal civil rights laws and guidelines. According to Ms. Jung, “Mr. Lee will not stand idly by as the ‘token’ minority. Mr. Lee was the only upper-level Asian-American employed by Octagon, and was cast aside when he complained about the lack of diversity at the Company. We

are reaching a tipping point where Asian American executives are willing to shed the ‘model minority’ stereotype and stand up against the discrimination that still permeates the workplace to this day. This is the next frontier of civil rights, and people are starting to stand up as they did in the 60s and fight for responsible corporate citizenship.”

The firm’s founder, Veronica S. Jung, is a former trial attorney for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. The firm focuses on representing senior-level and high-profile employees, abused workers, and whistleblowers. The firm has been recognized for its penetrating internal investigations, and has offices in California, Washington D.C. and New York. More information on the firm is available at <http://www.veronicajunglaw.com/>.

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