

Filling the Pipeline:

Asian American

# Leadership and Empowerment

Japanese American Citizens League



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# Filling the Pipeline: Asian American Leadership and Empowerment

## Dedication

This guidebook on Asian American youth empowerment is dedicated to John Tateishi, former National Director of the JACL. John always understood the need to provide training and opportunities to young generations of Asian Americans so that they would one day fill the pipeline of leadership for our community.

John, who continues to mentor and serve as a role model to many, devoted a substantial part of his career advocating for social justice issues in the interest of advancing the betterment of the Asian American community. We extend our gratitude to him.

National Staff  
Japanese American Citizens League

## Acknowledgement

I would first like to thank the Japanese American Citizens League for giving me the opportunity to pour my heart and soul into this piece. I hope that the passion and enthusiasm I felt when writing it jumps off the page and into your being, and translates into individual and collective action.

Special thanks to Bill Yoshino, Patty Wada, Karen Yoshitomi, Floyd Mori, John Tateishi and Karen Su for their patience and inspiring words of encouragement.

Brandon Mita  
Project Coordinator

# ...Because Yellow and Brown Can Be Powerful

To start, this is to let you know that this isn't your normal guide. This isn't a textbook on Asian American politics. This is not a written lecture that you probably receive five times a week. We understand that you're probably carrying around a load of textbooks, and some notebooks in your backpack. We also know you're busy and your time is precious. But, we hope that this guide will give you some perspective on why Asian America needs you—as leaders in your community. The purpose of this guide is to encourage you to become involved on campus, in your community and in the political process.

Before starting, let's flesh out one of the major negative images of politics or anything political for that matter: the idea of politics as *just plain dirty*. Politics can be perceived as the bad guy is always on top while the good guy gets trampled on. Although, before making a decision on whether politics is all good or all bad, know that politics is not just incessant maneuvering to gain advantage over others. For the purpose of this guide, let's accentuate the positives of politics and eliminate the negative. Politics or political organizing can have great rewards and can benefit you and your community in many ways. More on that later...

In college, you assume tremendous responsibilities and privileges because you are now moving into full-blown adulthood. You have the ability to decide your career path and take the classes you want without the university looking over your shoulder. This seems like a great concept except if the classes you want to take are not being offered or are eliminated because the institution feels the money for those courses should be placed elsewhere. As another example, how would you feel if you came back to your dorm room to find the walls

spray-painted with epithets like "Chink! Jap! Gook!?" These situations have happened to numerous Asian Americans while attending college. College is the real world and these things aren't something that you can just ignore. Sometimes it takes action to combat these situations.

Even if you don't attend college or if you're in the post-college period, the anxiety of finding a job or perhaps settling down with a loved one can be too much to handle at some point. Just outside the "me" and "you" areas, there are many things that can jump into your life or can affect you. For example, you want to get your condominium association to fix the roof, so you have to lobby members of the association to vote in your favor. Or you feel that your preschooler isn't learning what you think is most important for his/her future, so you may want to run for a seat on the local school council. In all of these areas, it takes a little organizing, a little persuasion and a lot of politics.

Asian Americans are capable of becoming major players in the political arena. In fact, many already have. But what can you offer? The answer is a ton! Asians and Asian Americans present a very different perspective within the political sphere because of the diversity of our ancestral backgrounds. In many instances, even though we are "American" in language and day-to-day functions, we still maintain at least some adherence to our cultural roots. Everyone's personal experiences and internal understanding makes them unique. In many cases, the general public has not heard your side of the story and that is what's important. Your culture, your heritage and your roots are all synonyms for getting involved with the many issues that are out there waiting to be addressed by you. We need to be heard loud and clear.

