

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
LEGAL CENTER



MEMBER OF
ASIAN AMERICAN CENTER
FOR ADVANCING JUSTICE





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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ADVANCING JUSTICE FOR ALL

For more than 27 years, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) has advanced justice on behalf of underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities by meeting urgent legal needs, as well as addressing systemic issues affecting families and individuals across our city, state, and nation. By focusing on both short-term and long-term needs in our communities, APALC is able to build a stronger community for all.

In 2010, APALC continued and broadened our hallmark legal services work. Our domestic violence work helps vulnerable immigrants like June* who tragically become victims of domestic violence in the United States but gain legal independence and freedom with help from APALC attorneys. This year, we expanded our domestic violence work to Orange County with two new Vietnamese-speaking attorneys.

APALC also fought against fraud perpetrated on many of our immigrant community members by utilizing our litigation expertise to defend the rights of homeowners and families. On the national stage, APALC litigated as part of a national civil rights coalition that challenged Arizona's unfair immigration law, SB 1070.

In addition to pursuing justice through the courts, APALC advocated on key policy issues affecting the broader AAPI population, such as directly reaching over 730,000 individuals regarding Census 2010 and supporting federal immigration reform and DREAM Act bills. In the community, APALC focused on long-term, grassroots, creative approaches to fostering justice, through youth, parent, and community leadership development programs.

Finally, in 2010, APALC announced a significant amplification of a national Asian American and Pacific Islander voice through the formation of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice. As a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, APALC strengthens our affiliation with three sister civil rights groups and expands our impact and reach at the regional and national levels.

Your support is instrumental in helping us create lasting impact in our communities. Thank you for your generous and unwavering support.

Sincerely yours,


Stewart Kwoh, Esq.
President & Executive Director



* Client's name changed to preserve confidentiality.

JUNE'S STORY

June*, a native from Korea who does not speak English, came to America, lured by the promise that her long-time boyfriend would marry her if she joined him. Instead, June suffered terrible abuse from her boyfriend, including threats of deportation and accusations of child kidnapping. One evening, he demanded to meet with her and their child, and attempted to sexually assault her while the child was present. When she resisted, he severely beat her. June managed to escape and call the police, who eventually arrested her boyfriend and charged him with domestic violence.

June contacted APALC and we helped her close one painful chapter in her life by obtaining a restraining order against her ex-boyfriend and by helping her gain full custody of her child with no visitation by the father, who was convicted of domestic violence.

APALC also helped June navigate the complex immigration system by helping her apply for legal status. Under the U-Visa, which allows immigrants to gain legal status if they have been a victim of a crime in the U.S., June was able to gain a work permit, social security card and driver's license, allowing her to work legally in the U.S. and to support her baby. In 2010, with APALC's assistance, June received her green card, granting her permanent legal residency. With her green card, she can finally live without fear and concentrate on raising her child, and for the first time in years, visit her family in Korea.

** Client's name changed to preserve confidentiality.*



Above, top: Volunteer Kathy Khommarath helps clients at a legal clinic.

Above, bottom: A full house listens to Stewart Kwoh at the first annual Family Forum for parents and youth in San Gabriel Valley.

Working towards a better and stronger community for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and people of all backgrounds.

'10

DIRECT SERVICES

Since our founding, direct services have been a high priority for APALC. Every year, we help thousands of low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, especially those who speak little or no English, through legal services and education.

Assisting Domestic Violence Survivors

APALC's multilingual staff and volunteers provide legal assistance to hundreds of women and children, helping them break free of abusive relationships, assert their independence, and in many cases, establish their legal status without depending on their abusers. In 2010, we expanded our long-standing services for Los Angeles County residents with two new Vietnamese-speaking attorneys based in Orange County.



2010 HIGHLIGHTS

IMPACT LITIGATION

APALC advocates for civil rights and social justice through lawsuits that seek to expand existing protections, set legal precedent or change institutional practices, on behalf of vulnerable and mistreated members of our community.

Fighting Arizona’s Unfair Immigration Law

As part of a national civil rights coalition, APALC and the Asian American Justice Center, as members of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, filed a lawsuit challenging Arizona’s controversial immigration law, SB 1070, on grounds that it violates federal authority over immigration and encourages Arizona law enforcement to engage in racial profiling. On July 28, 2010, a federal judge stopped implementation of key portions of SB 1070. In addition to being part of the legal team, APALC worked on the ground in Arizona with local Asian American and Pacific Islander community leaders fighting SB 1070.

Above, left: Members of the SB 1070 legal team consisted of *pro bono* attorneys and civil rights staff attorneys from eight different legal organizations.

