



**2013**

**GEORGIA**  
ASIAN AMERICAN  
& PACIFIC ISLANDER  
**LEGISLATIVE DAY**

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FEBRUARY 28, THURSDAY | 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM  
Georgia State Capitol & Georgia Railroad Freight Depot

[www.aapilegislativeday-ga.com](http://www.aapilegislativeday-ga.com)

#aapiGA

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# Introduction

Dear Legislative Day Participant,

It is an honor and privilege to welcome you to the 2013 Georgia Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) Legislative Day. We come together today to celebrate the STRENGTH and VITALITY of Georgia's diverse AAPI communities. As our communities grow, so do our contributions to the state's social, economic, cultural, and political future. Yet, many within our communities remain invisible and mired with poverty, facing significant language and cultural barriers.

Today is our opportunity to be a powerful voice speaking up for the best interests of our communities. Today is our opportunity to create meaningful dialogue between our AAPI communities and those who represent us. By being here today, you are demonstrating your commitment and leadership to making positive and lasting change for our communities.

The goals of the day are to:

- Raise the visibility of AAPIs in Georgia;
- Educate AAPI communities about the importance of civic participation, especially at the state level; and
- Dialogue and develop relationships with policymakers, including state senators and representatives

We give special thanks to the sponsors and volunteers of our 2013 Legislative Day who helped to make the event possible. Thank you for joining us today!

Sincerely yours,

2013 GA AAPI Legislative Day  
Steering Committee

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# Schedule of Events

**7:30 AM AALAC BREAKFAST**

Georgia Railroad Freight Depot, Blue Room / 65 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

**9:30 AM REGISTRATION**

Georgia State Capitol / 206 Washington St SW, Atlanta, GA 30334

**10:00 AM CELEBRATION OF AAPI LEGISLATIVE DAY**

Georgia State Capitol / 206 Washington St SW, Atlanta, GA 30334

- Photo opportunity with the Governor & Legislators at the Capitol Steps
- Reading of AAPI Legislative Day Resolution on the House Floor

**11:00 AM LOBBY TRAINING & LUNCHEON**

Georgia Railroad Freight Depot, Blue Room / 65 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

- AAPI Issues & Advocacy Training
- AAPI Legislative Day Luncheon

**2:00 PM CLOSING**

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# Speakers



## Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp

Secretary Kemp has served as Secretary of State since January 2010. Among the office's wide-ranging responsibilities, the Secretary of State is charged with conducting efficient and secure elections, the registration of corporations, and the regulation of securities and professional license holders. The office also oversees the Georgia Archives. During his career, Secretary Kemp has helped found and develop many small businesses. Today, among his numerous business interests, he is the owner of Kemp Properties, a small business specializing in real estate investments and property management. Recently, Secretary Kemp has supported an effort to ease State Licensing renewal requirements for U.S. citizens.



## Rep. BJay Pak

In November 2010, BJay was elected into the Georgia General Assembly. He is the first American of Korean descent to be elected into any State Legislature in the Southeastern United States. As State Representative, BJay currently serves in Judiciary Non-Civil, Health & Human Services, and Ways & Means Committees. BJay is a Partner at the Atlanta law office of Ballard Spahr LLP where he works to assist his clients in solving complex business, regulatory, and criminal issues. He also previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Georgia for 6 years. He has been recognized by Georgia Super Lawyers as a Rising Star, Best attorneys under 40 by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and one of 13 attorneys to watch by the Fulton County Daily Report.



## Atlanta City Council Member Alex Wan

Council Member Alex Wan has been proudly serving the City of Atlanta since 2010. Council Member Wan realized that we must be the driving force behind the changes we hope to see in this world. To that end, he felt it was his duty to get politically involved as a leader, serving as an example for all those who may someday aspire to further causes such as those he believes in. He began working with Leadership DeKalb, ultimately serving as its Chair in 1999. In 2003, he served in Leadership Atlanta as part of its Asian/Latino Task Force & the Program Committee. He has been an active member of many AAPI Leadership Groups, including but not limited to the National Association of Chinese Americans, the Asian American Heritage Foundation, and the Asian American Coalition Board of Directors. From 2009-2012, he served as Director of Development for Jerusalem House, one of Atlanta's oldest housing providers to homeless and low income families affected by HIV/AIDS. He currently serves as a Director of Development for Emory University libraries.