Coming full circle, let's ask what it means to have power and be powerful? How can Asian Americans gain power in a place where Asian Americans have been marginalized and excluded on numerous occasions? As you'll see in this guide, there are sections that focus on issues in the community as well as some of the things you might encounter while on a college campus. The first thing you can do is to learn all you can about an issue. As many say, "knowledge is power," and they are absolutely right. The second thing is what to do with that knowledge once you've obtained it. On a personal level, you can write a letter to your representative, organize an event, join a political

organization, get on-board with a political campaign or simply keep a blog that informs others. Advocating for an issue gives you that power and a voice. Acting collectively empowers your community by standing together to achieve greater goals. And that's the message that we're sending to you—that you have power through your involvement within your community and in the political process. There is a profound beauty to the expansiveness of politics and social justice issues. There is no right or wrong answer, only choices. There is only the opportunity to be a part of something great and life-changing. □

## Asian American Stereotypes and Media Representations

Before we can begin a quest towards social justice, it's important to understand the perceptions others hold of us as Asian Americans. Many different stereotypes have been ascribed to Asian Americans since their arrival in America. To clarify, stereotypes are generalizations, usually exaggerated or oversimplified and often offensive, that are used to describe or distinguish a group of people. These stereotypes change from situation to situation, depending on who is promoting them for their own purposes. They have never been created by us, but rather imposed upon us by others in power. There might be some instances where you say to yourself "that stereotype isn't that bad... it's kind of true." The critical point—and the danger—is that stereotypes tend to blanket the entire Asian Pacific American community, and ignore our differences. According to the 2000 Census, there are over thirty distinct Asian ethnic groups that comprise the Asian Pacific American community.

### Model Minority<sup>1</sup>

This stereotype began with the 1965 immigration law that effectively removed all quotas barring Asian immigration to the United States. These laws gave preference to highly motivated middle class professionals. This, along with the inroads and contributions made by second- and third-generation Asian Americans, resulted in stories by *Newsweek* and *60 Minutes* that christened Asian Americans as the "model minority".<sup>2</sup> These media outlets painted a one-dimensional and false image that all Asian Americans excelled academically, were model citizens, who did not get into trouble or need assistance of any kind and who were assimilated and accepted and did not experience discrimination.

What these stories failed to highlight was how some Asian American groups like the Vietnamese, Hmong, Laotian, Cambodian and Khmer have a drop-out rate of 10-20%. When

we dig deeper, we discover that Southeast Asians have some of the highest high school dropout rates in the country. The educational success of some Asian Americans masks the need in our community for bilingual education and services, second language services and welfare assistance.

Data may also indicate that Asian Americans have the highest median household income out of any ethnic group, including whites. However, what is ignored is that many Asian American households often have four to five people working and producing income for the family as compared to one or two persons for non-Asian families.

### Emasculated Asian Male

This stereotype has been around for decades. It grew out of the bachelor societies of the Chinese American community in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries. With the strict enforcement of labor laws against the Chinese, many men were left with few options for work. A large number were forced to take jobs in what was then considered “women’s work.” This included the many Chinese immigrants that ventured into the laundry business.

More recent interpretations of the emasculated Asian male include Long Duk Dong in the movie *Sixteen Candles*, and Taj Mahal Badalandabad in *Van Wilder*. In both instances, the Asian male characters are nerdy, perverted and socially challenged compared to their white counterparts.

### Orientalism, Othering, Exoticism<sup>3</sup>

The term “orientalism” is part of a more expansive understanding of how the West views the East. The Orient is seen as exotic and very different from the “normal” western culture or Occident. Historically, the term “oriental” has been used to define goods from the East, but was soon used to refer to the people and cultures from which those goods came. Asian Americans have rejected the label “oriental” as a descriptive term and we now define ourselves as Asian American (AA), Asian Pacific American (APA), Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA), and/or Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI).

### Perpetual Foreigner

How many times has someone come up to you and asked if you knew how to speak English? How many people ask you where you are from? When you answer, “Chicago” or “San Francisco” or “Seattle,” they retort, “No! Where are you *really*

from?” Annoying, isn’t it? This illustrates how Asian Americans are often and still viewed by some as foreigners in our own country. This stereotype persists today, even though some Asian Americans are now into their seventh generation in America