Above, right: Litigation Director Julie Su speaks out against SB 1070 at a press conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Fighting Consumer Fraud in Immigrant Communities

In 2010, APALC filed two lawsuits on behalf of Asian immigrants who were victims of fraud: one against a law office, the other against a private school. In both cases, the defendants defrauded unsuspecting limited English speaking immigrants out of thousands of dollars, through false advertising and representations. With *pro bono* assistance from **O’Melveny & Myers LLP**, APALC filed a lawsuit in March against Trinity Law Associates, a law office that ran a foreclosure rescue scam that caused dozens of hard-working Korean immigrant homeowners to lose their homes or face increased risk of foreclosure. Similarly, in June, APALC filed a lawsuit on behalf of 77 Chinese and Taiwanese immigrant parents against the two former directors of Montecito, a San Gabriel Valley arts school, who defrauded trusting parents and students out of more than \$1.5 million. With *pro bono* support from **Kirkland & Ellis LLP**, APALC is seeking justice for these parents, some of whom lost life savings in hopes of improving their children’s future.

Above: OK Kee Shin speaks out against the law office that defrauded her of her savings and home. Former Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow, Esther Ro, interprets the client’s message.



POLICY ANALYSIS & ADVOCACY

APALC defends civil rights and advances justice through advocacy with the legislature and government agencies, at all levels from national to local.

Ensuring an Accurate Count of AAPIs

In 2010, APALC anchored API Count, a statewide Census 2010 network of 78 AAPI organizations. An accurate census count is critical – communities lose an estimated \$14,000 in federal funds for each undercounted person, funds that go to vital services like schools, county hospitals, emergency services, and other public programs. The API Count network coordinated local and statewide outreach and education to ensure that AAPI communities participated in Census 2010.



Victor Kaiwi Pang, President and Chair of the Pacific Islander Health Partnership (PIHP), speaks to a reporter at the API Count kick-off event in Los Angeles about the coalition's efforts to reduce the Pacific Islander undercount, which was 5% in Census 2000.



Stewart Kwoh speaks on the importance of an accurate census count, with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and James Christy from the U.S. Census Bureau and other local census partners standing alongside.

Providing Resources for Census 2010 Outreach in California

Due to budget constraints, the government had less funding to educate hard-to-reach AAPIs about the importance of Census 2010 compared to previous census years. With the generous support of the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, The California Endowment, James Irvine Foundation, and California Community Foundation, APALC re-granted \$812,000 to local community groups in regions that are home to 96% of the state's Asian American and 85% of the state's Pacific Islander population. By re-granting to local community groups, APALC provided critical resources to these groups that empowered them to outreach to local AAPIs, thereby maximizing their existing trust and relationships.

AAPI CENSUS 2010 NUMBERS

18.2
MILLION

Number of AAPIs in the U.S.
(5.9% of total population)

\$812,000

Amount APALC re-granted
to 62 AAPI groups
throughout the state

Advocating for Immigrants' Rights

Although comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) legislation did not pass in 2010, APALC raised awareness of the need for CIR by spearheading, with its affiliates, a national AAPI Week of Action in Washington, D.C., Chicago and San Francisco, and hosting a phone bank to support the DREAM Act, a bill to provide a path to citizenship for undocumented students. APALC also organized local advocacy against the mandatory implementation of E-Verify in Los Angeles County, which will have a devastating impact on foreign-born workers and small business owners due to the system's high error rates.

5.8
MILLION

Number of AAPIs in California, state with the largest AAPI population in U.S. (15.7% of California population)

1.5
MILLION

Number of AAPIs in Los Angeles County (15.7% of total LA County population)

33.6%

AAPI percentage growth in the last decade in California (largest % growth of any racial group)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and APALC

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

APALC creates a more just and harmonious society by developing leaders for a multiracial, global society and by strengthening intergroup relations. In 2010, APALC trained more than 900 parents, students and community members on skills ranging from dispute resolution to advocacy and media.

Developing New Generations of Leaders

Through work with both K-12 students and parents, APALC developed leadership skills of immigrant and underserved youth and families so they could effectively advocate on education and broader community issues.

