Asian Pacific American Legal Center & API Equality-LA
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Los Angeles -- As part of its "Heroes of Love" campaign to honor straight allies who have championed marriage equality, the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center has recognized 15 Californians who have played a leadership role in fighting for the freedom to marry on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Among the 15 celebrities, labor leaders and civil rights activists are two Asian Americans -- state Board of Equalization Chair Judy Chu and Asian Pacific American Legal Center Vice-President Karin Wang.

"I am honored to be recognized by the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's Heroes of Love Campaign," said Dr. Judy Chu. "Despite recent setbacks, here in California we have made great strides toward marriage equality. But we have much more to do, and as long as I hold elected office, I will continue to fight for the rights of same sex couples. I am sure that together, we can ensure that one day the state lives up to its moral and legal responsibility to recognize and encourage permanent relationships between members of the same sex, and provide those couples with the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual couples."

"It's a great privilege to be included on this list of distinguished Californians," said Karin Wang, Vice-President of APALC and steering committee member of API Equality-LA. "All struggles for justice are interconnected, so standing up for marriage equality is just part of the everyday work of being a civil rights advocate. I am particularly grateful that the broader LGBT community has taken notice of the Asian American community's strong support for the freedom to marry and we hope to continue supporting each others struggles."

"APALC is delighted to have Judy Chu and Karin Wang, two individuals with strong ties to our organization, honored for their leadership in the marriage equality movement," said Stewart Kwoh, APALC Executive Director. "As an organization that embraces a broad vision of social justice and civil rights, we strongly support their efforts and will continue to work for full equality for all Californians."

"API Equality-LA is thrilled that among the 15 heroes being recognized are two outstanding Asian American women -- Judy Chu and Karin Wang," said Marshall Wong, API Equality-LA co-chair. "Both are leading straight allies in the fight for marriage equality. Karin is one of API Equality-LA's founding members and Judy was one of our earliest and most vocal supporters. API Equality-LA salutes them for their commitment to the freedom to marry and to the LGBT community."

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