### Evil Asian Empire, the Dragon Lady, and “Yellow Peril”<sup>4</sup>

If you go to the movies or watch television, you’ve definitely seen this stereotype. There are many instances where Hollywood has portrayed Asians as evil or sinister. For women, the Dragon Lady stereotype is used to portray Asian women using their exotic hypersexuality to lure white men into their trap before betraying them. A contemporary example is Lucy Liu’s character in the movie *Kill Bill*. Asian men are painted as inscrutable businessmen in gangster suits or as martial artists like Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan or Jet Li. Many negative perceptions about Asians are drawn from actual events such as the increased influence and power of China on the international market, and the nuclear threat posed by North Korea. Characterizations of these events may eventually find their way into motion pictures where producers take advantage of public opinion, even if it’s at the expense of the Asian and Asian American community. □

1 Le, Cuong Nguyen. “The Model Minority Image.” Asian-Nation. 2006. 14 Dec 2006 <<http://www.asian-nation.org/model-minority.shtml>>.

2 Takaki, Ronald. *Strangers From A Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. 1st. Boston, New York, London: Little, Brown and Company, 1998.

3 “Stereotypes of Asians.” *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. 12 December 2006. Wikimedia. 14 Dec 2006 <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereotypes\\_of\\_Asians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereotypes_of_Asians)>.

4 “Stereotypes of Asians.” *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. 12 December 2006. Wikimedia. 14 Dec 2006 <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereotypes\\_of\\_Asians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereotypes_of_Asians)>.

# One Step Back... Two Steps Forward!

## A Brief Perspective on Asian American History

Here are some bits and pieces of history that may have been excluded from your textbooks:

### Legislation – Discriminatory Laws

#### Naturalization Act (1790)

To become a naturalized citizen of the United States, one must be a “*free white person* of good moral character,” thus denying citizenship to all Asian immigrants.

#### Alien Land Laws (1913, 1920, 1923)

California passed alien land laws prohibiting “aliens ineligible for citizenship from buying land or leasing it for longer than three years.” This was used to prohibit Asian immigrants from owning land and thus discourage immigration.

#### Page Law (1875)

A law whose reported purpose was to keep Asian prostitutes from entering the United States, the Page Law’s real intent was to keep the wives of Chinese laborers from emigrating. This forced a bachelor society to form within the Chinese population.<sup>1</sup>

#### Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

As competition for jobs heightened between Chinese and white laborers, the government banned the immigration of Chinese. This legislation, based solely on race, was the first of its kind.

#### Gentlemen’s Agreement (1907-08)

When Japan protested the San Francisco School Board segregation of Japanese American students into separate public schools, President Theodore Roosevelt agreed to end the segregation. In exchange, the Japanese government agreed to halt Japanese laborers from going to the United States.

#### Cable Act (1922)

The Cable Act stipulated that any U.S.-born woman who married a “person ineligible for citizenship” would automatically lose her U.S. citizenship. If such a marriage was later terminated by divorce or death, a Caucasian woman could regain her citizenship, but a Nisei woman could not, because she was “of a race ineligible for citizenship.”

#### Immigration Act of 1924

Denied all immigration to the U.S. from Asia, except from the Philippines.

#### Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934

The United States promised independence to the Philippines over a 10-year transitional period. Concurrently, the United States reduced the immigration of Filipinos to 50 persons per year.

#### 1965 Immigration Act

The Immigration and Naturalization Services Act of 1965 was responsible for abolishing quotas on Asian immigration to the United States. The bill was pushed through, in large part, because of the Civil Rights Movement. The Japanese American

Citizens League played an influential role in the passage of the Act by testifying before the Asian Immigration Subcommittee and submitting a brief arguing for the legislation.<sup>2</sup>

## Japanese American Internment<sup>3</sup>

### Executive Order 9066

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the forcible removal and detention of 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans living on the West Coast of the United States without due process.

### Assembly Centers

Japanese Americans were temporarily detained in sixteen assembly centers. These centers were usually converted racetracks or county fairgrounds, where internees were forced to live in horse stalls and hastily constructed barracks.