Linda Huynh, a graduating senior from Mark Keppel High School who will attend California State University, Los Angeles in the fall, grew in her confidence and passion for the community through APALC's leadership programs over the past three years. As part of the ethnic Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia, Linda's family speaks over six languages, including Cantonese, Khmer, Mandarin, Teo Chew and Vietnamese; such diversity reflects the population APALC serves in the San Gabriel Valley, Chinatown, and Lincoln Heights. Linda became inspired to not only learn about community issues but also educate others about issues affecting them. *"I learned that when you fight for a cause, others are right there willing to fight with you. I learned not to be afraid to fight for what you believe is right."*

Creating Justice-Minded Community Leaders Across California

The Leadership in Interethnic Relations (LDIR) program develops multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-identity individuals who work towards community-based, sustainable social change. In addition to its six-month training for professionals and advocates in the health sector, LDIR also provided technical assistance to each of The California Endowment's 13 place-based Building Healthy Communities sites throughout the state of California. Through a new initiative, *Leadership for Social Change*, LDIR has expanded into five counties in the Central Valley and is now offering a training program to a diverse cohort of non-profit and emerging leaders from underrepresented communities.



Executive Directors of four sister organizations announce a new shared name. Titi Liu (Asian Law Caucus), Tuyet Le (Asian American Institute), Karen Narasaki (Asian American Justice Center), and Stewart Kwoh stand together after announcing "Asian American Center for Advancing Justice" at the 2010 Advancing Justice Conference.

A New Shared Name:

ASIAN AMERICAN CENTER FOR ADVANCING JUSTICE

In June 2010, APALC officially announced its new shared name and strengthened affiliation with its existing sister civil rights organizations across the country – Asian American Institute (AAI) in Chicago, Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) in Washington, D.C., and Asian Law Caucus (ALC) in San Francisco. Collectively, the four organizations are transitioning to a new name, **Asian American Center for Advancing Justice**, in 2012. Under this new shared name, APALC and its sister affiliates will be able to raise a more effective and united

voice at both local and national levels, while preserving each affiliate's autonomy. One concrete result of our strengthened collaboration is the annual national **Advancing Justice Conference**, inaugurated in Los Angeles in 2009 and held in Washington D.C. in 2010. This past year, the Advancing Justice Conference gathered hundreds of government officials, lawyers, advocates, academics, community leaders, and students to learn, strategize, and be energized as they work towards a more just and equal America.

AFFILIATES

APALC is affiliated with the Asian American Institute in Chicago, Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C., and the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, as members of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.

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FOR ADVANCING JUSTICE

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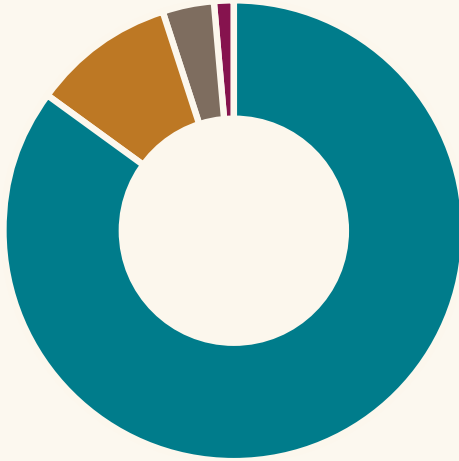
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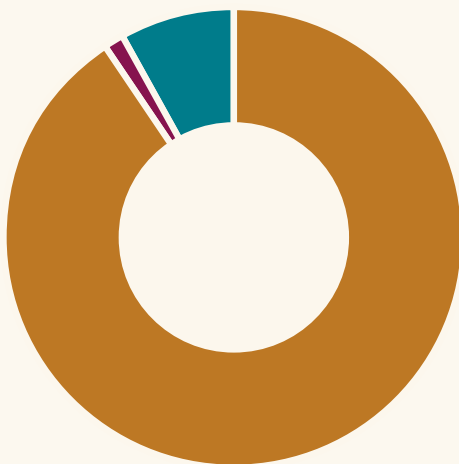
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

SUPPORT & REVENUE



- Grants **85.1%**
- Individuals & Special Events **9.9%**
- Rental & Investment Income **3.8%**
- Program & Attorney Recovery Fee **1.2%**

EXPENSES



- Program Services **90.7%**
- Fundraising **1.4%**
- Administrative Costs **7.9%**

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,076,911
Long-term Investments	\$5,535,200
Grants and Pledges Receivables	\$2,209,539
Property and Equipment, Net	\$2,705,490
Deposits	\$13,548
Total Assets	\$12,540,688

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$128,054
Accrued Employee Benefits	\$153,708
Deferred Revenue	\$260,481
Custodial Funds	\$32,369
Total Liabilities	\$574,612

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$6,325,978
Temporarily Restricted	\$4,640,098
Permanently Restricted	\$1,000,000
Total Net Assets	\$11,966,076
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$12,540,688

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