ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA











2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR 26 YEARS, THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER (APALC) HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO OUR CORE VALUES OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. We demonstrate our commitment through direct services that reach struggling families and individuals, advocacy and litigation on behalf of underrepresented groups, and leadership development to build strong leaders for our communities. These strategies remain our foundation as we work towards a better and stronger community for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and people of all backgrounds.

In the wake of the economic crisis, 2009 intensified existing challenges facing the AAPI community and raised new ones, engaging APALC at city, state, and national levels. In our 2009 annual report, you will see highlights of APALC's focused and dedicated response to these challenges. You will read about how APALC is helping Young Ae* gain legal status after she escaped terrible domestic violence. APALC is also helping homeowners facing foreclosures with one-on-one assistance and legal clinics in Orange County and Los Angeles. On a state level, we advocated against budget cuts that would have eliminated crucial programs on which immigrant families rely. We engaged in the health care debate, advocating for programs that help immigrant families. Nationally, we hosted the first national conference on civil rights focused on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

In 2009, APALC also prepared for participation in Census 2010 by bringing together a statewide network of organizations committed to educating AAPI communities about the importance of the census and working with the Census Bureau to promote outreach in Asian and Pacific Islander languages. This network will produce in-language educational materials and deliver pro-census messages through media and other avenues.

It is only with the support of friends and donors like yourself that APALC is able to meet these complex challenges. We thank you for your years of generous and committed partnership in the work for justice and equality.

Very truly yours,

Stewart Kwoh

Stewart Kwoh, Esq.
President & Executive Director

* not client's real name

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

Direct Services

One of APALC's hallmarks is our direct services work. Each year, we provide legal services, counseling, and education to thousands of low-income and vulnerable individuals, especially those who speak little or no English.

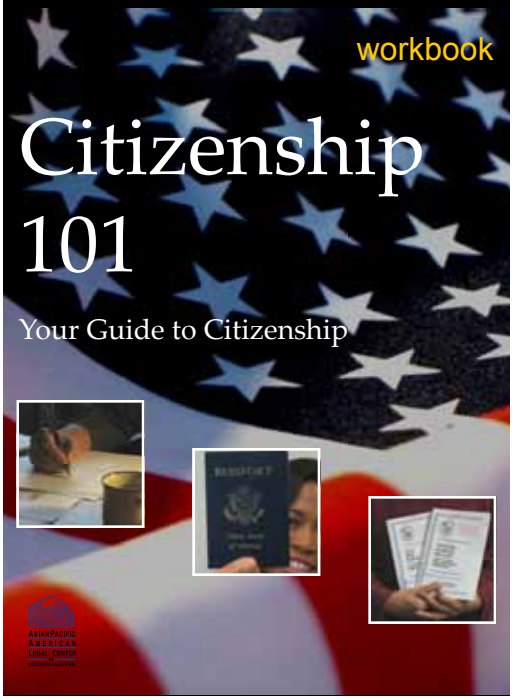
Preventing Foreclosure

In response to the foreclosure crisis, APALC initiated a project focusing on assisting Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community members in danger of losing their homes. In 2009, APALC provided legal assistance to over 200 individuals in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. APALC has also educated over 600 homeowners by presenting in-language information about foreclosures, loan modification, and other relevant topics.



APALC postponed the sale of Ernesto's home and is working to help him keep the home he has owned for 34 years.

"YOUNG AE," A KOREAN IMMIGRANT, lived with her abusive husband for over 25 years, enduring threats to her life and physical violence which included being hit with a leather belt and punched until she collapsed. She finally ran away from her husband in July 2009 and sought help at a shelter. When APALC first met Young Ae, she was terribly depressed and cried throughout her interview. APALC helped her apply for a U-Visa, which gives her the legal standing necessary to apply for a green card. (Certain domestic violence victims may apply for a U-Visa if they cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of a domestic violence crime.) While she is still waiting for the approval of her U-Visa, Young Ae has changed from a timid, depressed victim to a brave advocate, testifying before community members about her experience and encouraging awareness about domestic violence. Her journey to independence powerfully demonstrates the transformation possible when a person courageously takes action against her abuser. APALC is proud to help Young Ae on her new path.



A detailed workbook accompanies APALC's newly updated *Citizenship 101* video.

Helping Immigrants Become American Citizens

In 2009, APALC helped more than 200 individuals gain citizenship or permanent residence. With new citizenship workshops in Orange County and an online workshop hosted in partnership with Fresno Center for New Americans, APALC is expanding its citizenship work to new geographic areas and innovatively serving more clients. APALC also updated its citizenship video, *Citizenship 101: Your Guide to Citizenship*, available in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Hindi. It provides detailed and accessible information about the naturalization process, including the new civics and English examinations.

Assisting Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence

APALC helped hundreds of immigrant women and children break free of abusive relationships by helping them assert their legal rights. In addition to assisting victims of domestic violence with issues of child custody and support in family law court, APALC helps these same clients become independent when their immigration status depends on their abusers.