### Ten Concentration Camps

- Topaz (Utah), Poston (Arizona), Gila River (Arizona), Amache (Colorado), Heart Mountain (Wyoming), Jerome (Arkansas), Manzanar (California), Minidoka (Idaho), Rohwer (Arkansas), Tule Lake (California)
- Each concentration camp had barbed wire fences, watchtowers and armed guards. Each unit or “block” had about 12 to 14 barracks, a mess hall, and bathing facilities. Each barrack was 20 feet by 100 feet and consisted of four to six rooms. In some cases, two families shared a 20 by 25-foot room. Food and medical supplies were provided by the War Relocation Authority (WRA). There were schools, religious services, recreational services, and municipal governments so that the camp could communicate with the WRA.
- Volunteers from the concentration camps and Hawaii formed a segregated Japanese American Army unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which fought for the United States in both the European and Pacific theaters. For its size and length of service, the 442nd remains the most decorated unit in United States military history.

## Court Cases

### United States v. Wong Kim Ark, 169 U.S. 649 (1898)

Wong Kim Ark was born to Chinese immigrants in San Francisco. In 1895, at the age of twenty-one, he went to China to visit his repatriated parents. Upon his return, he was refused entry into California. The state’s rationale was that Wong’s parents were from China and therefore, Wong’s citizenship was Chinese and not American. In a 6-2 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, the majority agreed that Wong Kim Ark was a citizen of the United States by birth.

### Takao Ozawa v. United States, 260 U.S. 178 (1922)

Under the Naturalization Act of June 29, 1906, only white persons and persons of African descent or African nativity could become naturalized citizens. Takao Ozawa applied for naturalized citizenship under the premise of classifying Japanese as “white.” Justice George Sutherland, author of the majority opinion, cited that only Caucasians could be white, thus legalizing the previous practice of excluding Asians from citizenship.

### United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind, 261 U.S. 204 (1923)<sup>4</sup>

Following the ruling in Ozawa, Bhagat Singh Thind, an immigrant of Indian decent, filed for citizenship arguing that the Indian subcontinent’s classification was anthropologically “Caucasian.” Writing, again, for the majority opinion, Justice George Sutherland stated that Thind had mistaken the meaning of white, and therefore deemed Indians as Asian and thus ineligible for citizenship.

### Korematsu v. United States, 323 U.S. 214 (1944)<sup>5</sup>

With the signing of Executive Order 9066, President Roosevelt and Congress gave the military authority to remove and exclude citizens of Japanese ancestry in the interest of national security. Fred Korematsu violated Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34 of the U.S. Army, and his case eventually went before the Supreme Court. Justice Black gave the majority opinion stating that the compulsory exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry was justified in times of “peril.”

### Ex parte Endo, 323 U.S. 283 (1944)

The Mitsuye Endo case is the most important, yet the most unheralded of the court cases that challenged the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. It was the only case whose ruling upheld the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans. Filing for a Writ of Habeas Corpus, Mitsuye Endo,

while incarcerated at Tule Lake War Relocation Center, argued that the United States government had no right to detain and imprison loyal citizens. In a unanimous majority opinion, the Supreme Court ruled that a government agency could not detain loyal citizens against their will and without recourse to due process.<sup>6</sup>

## People of Color Unite

### Philip Vera Cruz

A Filipino immigrant, Philip Vera Cruz was the epitome of the migrant labor story. Vera Cruz is known for his activism with Filipino farm unions and the creation of the Filipino-based farm union, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC). He collaborated with Cesar Chavez of the Chicano/Latino labor movement, organizing and striking for better working conditions for migrant workers. Together, both Vera Cruz and Chavez formed the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, where Vera Cruz served as vice president of the organization from 1971-1977.<sup>7</sup>

### The Civil Rights Movement

From Rosa Parks to Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, the Civil Rights Movement of the late 1950s through ‘60s galvanized people of all colors to fight for equality and justice. Yuri Kochiyama, a Japanese American internee during World War II, marched alongside Malcolm X. Grace Lee Boggs, a Chinese American activist, worked alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. Asian Americans have and must continue to lock arms with African Americans and other people of color to create an America that will one day “transform the jangling discords of [the] nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.”<sup>8</sup>

