



# BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

## PROTECTING OUR FUTURE.



ASIAN AMERICANS  
ADVANCING  
JUSTICE  
LOS ANGELES

*annual report 2016*





## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles (Advancing Justice-LA) was founded to serve and advocate for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. Decades later, our commitment to advancing justice for all marginalized communities has never been more important than it is now.

2016 was an incredible year for our communities and civic engagement. As a growing social, political, and economic force, AANHPIs made great strides in raising our voice during a critical election year. Advancing Justice-LA is proud to have worked with key community partners in naturalizing almost 9,000 new U.S. citizens, calling over 100,000 AANHPI voters in Los Angeles and Orange Counties for the June and November 2016 elections, and sending more than 200 volunteers to monitor polling sites across Southern and Central California on Election Day in November.

Beyond the elections, we are also proud of our ongoing work on behalf of immigrant workers, including fighting for justice for 11 trafficked workers from the Philippines, who remained resilient despite slave-like conditions at a popular local French bakery, and nearly 400 port truck drivers, who successfully fought a company that defied them at every turn. And as AANHPI communities move beyond traditional gateway cities like Los Angeles, we strengthened and expanded our Orange County office to better serve and protect one of the fastest-growing AANHPI populations anywhere in the nation.

Thank you for your generous support that has allowed us to continue our work. We will not back down from our mission or our fight to protect our communities. We are stronger now than ever before because of your partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart Kwok".

President & Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nita Song".

Chair, Board of Directors

# MOBILIZING OUR COMMUNITY

## 2016 election & civic engagement

**A**sian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) are the fastest-growing racial group in the United States. With a population of over 21 million, the AANHPI electorate is increasingly influential yet remains largely ignored by campaigns, candidates, and political parties. According to the Asian American Election Eve Poll, which Advancing Justice-LA supported, although 70% of registered Asian American voters casted their ballot in the 2016 general election, only 43% of Asian American voters had been contacted by a campaign or political party to ask to vote or register to vote.

AANHPI voters comprise 10% of Los Angeles County and 14% of Orange County voters. This makes get-out-the-vote efforts like ours particularly important. Advancing Justice-LA worked in close partnership with 20 AANHPI community-based organizations through the **nonpartisan “Your Vote Matters” campaign, which made over 65,000 calls in 11 AANHPI languages and English in the months leading up to the November 8th election.** As a result, these and other efforts helped turn out 70% of Asian American voters in California during a critical election year.

Many AANHPI voters rely on language assistance to help them vote, including 50% of Korean American voters and 46% of Chinese American voters. On election day, we executed one of the nation’s largest poll monitoring efforts in partnership with Advancing



Justice - Asian Law Caucus, **training and mobilizing over 600 volunteers to monitor 1,200 polling places in 25 counties across California.** We trained poll monitoring volunteers to ensure that all required translated materials were present at the polling sites and that limited-English proficient voters were able to vote on election day.

*"So many people are becoming citizens every day and they just don't understand that they have so much power in their hands. I want them to know that they do have the power to change where we live, who we are, and how we want to live."*

*- Nadia Smita,  
"Your Vote Matters" phone banking volunteer*





# ACTIVATING OUR COMMUNITY

## Endless Possibilities. Citizenship Now!

**O**ver 300,000 Asian Americans in Southern California are eligible for U.S. citizenship. Of this, more than half live in Los Angeles County alone. During an important election year, Advancing Justice-LA launched the “Endless Possibilities. Citizenship Now!” campaign to encourage more Asian immigrants to apply for U.S. citizenship. In partnership with 12 community-based organizations and 15 Asian ethnic media outlets, the campaign promoted the benefits of citizenship in 21 different languages and dialects.

U.S. citizenship remains the strongest protection of one’s livelihood and rights in the United States. In addition to access to jobs, increased income, family reunification, the freedom to travel, and the right to vote, citizenship offers protection from deportation.

This united effort between community and media partners was unprecedented in scope and impact, resulting in the **completion of nearly 1,100 citizenship applications and over 600 fee waivers for low-income applicants, saving them over \$500,000 in citizenship fees**. Since the campaign began, we received double the usual amount of citizenship-related calls — nearly 3,500 by the end of 2016. Further, **we enrolled over 450 individuals in ESL and Civics courses** to ensure that our clients are setup to succeed in the naturalization process. Overall, Advancing Justice-LA and our citizenship partners across the United States assisted 9,000 citizenship applicants in 2016.

*"If you can vote, you're alive. The best thing you can do as a citizen is to vote"*

*- Rosadell Bay, Citizenship client who, despite a sickness that left her home-bound, naturalized in order to vote in the 2016 election*



# BRINGING JUSTICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

## Port Truck Drivers Case

**A**fter a years-long battle, Advancing Justice-LA, in partnership with Wage Justice Center, reached a **\$5 million class action settlement on behalf of nearly 400 immigrant Korean and Latino American port truck drivers** who were misclassified as independent contractors.

The port trucking company, QTS, Inc., hid behind purported bankruptcy protections to avoid being liable for shifting the costs of operating their business to the drivers. The drivers were forced to cover the general maintenance and repair costs of their trucks, including insurance, and were left to work dangerously long hours for poverty-level wages.

