



## **Advancing Justice - Atlanta Organizes Candidate Training to Train Underrepresented Communities to Run in the South**

---

**NORCROSS, GA , April 18, 2016** — Norcross, GA - As statewide and general elections fast approach, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta is organizing a non-partisan candidate training on April 23-24 to educate and train more Asian, Latino and other People of Color to run for office.

“Throughout our state and region, People of Color continue to lack adequate representation at every level of government, despite the fact that these communities are fastest growing in the region,” said Stephanie Cho, Advancing Justice - Atlanta’s Interim Executive Director. “We need more Asian, Latino, and other People of Color to run for office. Our community members are interested and capable of leadership positions at all levels of government and we want to assist them in taking the first step towards running,” said Cho.

As of now, there are no AAPI elected officials in Georgia, after Rep. B.J. Pak (R-108) announced his retirement this year. This is an especially important election year. Not only is there a General Election on November 8 with the presidency of the United States at stake, U.S. Congressional and State-level seat is also up for grabs. Georgia’s own Statewide Primary, which would decide party nominees for Georgia’s state-level seats and for U.S. Congress, is on May 24.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta organized its first nonpartisan candidate training in 2014. That very year, one of our participants, Judge Meng Lim, on his contested race, won by making him the first ever Asian American Superior Court Judge in Georgia. This year, we are again offering this training in order to foster greater participation and leadership development in the community. As part of our leadership development and education program for AAPI youth, this year’s training will also include a youth track. AAPI youth between the ages of 17 and 24, who are interested in leadership development, civic engagement, and learning more about the political and electoral processes, are encouraged to participate.

The training will start at 7:30 am Saturday, April 23rd and will end by noon on Sunday, April 24th. It will take place at the Sonesta Gwinnett Place Hotel in Duluth Georgia. The registration fee for the training is only \$100.00 (free for youth) and includes meals and materials. Scholarships are available for participants outside the Metro Atlanta area. Those interested in participating in our training must register here by April 20th: <http://advancingjusticeatlanta.weebly.com/>.

WHAT: Southern Regional Non-partisan Candidate Training

WHERE: Sonesta Gwinnett Place Hotel, 1775 Pleasant Hill Rd, Duluth, GA 30096

WHEN: The training begins Saturday at 7:30 am, April 23rd and concludes at noon on Sunday, April 24th

**The press is invited to observe our training between 10:30 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday and speak with some of our participants and speakers**

### **About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit [www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org](http://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org).