### Vincent Chin

This watershed incident gave rise to an Asian American movement against anti-Asian violence. With the emergence of the Japanese automobile industry in the U.S., coupled with a deep recession and lay-offs by American automakers, Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, was initially targeted because he was thought to be Japanese and was beaten to death by two white men near Detroit, Michigan. Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, two autoworkers, besieged Chin with racial epithets and chased him down with a baseball bat. For killing Chin, the two men served no prison time, were given three years’ probation and fined \$3,700.<sup>9</sup> □

- 1 Takaki, Ronald. *Strangers From A Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. 1st. Boston, New York, London: Little, Brown and Company, 1998.
- 2 Masaoka, Mike. *They Call Me Moses Masaoka*. Bill Hosokawa, Ed. New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1987.
- 3 *Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians*. Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Seattle, and London: The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and the University of Washington Press, 1997.
- 4 *The Journey from Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience*. 1st. Chicago, Illinois: Japanese American Citizens League, 2006.
- 5 Goldman, Jerry. “OYEZ.” *U.S. Supreme Court Media*. 2006. 22 Nov 2006 <<http://www.oyez.org/>>.
- 6 Irons, Peter. *Justice at War: The Story of the Japanese American Internment Cases*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983.
- 7 Philip Vera Cruz: A Personal History of Filipino Immigrants and the Farmworkers Movement. 3rd Edition.
- 8 King, Jr., Martin Luther. “I Have A Dream.” Steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.. 28 August 1963.
- 9 *Who Killed Vincent Chin*. Dir. Christine Choy & Renee Tajima-Pena. Videocassette. Filmmakers Library, 1989.

# One Campus Community

**N**ow that you have a strong interest to act on your convictions, the question becomes, “where do I start?” Well, there are many ways you can get involved and enjoy doing it. This section will outline some of those ways while you’re on campus.

## Get Involved with Student Government or Student Senate

Understanding that your participation in student government in no way guarantees you the same amount of power, authority and privilege as the President of the United States or the United States Congress, student government is an effective method in understanding the larger picture of how government works. The issues you tackle could have a major impact on your daily life as a student.

As an example, student government can influence issues such as what’s served at the local cafeteria, whether seniors should have finals, the development of activities to uplift school spirit, or persuading administrators to institute a multicultural curriculum.

Let’s also consider the personal benefits of being involved in student government.

- **Leadership:** Being involved in student government or student senate gives you an opportunity to gain critical leadership and social skills. More and more, job markets are becoming extremely competitive and as an Asian

American, it’s very important to acquire these much-needed skills at an early stage in your life. As you’ll learn, employers seek out individuals with strong voices who can lead their companies.

- **Learning How Government Works:** Outside of the one social studies class you took in your sophomore/junior year of high school, it may be the last time you get a chance to see and understand how government functions. Why is this important? Governments have a profound effect on our daily lives. The questions are normally 1) who makes these decisions, 2) how are these decisions made and 3) how can I affect these decision-makers and the decision-making process? Involvement can give you insight into how federal, state and municipal governments influence your life.
- **Fundraising:** This last thing is probably the most important considering that we live in a world, like it or not, where money is important. Whether it’s baking cookies, going door to door for donations or writing grant proposals for major corporate funding, the concept of raising money is the same. Student government knows first-hand how this procedure works and how the money, once raised, can be allocated; just like real governments. Again, when moving out into the real world where it takes cold, hard cash to survive, having a keen eye on how to raise money definitely raises eyebrows in the corporate and not-for-profit sectors of the economy.

## Issue-based political organizations

This is definitely an appealing avenue because there are so many issues to choose from. Really! Take your pick! Whether the issue is domestic violence within Asian American homes, working with victims of hate crimes, or creating an Asian American studies program, these issues will always need advocates. As with student government or student senate, these organizations run in a hierarchical fashion with a chair or president at the top, vice chair/president and so forth.

### “What are the individual benefits of these issue-based groups in comparison to student government?”

What’s nice about these groups is that you can benefit individually as you would with student government. You can still acquire valuable leadership skills and learn how to fundraise. The only difference is that the issue can be focused specifically on a matter that you truly care about.