## Rep. Pedro Marin

Rep. Pedro Marin has honorably served House District 96 in the Georgia General Assembly for over the past ten years. He has been at the forefront in stopping gang violence, eradicating gang graffiti, and supporting economic development initiatives for Gwinnett County and Georgia. He currently serves on the House Banks and Banking, Industrial Relations, and Economic Development and Tourism Committees. Rep. Marin has created a reputation as an elected official dedicated to being a voice for justice, opportunity, and equality for all people. He has facilitated countless intercultural relation programs to educate people about minorities, which has been critical in discrediting stereotypes, erasing ignorance, and easing tensions that arise when people are adverse to change. His constituency includes the Duluth and Norcross/Buford Highway corridor, which has a high concentration of AAPI businesses and residents.



## Tim Hur

Tim Hur currently runs and operates Point Honors and Associates, a boutique real estate firm in Metro Atlanta. Also representing international business clients, Tim has assisted European and Asian companies launch their US Headquarters, as the CEO of the International Business Accelerator, LLC. He is a founding member of the Gwinnett Chamber's Young Professionals and a charter member for the Gwinnett Mosaic Rotary Club, President of the Asian Real Estate Association of America – Greater Atlanta chapter, and the National Association of REALTORS' President's Liaison to South Korea. He has also been elected and continues to serve as the Assistant Secretary of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District.

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# Speakers



## Farooq Mughal

Farooq Mughal heads up MS Global Partners, LLC – Governmental Advisory where he routinely advises elected officials, federal and state government agencies on legislative priorities, governmental affairs, constituency outreach, and international relations. Mr. Mughal maintains contacts across a broad spectrum of elected and political leaders at both the federal and state levels in Washington, DC and Atlanta. A veteran political strategist and advisor, Mr. Mughal has worked on several influential state and federal campaigns as senior political advisor. Farooq Mughal is the first elected chairman of the AAPI Caucus of the Democratic Party of Georgia and is the highest ranking AAPI and Muslim American in Georgia politics.



## Glenn D. Magpantay

Glenn D Magpantay, Esquire is the Director of the Democracy Program at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). His practice at AALDEF includes enforcement of the federal Voting Rights Act with regards to bilingual ballots and redistricting, access to the vote, Asian American political opinion, and census public education, advocacy, and monitoring. He has published scholarly legal articles, authored a number of reports, and has given commentary to numerous media outlets including *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Boston Globe*, CNN, and National Public Radio. He teaches “Race & the Law” at Brooklyn Law School and “Asian American Civil Rights” at Hunter College / CUNY.



## Mike Vaquer

Mike Vaquer, Principal of The Vaquer Firm LLC, is a former Regional Public Affairs Manager for International Paper with experience in environmental issues, business operations, land development, finance and taxation, and public and community relations. Vaquer served as Assistant to the City Manager and Special Assistant to the Mayor for the City of Savannah. Vaquer has been instrumental in the passage of significant water legislation, tax credit initiatives, and led major local annexation projects in both Georgia and South Carolina. For five years The Vaquer Firm LLC was part of the lobbying team representing Fulton County, and for the past 2 years Vaquer was the in-house Legislative Policy Manager for the County.



## Judge Alvin T Wong

In 1998, Judge Alvin T. Wong was elected to the State Court of DeKalb County, Georgia’s third largest county. He was the first AAPI to run for public office in Metro Atlanta and the first AAPI elected judge in the Southeast. Judge Wong was elected in a county where AAPIs made up less than two percent of registered voters and has served continuously unopposed for more than a decade. Judge Wong had 21 years of experience as a corporate and trial attorney before running for office. He chaired the State Bar of Georgia’s Investigative Panel for disciplinary action against unethical practices by Georgia attorneys. His most recent project has been to create a DUI Court to treat chronic alcohol addiction. His heart is in the community. Judge Wong serves on the boards of the Fernbank Museum and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Law Foundation. He has mentored future leaders as co-director of NAPABA’s Thomas Tang Moot Court competition. He immigrated to the United States from Hong Kong at the age of 14.



