



Ronald W. Wong, President & CEO of Imprenta Communications Group, Recognized as Citizen of the Year by Chinese-American Elected Officials (CEO)

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Ronald Wong of Imprenta Communications Group and Founder of the Asian Pacific American Leadership Foundation was recognized as Citizen of the Year from at the 2016 Chinese American Elected Officials (CEO) Annual Installation & Awards Dinner on June 10, 2016. Each year CEO recognizes and honors a select group of individuals who have made significant contributions in advancing the political representation of the Chinese and Asian Pacific American community.

Nearly 100 community leaders, state and local elected official were on hand at the event. Mike Fong, Los Angeles Community College District Trustee and Polly Low, Rosemead City Council Member emceed the awards dinner. Also on hand were more than 50 local and statewide elected officials, including California State Treasurer John Chiang, Congressmember Judy Chu, State Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, Board of Equalization Member, Fiona Ma, and Assemblymembers Ed Chau and Evan Low, along with key business and community leaders and major corporate sponsors.

State Treasurer and the first Chinese American candidate for Governor John Chiang delivered remarks about the importance of political engagement and participation. Congressmember Judy Chu introduced Wong and spoke of their 30 year friendship and relationship which dates back to Wong's sophomore year at UCLA more than 30 years ago when he volunteered on Chu's election for the Garvey School Board. Congressmember Judy Chu highlighted Wong's major accomplishments and political involvement which spanned more than 3 decades and included working in President Clinton's Administration, for Governor Gray Davis and his involvement in the successful political campaign of many Chinese Americans throughout California. Wong is one of the very few and one of the most prominent Chinese Americans political and public affairs consultant and built his career through more than 30 years of working in politics and some of California's most recognized political leaders including Speaker of Assembly and Mayor of San Francisco Willie Brown, state Senator Art Torres, L.A. County Supervisor Ed Edelman in addition to serving in President Clinton's Administration and as Chief Deputy Appointments Secretary to California Governor Gray Davis. Additionally, Wong has worked on more than 100 political campaigns and has been instrumental in helping elect a multitude of APA and Chinese American candidates.

The company he founded, Imprenta Communications Group was recognized in 2015 as one of the Fastest Growing Companies in America by Inc. Magazine, and is the 9th largest public relations firm in Los Angeles according to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Wong credits his company's success and growth to its mission statement:

To empower communities of color by giving them a voice and communicating to them in ways which respects their diversity and understands their culture.

Wong also founded the Asian Pacific American Leadership Foundation (APALF) which trains and better prepares APA candidates for leadership positions in elected and appointed offices. This program has training some of California's most prominent and rising stars in the APA community including State Board of Equalization Member Betty Yee, Assemblymembers Phil Ting, David Chiu, Rob Bonta, Evan Low, and numerous city council and school board members from around the state. APALF is organizing the California Asian Network of Asian Elected (CALNET), an organization dedicated to ensuring the APA elected officials succeed and thrive in elected office.

In his award acceptance speech, Wong said he was humbled and honored to see the success of Chinese Americans in elected office, particularly seeing Chinese Americans Congressman Judy Chu, and State Treasurer in the highest leadership roles in our country and state. "All of the recognition and honor in world belongs to our elected officials who have the guts and courage to put themselves forward and run for office against the odds. I have been extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to work behind the scene and do what I can do to help elected qualified Chinese and Asian Pacific Americans into leadership roles at the state, local and national level".

Wong closed his remark by recognizing and congratulating his good friend Charlie Woo, entrepreneur, philanthropist, social activist, business owner, and Board Chair of the Center of Asians United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE), a community-based organization dedicated to advancing the political empowerment of the Asian Pacific American (APA) community. Wong serves on the CAUSE Board with Charlie.

Wong shared a recent public service announcement (PSA) written and produced by Imprinta Communications Group for APIA Vote. The PSA features Star Trek icon George Takei, the new Sulu actor John Cho, Fresh Off The Boat actress Constance Wu and other high-profile APIA celebrities, the new viral Voting PSA aims to motivate and encourage APAs to vote and register to vote.