### “What if there aren’t any groups that deal with or care about the issues that concern me?”

Start one! Be a pioneer and create a group on your own. Usually, it’s a relatively simple process at all schools. For most institutions, you need a faculty sponsor. Other than that, it’s almost always about filling out the paperwork to make sure that your organization/group is recognized by the school. Talk to your school’s administrator or campus organization office to see what the subsequent steps are. After that, it’s up to you!

There are many ways to attract members to your cause. In every case, there are people who are just as concerned as you about these issues but they need your leadership. The most important thing to think about when starting something or even when you’re already involved is, “what’s your mission?” Once you have that established, then you can begin doing the real work.

## Model United Nations

This program is applicable to both high school and college. Now you’re probably asking the question, “how can I become more aware or even more involved in international issues?” Model United Nations is a miniature version of the real United Nations. Many times, members can choose to sit on committees and councils that replicate the real thing such as the Security Council, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSCO).

## “How do I get started?”

If your school or institution does not already have a Model United Nations, you first need to get permission from your school to start one, and then identify an instructor or adult supervisor to act as a mentor or sponsor. Find others who are interested in getting involved.

### Conferences

National United Nations Conference: National Collegiate Conference Association (NCCA) has over 3,400 university students in attendance from five different countries. For two days, your group will work with some of the brightest and most promising minds in the country on very real and very current issues. The best part... this all happens at the United Nations compound in New York City.<sup>1</sup>

National High School Model United Nations conference: This conference is very similar in style to the collegiate version. It’s a very exciting opportunity to meet new people, engage in fun-filled, meaningful experiences and learn a tremendous amount about the world around us.<sup>2</sup>

### Why Join Model UN?

The Global Perspective: More and more, international issues are affecting our everyday lives. What’s more is the necessity to look outside of the borders of the United States for possible solutions to domestic issues, whether it be political, economic or social. That said, globalization is rapidly becoming a term that is used quite often. Simply put, globalization is the spreading of ideas. Even with the Internet, we often miss the larger picture for critical issues. Model United Nations gives participants a chance to actively address and discuss topics in detail.

## Internships, Fellowships, Scholarships

Your university, with all of its resources, should have an office that coordinates and assists those students interested in internships, fellowships and scholarships. Whether these opportunities are related to academic achievement or community involvement, anyone and everyone is encouraged to apply. Some of the more prominent scholarships and fellowships include:

- Fulbright Scholarships
- Gates Cambridge Scholarships
- Rhodes Scholarships

There are many community internships and fellowships; you just have to know where to look. There are a number of internship opportunities available to those who are interested in getting involved with their communities. Here are some places you should check out if you're interested in an internship/fellowship:

- **Mike Masaoka Fellowship Program:** The Japanese American Citizens League accepts applications from college students who are looking to get an inside look into Washington, D.C. politics by working for a prominent Asian American legislator. This is a very selective program and it is a wonderful opportunity. Go to [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) for more information.
- **JACL National Program Fellowships:** JACL recruits some of the best and brightest leaders within the Asian American community for a one year fellowship opportunity immediately after graduating from college. The fellows will see the inside workings of National JACL staff and gain critical insight into National JACL programs. Contact JACL for more information.
- **Nikkei Community Internship:** A California-based program that places college-level youth in internships within the Japanese American community. This internship program is run by the Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC).
- **Idealist.org:** A website that offers a comprehensive list of organizations that are offering fellowships and internships with non-profit organizations. These programs range from domestic issues to international ones. Check it out! ▣

1 "National Model United Nations." 2006. National Model United Nations. 22 Nov 2006 <<http://www.nmun.org/>>.

2 "IMUNA - NHSMUN." 2006. National High School Model United Nations. 22 Nov 2006 <<http://www.imuna.org/nhsmun.asp>>.

# An On-Campus Struggle: Asian American Studies

## Asian American Studies

### *What is Asian American Studies?*

"This interdisciplinary field examines Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, their history, communities and contemporary issues. It studies the experiences of immigrants and succeeding generations within the changing context of U.S. society, politics and culture and illuminates our understanding of race relations, gender roles, labor, policy-making and citizenship."

