



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Minnesotans United for All Families and Our Vote Our Future to Receive Awards from The Advocates for Human Rights**

*Ambassador Sam Kaplan, Sylvia Kaplan to speak at The Advocates' Human Rights Award Dinner*

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (5/13/13) – Two groups instrumental in defeating the amendments to Minnesota's constitution proposed to state voters last fall will be honored at The Advocates for Human Rights' annual dinner, Thursday, June 6, at the Hilton in downtown Minneapolis. The Human Rights Award Dinner, celebrating The Advocates' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, begins at 6:30 p.m., with a silent auction opening at 5:00 p.m.

Minnesotans United for All Families and Our Vote Our Future will each be presented The Advocates' Don and Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award in recognition of their extraordinary achievements to safeguard and promote people's liberties.

Minnesotans United for All Families rallied to defeat the so-called "Marriage Amendment" which, if passed, would have banned gay marriage. It also is playing role to legalize same sex marriage in Minnesota. Our Vote Our Future played a critical role in getting voters to reject a constitutional amendment that would have restricted people's right to vote.

The Advocates worked to defeat the amendments as part of two coalitions led by Minnesotans United and Our Vote Our Future. The Advocates publically opposed both amendments and spearheaded outreach through social media, newsletter, website, and public presentations.

Also that evening, Ambassador Samuel L. Kaplan and Sylvia Kaplan will deliver the event's keynote address. The Kaplans recently returned to Minnesota from Morocco after Ambassador Kaplan completed his service as the United States ambassador to Morocco.

The Advocates' award was renamed the Don and Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award in 2008, the year of the organization turned 25, to honor the Frasers' pioneering human rights work. Don Fraser, a founding member of The Advocates, was the first person to be presented the award in 1985. The award was presented to Arvonne Fraser in 1998 for outstanding achievements in promoting women's human rights.

This year, The Advocates, born and headquartered in the Twin Cities, celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Involving volunteers in cutting-edge research, education, and advocacy, the non-profit organization saves lives, fights injustice, restores peace, and builds the human rights movement in the United States and around the world.

Currently, The Advocates is spearheading a number of human rights initiatives, including preventing sex trafficking, especially the trafficking of children; reforming the immigration system to make it more humane; representing refugees seeking asylum; leading efforts to make Minnesota a more welcoming place; developing tools and resources to help diaspora members influence human rights conditions in their home countries; preventing child labor in Nepal; and working to stop domestic violence locally and globally, including in Croatia, Moldova, Mongolia and Latvia.

People interested in attending event can register online at [TheAdvocatesforHumanRights.org](http://TheAdvocatesforHumanRights.org).

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*The Advocates for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally-recognized human rights. To learn more about The Advocates' local, national, and international work, visit [theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://theadvocatesforhumanrights.org).*