Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and other VIPs joining the Seventh Annual Community Champions Gala

Atlanta, GA, November 6, 2017 — On Thursday, November 9th, 2017 at 6:00 PM, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta will host its Seventh Annual Community Champions Gala, the organization’s annual fall fundraiser. Proceeds from the event will support Advancing Justice – Atlanta’s mission to protect and promote the civil rights of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) in Georgia and the Southeast.

Each year, Advancing Justice – Atlanta recognizes its local community leaders and honors them for their 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 300-350 guests, including many elected officials, dignitaries, business leaders, and stakeholders of several diverse local community groups.

This year’s Community Champion Awardees are Susan Sim Oh and Councilwoman Hang Tran and the Rising Star Awardee is Representative Sam Park. Susan Sim Oh is the co-owner of WKTB-CD, a local television station that is home to Telemundo Atlanta, Telexitos, Korean Television Network (KTN), and KTN 2, serving the fastest-growing minority communities in Atlanta with an expansive broadcast reach of over a million viewers. She is a trailblazer and leader in her industry as one of the few Asian-American female TV station owners in the entire nation. She is also an active member in the community working for diverse communities of color.

Councilwoman Tran serves at a city councilwoman for the City of Morrow and was recognized as the first ever Vietnamese American woman elected to office in Georgia. Councilwoman Tran is a respected community leader and role model for many young leaders, as she has paved the way for future AAPIs and immigrants who wish to run for office.

Representative Park is a newly elected Georgia State Representative from House District 101, which includes the cities of Lawrenceville and Suwanee, located in the heart of Gwinnett, the most diverse county in the Southeast. Sam became the first Asian Democrat and first openly gay man elected to the Georgia General Assembly. As a native Georgian, Sam ran on ensuring that all Georgians have access to health care and that all are treated with equal dignity and respect. As a first-year legislator, Sam served as a deputy whip in the Georgia House Democratic Caucus and co-sponsored comprehensive statewide civil rights legislation.

This year’s Asian American Champion awardee and Keynote Speaker is Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. She represents Washington’s 7th District. Her focus is on ensuring income equality; increasing access to education, from early learning to higher education, including debt-free college; expanding Social Security and Medicare; protecting our environment for our next generation; and ensuring immigrant, civil and human rights for all. The first Indian-American woman in the House of Representatives, Jayapal has spent the last twenty years working internationally and domestically as a leading national advocate for women’s, immigrant, civil, and human rights.

The 2017 Community Champions Gala is supported by a record-breaking 39 sponsors, including the following:
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Vietnamese American Community of Georgia

"We are excited to celebrate these community champions who inspire a new generation of Asian American leaders” said Stephanie Cho, Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta. “WE RISE is the theme of this year’s Gala; it is a hopeful, principled, and determined stance that celebrates the diversity in our AANHPI communities, our struggles, our histories, our families, and our continuing and beautiful resilience in the face of overwhelming adversity. WE RISE in solidarity with our national Asian Americans Advancing Justice affiliation, we continue to protect and advance the rights of all immigrants."

Members of the media are encouraged to attend. Advancing Justice-Atlanta has complimentary Media Tickets per request from a member of the press. For media tickets or for media inquiries, please contact Communications and Outreach Associate James Woo at jwoo@advancingjustice-atlanta.org or 404-585-8446 for the quickest response.
WHAT: 2017 Community Champions Gala

WHERE: Grand Ballroom, The Westin Atlanta Perimeter North (7 Concourse Parkway NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30328)

WHEN: Thursday, November 9th, 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).