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. Community education and advocacy complement this type of litigation, empowering community members.

Fighting for Equal Access to Public Spaces

In 2009, APALC helped the Hmong community in the Central Valley defeat a City of Merced proposal that targeted their community and would have denied equal access to public parks. APALC strategized with Hmong and Mien leaders and helped them draft a letter on behalf of Southeast Asians United for Change, a new community group formed to combat this type of discrimination. The letter explained how the proposed rules not only targeted Southeast Asian families but were based on the same reasons used to deny housing to African Americans and other people of color for much of the 20th century and ended with the threat of litigation. Ultimately, the Parks Department redrafted its rules and allowed the Southeast Asian community to continue its access and usage of the park.

Fighting for the Rights of College Students

In September 2009, APALC and a coalition of 80 other AAPI organizations filed an amicus ("friend of the court") brief with the California Supreme Court in support of AB 540, a state law that allows students–including undocumented AAPI college students–to pay in-state tuition at California public universities if they have met certain conditions, including graduation from a California high school. Without AB 540, many undocumented students would not be able to afford college, since they are ineligible for federal and state financial aid. Many undocumented AAPI students were brought to this country by their families at a young age and entered with valid legal documents but became out-of-status when their families' visas expired. APALC's brief argues that maintaining these college opportunities for undocumented students ultimately results in social and economic benefits to the state. APALC thanks co-author Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks & Lincenberg.

APALC helped preserve equal access to Applegate Park (below), enjoyed by many members of the Southeast Asian community in Merced.



Policy Analysis & Advocacy

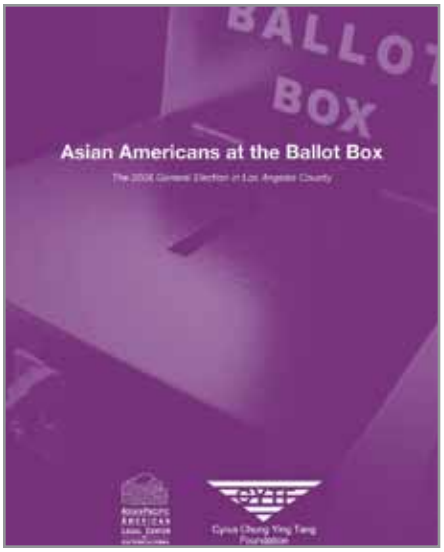
APALC defends civil rights through advocacy with the legislature and government agencies, in order to advance justice by developing sensible and humane policies at the city, county, state and national levels.

Preserving the "Safety Net"

APALC, in collaboration with partner organizations, fended off serious threats to critical state programs that provide crucial health, nutrition, and cash assistance services to California's immigrant families.

Providing Demographic Data on Diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Communities

With generous funding from the Cyrus Chung Ying Tang Foundation, APALC released *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at the Ballot Box: The 2008 General Election in Los Angeles County*, a report analyzing the voting trends of AAPIs in the significant 2008 election. In 2009, APALC also prepared for participation in Census 2010 by developing a statewide network of AAPI organizations that will coordinate local outreach and education to ensure that ethnic and language communities will be counted in Census 2010.



Engaging AAPI Voters

As a follow up to its highly successful, nonpartisan voter mobilization campaigns in 2006 and 2008, APALC released a best practices report in October 2009. The report summarizes the strategies used by APALC and its local community partners which resulted in a significant 6% increase in voter participation during the November 2008 election.

Advocating for Access to Quality Health Care

Throughout 2009, APALC worked to educate AAPI communities about what was at stake in the national debate over health care reform. As a member of several health reform coalitions, APALC fought to ensure lawmakers were aware of the diverse needs of AAPI communities.

Remembering Joseph Ileto

On August 10, 2009, APALC marked the ten year anniversary of the death of Joseph Ileto, a Filipino American Postal worker killed as a victim of a hate crime. Family members, members of the North Valley Jewish Community Center, elected officials, and community members gathered to reflect on the past decade since the August 1999 shooting.



Joseph Ileto, whom APALC and others remembered on the 10th anniversary of his death.



Lilian Ileto, Joseph's mother, speaks at the ten year anniversary of his death as a victim of a hate crime. Deena Ileto, Joseph's sister in law, looks on.

Leadership Development

APALC creates a more just and harmonious society by developing leaders for a multiracial, global society and by strengthening interethnic group relations. APALC encourages deep cultural understanding through community-based projects where trust and collaboration, especially among different groups, are practiced. APALC trained over 750 parents, students, and community members in 2009 in skills including dispute resolution, advocacy, and media.



Graduates of APALC's nine-week Parent Academy are empowered to become advocates for all children to receive a better education.

