

ASIAN AMERICANS
ADVANCING JUSTICE
LOS ANGELES

Building upon the legacy of the
Asian Pacific American Legal Center

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR MISSION is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and to create a more equitable and harmonious society.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In 1983, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) was founded with just one attorney and staff – me. In 2013, we celebrated our 30th anniversary with more than 80 staff and three offices, making us the nation's largest legal organization focused on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.

In addition to being a milestone anniversary, 2013 was a year of significant accomplishments. As we do every year, we provided legal assistance to thousands of community members on issues such as family law, domestic violence, housing, immigration (including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), and citizenship. In 2013, we also re-launched our pro bono program with the support of the local Asian American bar associations. With a new pro bono director, we have strengthened our internal capacity to serve additional clients as well as provide more meaningful opportunities for pro bono attorneys and other volunteers to contribute to our work. Over the course of the year, 300 individuals donated 11,000 hours to help clients and community members in need.

One of our pro bono partnerships involved the successful representation of a Chinese American duly elected to the San Gabriel City Council but denied his rightful seat. This was an important victory for both the large Asian American population in the city of San Gabriel and the immigrant-dominated San Gabriel Valley east of Los Angeles. We also fought for AANHPI communities through other litigation and advocacy, including advocating for immigration reform in Congress and for implementation of the Affordable Care Act in California. In the fall of 2013, we led the largest effort in California to outreach to and educate AANHPIs on the new health care law, with a network of more than 30 organizations across the state, helping Asian Americans to enroll at disproportionately high rates across many ethnic groups.

This year also saw the return of the Advancing Justice Conference to Los Angeles. Five years ago, in 2009, we hosted the first and only AANHPI civil rights and social justice conference and in 2013, we were thrilled to host the largest Advancing Justice Conference to date. Focused on the theme "Civil Rights for the Next Generation," AJC 2013 drew more than 1,000 participants and speakers to Los Angeles in November 2013, including more than 400 local high school students and parents who are part of our youth and parent leadership programs.

2013 was also a year of significant change. After three decades as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, we formally changed our name to Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles in June 2013. For several preceding years, we had been in the process of forming a stronger affiliation and adopting a common name – Asian Americans Advancing Justice – with three other Asian American civil rights groups around the nation. That process is now complete. While we remain four separate and independent organizations, together we will be able to raise a more powerful and impactful voice on behalf of the communities we serve.

I am proud of APALC's 30 years of tremendous service and advocacy, and thank you for your support in making our first three decades so successful. Your continued support and partnership will be instrumental as we move into our next decade and I hope you share my excitement about our ability, as Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles, to be even more impactful locally, regionally, statewide, and nationally.

Sincerely,

Stewart Kwoh

Stewart Kwoh

ADVANCING JUSTICE - LA RESCUES DEMOCRACY IN SAN GABRIEL

IN ITS 100-YEAR HISTORY, only two Asian Americans had ever served on the San Gabriel City Council. But the March 2013 municipal election portended change, with not one, but two Asian American candidates winning seats, Jason Pu and Chin Ho Liao. They were the two top vote-getters in a city whose population is more than 60 percent Asian American.

This set the stage for what should have been a celebration, of the city's centennial and the emergence of diverse voices in local government represented by Pu's and Liao's victory. However, in an extraordinary disregard of election procedures, the outgoing council voted not to seat Liao because of a complaint disputing his qualifications for office. Making matters worse, rather than seeking a neutral third party, the city council decided to look into and judge the complaint on its own.

As residents of San Gabriel decried this attack on democracy, Advancing Justice - LA stood ready to intervene. We assembled a legal team drawn from our in-house voting rights experts and impact litigators, and our pro bono counsel, Bird Marella Boxer Wolpert Nessim Drooks Lincenberg & Rhow. Together, they worked long and exhaustive hours to prepare for and represent Liao at a hearing that election law experts characterized as "unusual" and even "unprecedented." Against long odds, our efforts vindicated the righteous anger of the crowds that packed the hearing room; the city council ruled in favor of seating only the fourth Asian American councilman in the city's history.