The case is the first wage and hour settlement to successfully attack the dual scheme of misclassification and using bankruptcy to avoid liability, which are endemic in the port trucking industry and many other low-wage sectors, sending a strong signal to drivers and other exploited workers that justice is possible.

## L'Amande Bakery Case

**I**n 2016, Advancing Justice-LA secured a **\$15.2 million default judgement and T (trafficking) visas for 11 Filipino bakery workers** trafficked from the Philippines by the owners of L'Amande French Bakery, a high-end bakery with shops in Beverly Hills and Torrance.

Upon arriving in the United States, the workers were threatened with an \$11,000 debt unless they agreed to work at the bakery for at least three years. Alongside working 17-hour days for less than minimum wage and





*"I am grateful for the hard work of our lawyers for listening to our hearts and believing in us"*

*- Romar Cunanan, former bakery worker*

no overtime pay, the workers also served as domestic servants, often expected to do construction or cleaning work at the owners' personal home. When the workers tried to fight back, the bakery owners threatened to deport them and retaliate against their family members back in the Philippines.

A year after the workers bravely filed suit against their traffickers, they continue to rebuild their lives and reunite with family in the United States. Advancing Justice-LA continues to seek payment on the default judgement from the bakery owners who abandoned the lawsuit and fled the country.

# EXPANDING COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Orange County Office - 10 Year Anniversary

**O**ur Orange County Regional Office celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016 with a successful luncheon, which included over 300 guests representing the legal, business, public, and nonprofit sectors of Orange County. In its 10 years, the Orange County Regional Office expanded to serve the growing AANHPI community that includes over 600,000 Asian Americans and over 19,000 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the region – 21% of Orange County's population. In 2016, we launched two new Orange County Advisory Councils, comprised of AANHPI and other leaders in the legal, business, academic, and nonprofit sectors, bringing in new supporters and a stronger voice for AANHPIs in Orange County. We also moved to a larger office in Santa Ana as we prepare to expand our services and education work in immigration, health, and other areas.



# OUR REACH AND IMPACT IN 2016



**\$15.2 million** default judgement for trafficked bakery workers



**100,000** GOTV calls made with our Your Vote Matters! partners to registered voters in 12 languages for the June and November 2016 elections



**\$5 million** settlement won for immigrant port truck drivers

**1,600** youth & adults participated in leadership trainings, community service events, and large-scale convenings

**9,000** citizenship applicants assisted by Advancing Justice-LA and New Americans Campaign partners across the U.S.



**6,100** individuals enrolled in state and local health coverage programs by Advancing Justice-LA and the Health Justice Network partners

**\$500,000** saved in citizenship fees for low-income immigrants, through successful fee waivers

**1,043** domestic violence survivors assisted

**796** volunteers, interns, and pro bono attorneys contributed over 18,200 hours - worth \$2.9 million - to helping Advancing Justice-LA

**8,556** calls made to legal helplines in 7 Asian languages

**220** volunteers trained and mobilized to monitor nearly 500 precincts in 8 counties on Election Day November 2016



**382** homeowners assisted with foreclosure prevention

# DONORS & SUPPORTERS

## \$1,000,000 +

California Community Foundation ('14-'19)  
The California Endowment ('15-'17)  
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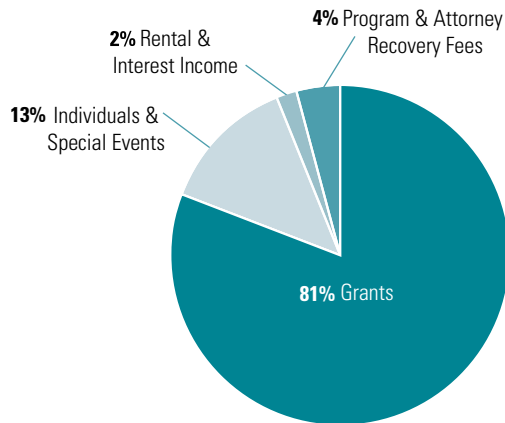
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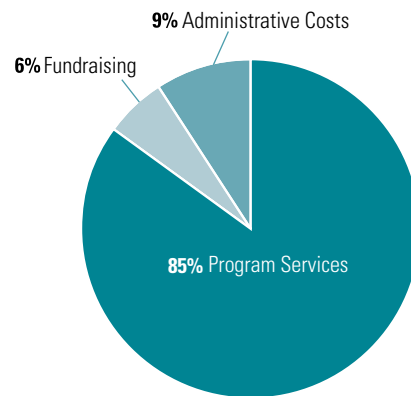


# 2016 FINANCIALS

## SUPPORT & REVENUE



## EXPENSES



## ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,248,635
Long-term Investments	\$7,393,611
Grants and Pledges Receivables	\$4,992,833
Property and Equipment, Net	\$2,864,164
Deposits	\$28,816
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$17,528,059</b>

## LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$252,659
Accrued Employee Benefits	\$302,570
Grants Payable	\$1,093,036
Custodial Funds	\$2,414
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,650,679</b>

## NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$9,753,773
Temporarily Restricted	\$5,123,607
Permanently Restricted	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$15,877,380</b>

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets: \$17,528,059**



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LOS ANGELES

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