Developing Youth and Parent Leaders

Through work with both K-12 students and parents, APALC developed the leadership skills of immigrant and underserved youth and families so they could be effective advocates on issues affecting their education and broader communities. APALC conducted programs in the Alhambra Unified School District and the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Creating Justice-Minded Community Leaders

For more than 19 years, the Leadership Development in Interethnic Relations (LDIR) program has challenged its participants to understand and negotiate the differences that separate them from each other, including issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and class. Currently focusing on the health sector, LDIR trains participants to be leaders in addressing health disparities by developing and sustaining community-based initiatives.

Advancing Justice Conference

In October, APALC co-hosted the inaugural Advancing Justice Conference, a national civil rights conference focused on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, with its three affiliate partners. Over 400 civil rights advocates, attorneys, academics, community leaders and students attended workshops and plenaries on issues ranging from immigration reform and redistricting to workers' rights and education. U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Thomas Perez delivered an inspiring keynote, announcing that "the Civil Rights Division is now open for business."



U.S. Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez delivers the keynote to a packed audience.

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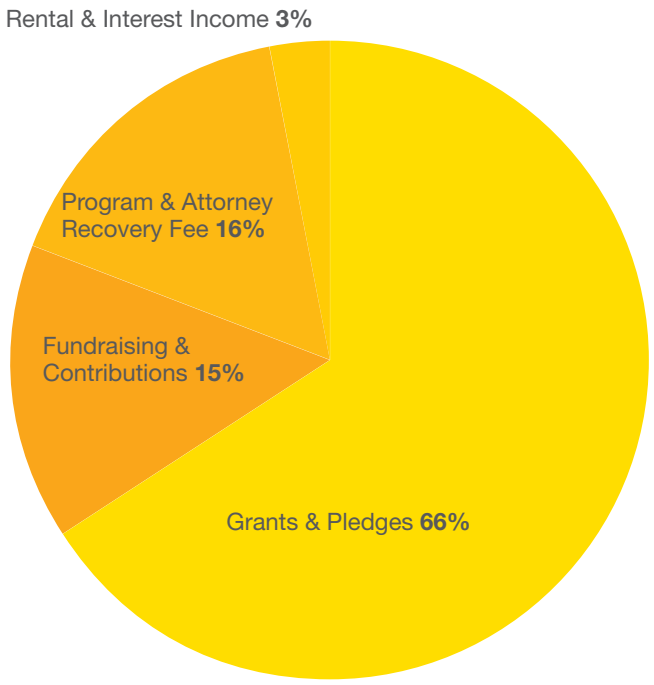
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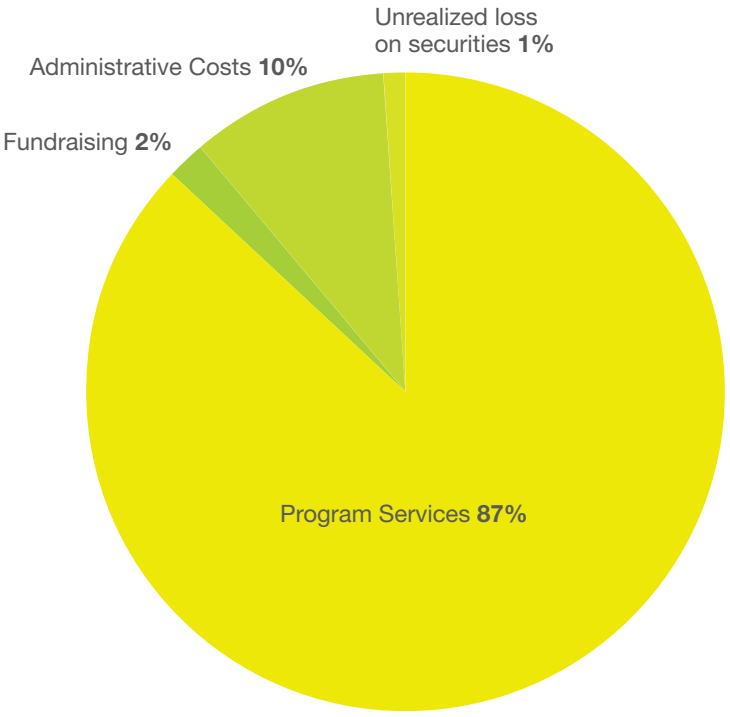
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Expenses



ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	$5,760,709
Long-term Investments	$2,044,797
Grants and Pledges Receivable	$2,185,152
Other Receivables & Prepaids	$28,857
Property & Equipment, Net	$2,733,549
Deposits	$6,700
Total Assets	$12,759,764

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	$128,837
Accrued Employee Benefits	$160,637
Deferred Revenue	$986,491
Custodial Funds	$33,087
Total Liabilities	$1,309,052

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	$6,221,186
Temporarily Restricted	$4,229,526
Permanently Restricted	$1,000,000
Total Net Assets	$11,450,712
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	$12,759,764

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