## Bonnie Youn

Bonnie Youn has practiced complex Immigration Law in Atlanta, Georgia since 1997, focusing on employment and family-based applications for US permanent residency and citizenship. She founded Youn Law Group, an immigration, family law, and bankruptcy practice, in 2009. Previously, she served as a Staff Attorney at the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals (1994-1997). She received her JD from Boston University and her BA in English & American Literature from Brown University. She has served as Past President of the Korean American Coalition (Atlanta), and GAPABA (Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association). She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and received a Georgia Super Lawyer Rising Star award for Immigration Law in 2006. In March 2012, she chaired the Steering Committee for the SE Regional Action Summit for the White House Initiative on AAPIs at Emory University.

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# Key Legislative Issues

## 1. Appoint more AAPI judges and government officials in Georgia

Currently, there are only 2 elected AAPI judges in the entire state court system. The increased presence of qualified minority judges and government officials will improve our quality of justice. Having more AAPI judges and government officials can improve an understanding of the impact of the law on the lives of AAPIs in our community, and enrich the courts' understanding of how best to apply the intended purpose and effect of the laws.

## 2. Create and appoint a new AAPI Commission for Georgia

A decade ago, former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue created the first Asian-American Commission for a New Georgia. However, Governor Nathan Deal has not renewed the appointment of the Commission. More than ever before, Georgia needs an AAPI Commission that will have sustainability, with a written reporting requirement to meet with the Governor on a regular basis, to provide him with special insight into the needs of the AAPI populations in Georgia.

## 3. Ease state license renewal requirements for US citizens

As an unintended consequence of HB87, the immigration law requires people to show certain forms of identification before they can get public benefits, including professional licenses. This has bogged down the issuance of licenses to thousands of nurses, cosmetologists and many other professionals across the state. This has had a serious impact on the AAPI communities in Georgia, who are highly represented, among others, in the medical, nursing, accounting, and cosmetology fields.

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# Steering Committee

The 2013 GA AAPI Legislative Day Steering Committee is comprised of volunteers from various groups who have long been involved in local AAPI issues in Georgia. In March 2012, our group of dedicated organizers coordinated the hugely successful Southeast Regional Action Summit for the White House Initiative on AAPIs (WHIAAPI) at Emory University, attended by over 500 community members. The Committee providing logistics, planning, programming, and support for the White House Initiative on AAPIs, and delivered a written report to the WHIAAPI Commissioners for 2012 May APA Heritage Month in Washington, DC.

### Steering Committee Chair

**Bonnie Youn**

*Principal, Youn Law Group  
Co-Chair, Solo/Small First Committee,  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association*

### Legislative Chair

**Rep. BJay Pak**

*R - Lilburn District 108*

### Training & Sponsorship

**Marianne Chung**

*AAPI Non-profit Consultant*

**Judy Yi**

*Sr. Organizer, Partnership for Southern Equity*

### Public Relations

**Lillie Madali**

*Delta Phi Lambda Sorority  
Graduate student, Andrew Young School  
of Policy Studies, GA State University*

### Volunteer Coordinator

**Victoria Huynh**

*Programs Director,  
Center for Pan Asian Community Services*

### Legislative & Community Liaisons

**Farooq Mughal**

*Managing Partner, MS Global Partners  
Chair, AAPI Caucus of the Democratic Party  
of Georgia*

**Young Tae**

*Associate, Kumar Prabhu Patel & Banerjee, LLP  
Legislative Aide, Rep. BJay Pak*

**Tim Hur**

*President, Asian Real Estate Association of  
America, Atlanta Chapter  
President's Liaison to South Korea,  
National Association of Realtors*

### Finance & Fundraising

**Estrella Cramer**

*Global Procurement Finance Manager, UPS;  
UPS Supplier Diversity Program*

**Minh Nguyen**

*Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity*

**Bryan Ramos**

*Principal, Ramos Law Firm  
Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of  
Georgia*

**Amna Shirazi**

*Principal, Shirazi Law Group  
American Immigration Lawyers Association,  
Advocacy Group*

### AALAC Legislative Breakfast

**Helen Kim Ho**

*Executive Director,  
Asian American Legal Advocacy Center*

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Shirazi Law Group

Youn Law Group

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Laotian American Society (LAS)

Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE)

Vietnamese-American Community of Georgia (VAC-GA)

Vietnamese Community of Georgia (VNCGA)

## Partnering Organizations

Asian American Legal Advocacy Center (AALAC)

Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia (PACCGA)

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