Protecting the rights of our communities has been the hallmark of Advancing Justice - LA's mission, and in the case of Chin Ho Liao, those rights extended beyond the Asian American candidate's to the multiracial electorate that voted for him. But Advancing Justice - LA also got involved because of the importance of promoting civic participation by our own Asian American communities. Only by consistently voting and making our voices heard can we ensure that government does not treat our needs as afterthoughts. Had Liao been denied his seat, the Asian American community of San Gabriel would have seen its trust in democracy shattered, rolling back years of effort to encourage Asian American civic participation. More broadly, our work in San Gabriel continues a long history of standing up for Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley, stretching back to the early 1980s and our role in challenging anti-Asian laws such as English-only policies in the city of Monterey Park.



L-R: Karin Wang, Carmina Ocampo, Eugene Lee, Chin Ho Liao, Nilay Vora (Bird Marella), Deanna Kitamura, Zulaikha Aziz, and Laboni Hoq.

ADVANCING JUSTICE - LA SPEARHEADS HISTORIC STATEWIDE EFFORT ON HEALTH COVERAGE

COVERED CALIFORNIA

IN 2013, NEARLY THREE YEARS AFTER President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law, efforts finally got under way to reach out to, educate, and enroll in health care millions of previously uninsured Americans. Launching a major new public health initiative would have been challenging in the best of circumstances. But add to that an extraordinarily complex program, a compressed timeline (six-month open enrollment period), and the need to reach increasingly diverse and frequently limited-English proficient communities – and the challenges grow exponentially more demanding.

In California, home to an estimated 700,000 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) eligible for coverage, the state foresaw some of these challenges. Through its new health insurance exchange, known as Covered California, the state made grants to community groups to conduct outreach and education about the new health care options. Recognizing our expertise and our standing with the AANHPI community, California awarded $1 million to Advancing Justice - LA and our community-based partners in our statewide Health Justice Network to undertake this effort – the only statewide grant focused on AANHPIs. Including additional support from other funders, in total, Advancing Justice - LA raised and re-granted more than $1.2 million* to support 56 organizations around the state who worked with us on outreach, education, and enrollment efforts.

With funding in place, we still faced a daunting challenge to reach and help enroll as many eligible members of our communities as quickly as possible. So when open enrollment season arrived on October 1, we launched a massive campaign consisting of culturally sensitive, linguistically appropriate information and assistance. For example, Advancing Justice - LA provided enrollment assistance, in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, multiple times a week, every week, at the Chinatown branch of the LA Public Library. Across the state, we and our HJN partners convened seminars, tabled at fairs, staffed information booths at churches, temples, and mosques, and even visited community members' homes – engaging in a multitude of strategies as we raced against the clock of the open enrollment deadline.



When the bell tolled, over 230,000 Asian Americans and 2,500 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders had enrolled, representing 21 percent of the total population of enrollees in Covered California (the average uninsured rate for AANHPIs was 14 percent). And hundreds of thousands more enrolled into Medi-Cal. And while we cannot claim full credit, it is clear the efforts of Advancing Justice - LA and our HJN partners throughout the state made a big impact because collectively, we educated more than 140,000 community members.

Despite the promising early success, far more work remains to be done. Most notably, even with over 230,000 AANHPIs having enrolled into Covered California this year, about 370,000 more eligible AANHPIs remain without coverage. In the coming months, we and our HJN partners will be assessing our efforts, building on lessons learned, continuing our work, and getting ready to do even more when the next open enrollment season gets under way in November 2014.

**Re-grant total spans both 2013 and 2014 because open enrollment for the ACA spanned the fall of 2013 to the spring of 2014.*

1983-2013: 30 YEARS OF ADVANCING JUSTICE

IN THE BEGINNING

In founding the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in 1983, Stewart Kwoh was struck by the Asian American community's lack of a legal defense capacity in key moments of past injustice, like the Chinese Exclusion Act and the internment of Japanese Americans. APALC's doors opened shortly after Vincent Chin was killed in a racially-motivated attack in Detroit, and Kwoh helped secure a federal hate crimes prosecution of Chin's killers, the first time such a case was brought on behalf of an Asian American. Unfortunately, while Chin's killers never served a day in prison, his death jump-started the modern era of Asian American civil rights and played a key role in the launch of Advancing Justice - LA.

