



## CALIFORNIA ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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### California Celebrates Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month *Exceptional APIs Recognized at the State Capitol*

**Sacramento, CA** – The Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus today recognized Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in California with the adoption of [Assembly Concurrent Resolution \(ACR\) 133](#), authored by Assemblymember Rob Bonta (D – Oakland). Awards were presented to distinguished Asian & Pacific Islander Americans during a special floor ceremony today dedicated to honoring leaders who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of civil rights, education, labor, law, public service, and sports.

“The API Heritage Month honorees this year exemplify the passion and the talent within the growing Asian Pacific Islander American community,” said chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Assemblymember Paul Fong (D – San Jose). “This group of diverse and extraordinary leaders empowers the APIA community in California and in this country. I thank them for their tremendous contributions and service to the community and abroad.”

Nearly six million APIs account for 16 percent of the state’s population, comprising one of the fastest growing demographics in California. The impact of APIs in the state continues to be evident through the accomplishments of the honorees as well as the presence of increasing API elected officials in state and local government. The 2014 Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Award Recipients include:

- **Excellence in Education - Bill Ong Hing** is a Professor of Law at the University of San Francisco and Professor of Law and Asian American Studies, *Emeritus*, U.C. Davis.
- **Excellence in Law - Dale Minami** is a partner with Minami Tamaki LLP in San Francisco, an award-winning law firm with consumer-oriented legal practice.
- **Excellence in Public Service - Diane Ujjiye** is the Executive Director of APIs CAN, the only statewide network of health, human service, education, community development, and immigrant rights organizations.
- **Excellence in Civil Rights - Jose Antonio Vargas** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker, and the founder of *Define American*, a campaign that seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration in America.
- **Excellence in Labor - Courtni Pugh** is the Executive Director of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 99, the largest SEIU education workers’ union in California.
- **Excellence in Sports - Nathan Adrian** is a four-time Olympic medalist, including three gold medals, and is also a two-time World Champion.

*The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the diverse interests of California’s API community. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase API participation and representation in all levels of government.*

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