



## **Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta Presents The Sixth Annual Community Champions Gala**

*Celebrating our Collective Work and the Work of Our Champions*

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**NORCROSS, GA, October 19, 2016** — On Saturday, October 22nd, 2016 at 6:30 PM, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta will host its Sixth Annual Community Champions Gala, the organization's annual fall fundraiser. All proceeds of the event will go to support Advancing Justice - Atlanta's mission to protect and promote the civil rights of Asian immigrants and refugees in Georgia and the Southeast.

Each year, Advancing Justice - Atlanta recognizes its local superheroes and thanks them for their hard work and dedication to furthering the civil, social, and economic rights of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in Georgia. The gala is the organization's largest event of the year, typically attracting 350-400 guests, including many elected officials, dignitaries, business leaders, and stakeholders of several diverse local Asian American community groups.

This year's gala is supported by the following:

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Vietnamese American Bar Association

## Vietnamese American Community

This year's Lifetime Achievement Awardees are Judge Alvin T. Wong and Representative B.J. Pak. Judge Wong is the first Asian Pacific American to run for public office in metropolitan Atlanta and the first to be elected judge in the Southeast. In 1992, Judge Wong was one of the founding members of the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA). Representative Pak is a former federal prosecutor who is the first American of Korean descent to have been elected into the Georgia General Assembly in November 2010. For years, he has championed the rights of Asian immigrants and refugees under the Gold Dome.

This year's Rising Star Awardee is Aisha Yaqoob, the Founder and Executive Director of the Georgia Muslim Voter Project, a new, unprecedented, initiative to increase voter registration and turnout in the Muslim community in Georgia.

The Keynote Speaker for the evening is Derreck Kayongo, who has been the Chief Executive Officer for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights since 2015. He has traveled the world as a TED TALK speaker since 2014, speaking for the voiceless affected by civil wars.

"We are super excited to bring together all segments of our communities to celebrate the accomplishments of our Community Champions and to support the great work that our organization does," says Stephanie Cho, Executive Director.

Members of the media are welcome to attend. Tickets can be purchased here.

For more information about Asian Americans Advancing Justice, call 404-585-8446 or email [info@advancingjustice-atlanta.org](mailto:info@advancingjustice-atlanta.org).

WHAT: 2016 Community Champions Gala

WHERE: Spring Hall, 7130 Buford Hwy Suite A-100 Atlanta GA 30340

WHEN: Saturday, October 22nd, from 6pm

### **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).