30 YEARS OF IMPACT

Starting with a staff of one, Advancing Justice - LA has become **the nation's largest legal organization for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs)**, with 85 staff, 500 volunteers, and three offices, in Los Angeles, Orange County, and Sacramento. Our impact over three decades has been tremendous; the numbers speak for themselves.

250,000 clients & individuals served

120,000 hotline calls handled in seven Asian languages & English

17,000 domestic violence survivors aided

15,000 citizenship applicants helped

11,000 immigrant youth & parents trained as leaders

10,000 alumni & volunteers engaged

5,000 community leaders trained to work towards cross-racial social change

4,000 undocumented immigrants seeking legalization assisted

2,000 undocumented youth applying for deferred action aided

Throughout our history, Advancing Justice - LA has prioritized the most vulnerable and underserved in our community, providing free legal information and assistance from the very beginning. Over the years, we have added staff, volunteers, and languages and now provide individual assistance on issues including **domestic violence, family law, immigration, citizenship, housing,** and **consumer fraud**.

In addition to legal services, Advancing Justice-LA has litigated many significant impact cases, including *Bureerong v. Uvawas*, the El Monte garment worker case that led to **systemic changes in the garment industry** and the **creation of special immigration visas** for trafficking victims. We have also litigated, often in coalition with other civil rights groups, key cases tackling **race discrimination, affirmative action bans, English-only laws and policies, immigration enforcement, political empowerment, education rights, language rights,** and **consumer rights.**

We have also advanced civil rights through policy change at all levels. Our accomplishments include **passing the nation's strongest anti-sweatshop law and restoring the most benefits for low-income immigrants of any state post-welfare reform**. We have also championed legislation that **ensures the translation of contracts into Asian languages, protects hate crime victims and their families, disaggregates data on AANHPI ethnic groups**, and **expands language assistance at the polls**. In support of our advocacy and education goals, we have **authored numerous studies on the diversity and complexity of AANHPI communities, helped significantly reduce AANHPI Census undercounts,** and **drawn impactful redistricting maps that have helped elect Asian American champions for our issues.**

Beyond legal and advocacy strategies, Advancing Justice - LA has **empowered generations of community members to be strong advocates and leaders**. Whether working with garment workers or hate crimes victims and their families to seek justice, or training immigrant youth and parents to fight for better schools and communities, or helping organizational leaders to work through race, gender, and other barriers to effective partnership, we are proud of the leaders we have developed who help us to advance justice.

ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE

AS ADVANCING JUSTICE - LA CELEBRATES OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY, we look back on three decades of ground-breaking legal, advocacy, and leadership development work – but also forward to new opportunities to advance civil rights and social justice.

As part of our vision for the future, we announced in 2013 the formation of **Asian Americans Advancing Justice**, a new national affiliation with three other Asian American civil rights groups. After 30 years as APALC, we are proud to be known now as Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles. As Advancing Justice - LA, we are one of four equal and independent partners who share common principles and coordinate closely with one another. Each will continue to operate with separate boards, executive directors, staff, programs, and finances.

As an affiliation, Advancing Justice raises a more powerful and impactful voice on behalf of the communities we serve. We have a stronger and more cohesive civil rights and legal services infrastructure at the local, regional, and national levels. In turn, we can collaborate more effectively, address more issues in more places, bring grassroots voices to the national arena, and influence national debates on challenges facing not only Asian Americans but other vulnerable and underserved communities. Importantly, while we no longer have "Pacific" in our name, Advancing Justice - LA remains committed to advancing justice for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPIs), through supporting NHPI organizations and leaders and advocating on issues of shared interest.

In November 2013, we proudly hosted the fifth annual **Advancing Justice Conference** (AJC) in Los Angeles, the first time this national civil rights and social justice conference was hosted under our new organizational name. Covering everything from social media, hip-hop, and the arts to voting rights, racial profiling, and immigration reform, the 2013 AJC brought together Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community leaders, advocates, activists, service providers, academics, and students from around the nation. More than 1,000 attendees participated over the course of three days, including more than 350 local youth and parents, making this the largest Advancing Justice Conference to date.



ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE

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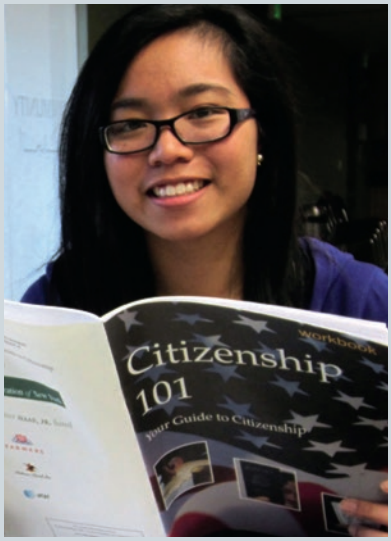
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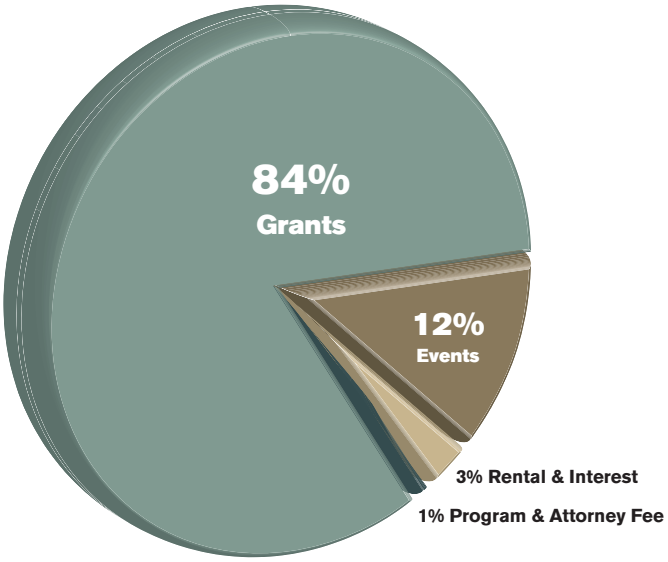
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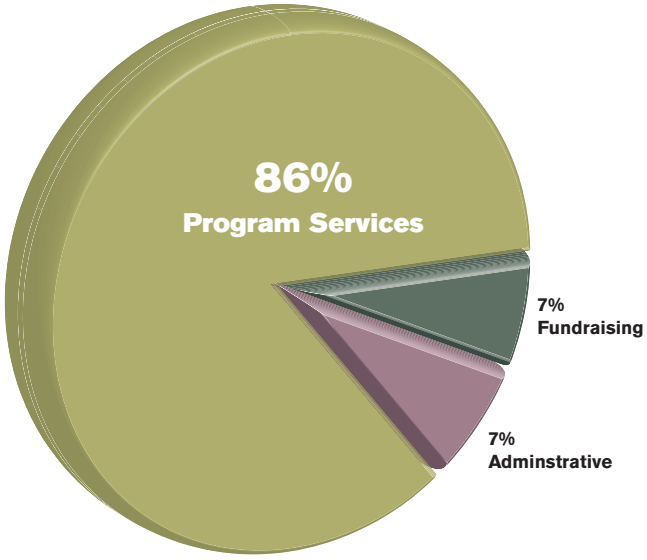
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION





SUPPORT & REVENUE

Grants	84%
Individuals & Special Events	12%
Rental & Interest Income	3%
Program & Attorney Recovery Fees	1%

EXPENSES

Program Services	86%
Fundraising	7%
Administrative Costs	7%

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents:	$3,246,204
Long-term Investments:	$4,796,202
Grants and Pledges Receivable:	$3,183,631
Property and Equipment, Net:	$2,461,412
Deposits:	$12,855
Total Assets:	**$13,700,304**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses:	$114,506
Accrued Employee Benefits:	$253,088
Grants Payable:	$685,727
Custodial Funds:	$61,829
Total Liabilities:	**$1,115,150**

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:	$6,199,869
Temporarily Restricted:	$5,385,285
Permanently Restricted:	$1,000,000
Total Net Assets:	$12,585,154
Total Liabilities and Net Assets:	**$13,700,304**

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