– UCLA Asian American Studies Department

### *Where did it come from?*

Asian American Studies was part of a larger student movement to create Ethnic Studies departments on college campuses. During the 1960s civil rights era, Asian American students stood alongside African Americans, Chicanos and Native Americans at San Francisco State College. Defining themselves as "people of color," this newly-formed collective united under the banner and political philosophy of self-determination.<sup>1</sup> These students demonstrated for a more inclusive education at the risk of being expelled from school, getting beaten and arrested. The very idea of Ethnic Studies—the study of people of color in America—was revolutionary for its time and threatened the status quo. University officials attempted to squash the student movements by force and oftentimes, violent confrontations occurred. Commonplace as Asian American Studies may be today, it was hard-fought and won by Asian American college students who stood their ground decades ago.

### *Strategies (if university does not have Asian American Studies)*

#### ◆ Exhaust all channels

- Gain student support
  - a. Once you have become educated about Asian American Studies and have decided to pursue a campaign for a program, the next step is to recruit other students to the cause. This is probably the hardest part of the campaign. This is best done through one-on-one discussions with individuals. Once you have achieved a core group, then you can proceed with teach-ins to educate yourselves and other students. This has been done many times in the past. Northwestern University, known for their hunger strike for Asian American Studies in 1995, held regular teach-ins.
  - b. Form coalitions and get support from like-minded student groups on campus, such as the organizations of color and the LGBT clubs. These populations understand what it's like to have their history, culture and stories ignored.
  - c. Petitioning has always been an effective tactic. The intention of the petition is to gain as much support without expending a large amount of energy and time. A couple of things to remember when petitioning: (1) list specific talking points, (2) print handouts to give individuals as they're signing, (3) if someone is giving you a hard time, try to move on to someone else. By getting involved in a lengthy debate, the individual is keeping you from getting other names.

- Gain faculty support

It's always good to have faculty who are on your side. Faculty members can provide insight on the university's structure and hierarchy and help explain how the process works and how decisions are made. If you're crunched for time, make sure you pinpoint specific faculty who can really help your cause. Even though you think it might be helpful to have the Engineering 101 professor on your side, he/she might not be as desirable as the chair of one of the humanities or social science departments. Just as in petitioning, it's important to have a game plan when arranging one-on-one meetings with faculty. Before going in, have a list of your objectives ready that would most likely include what it is that you want out of the meeting. By having your objectives in hand, it will keep you from getting sidetracked. Lastly, in meetings, keep track of the time and try to stay on topic as much as possible.

- Board of Trustees/Board of Regents

It's important to identify trustees or regents, who will be supportive. Most likely, your administration must report to these individuals. Use the same tactics as discussed in the above section. One advantage is that there is usually a student representative who sits on this board. Find out who he/she is and set up a meeting with him/her. This person could prove to be a valuable ally.

- Provide models and present proposal

There are an increasing number of Asian American Studies programs at various universities. More and more, there are scholars and activists who have gone through the process and understand what works and what doesn't when developing an Asian American Studies program. Here are some examples of Asian American Studies programs. Take a look...

- UCLA's Asian American Studies Department
- UC Berkeley's Department of Ethnic Studies
- University of Washington's American Ethnic Studies
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign's Asian American Studies Program
- NYU's Asian/Pacific/American Studies

- Gain community support

Depending upon the size of your off-campus community, this might prove significant. Whether you go to social, cultural or political groups, politicians or family

and friends, there is strength in numbers. More likely than not, community members will be sympathetic to your cause. Take advantage of that and incorporate the community in your campaign.

- Circulating the message through all on-campus resources

A key organizing strategy, which tends to be overlooked, is having sway with other student and university organizations. One method of accomplishing this is to have students, who are interested or passionate about Asian American Studies, serve on the boards of these organizations. By having influential students in student government, on the board of trustees, with the school newspaper and in various ethnic organizations, your collective voice will be stronger.

- ◆ **Speak-outs, protests, campus strikes**

As in all protests that occur within academic settings, this should be a last resort. When all channels and all of your resources have been exhausted, then there comes a time to organize—to let your voice be heard. The crucial part about planning a protest is to be meticulous in your organizing strategies. Things to think about:

- What is your message? Make sure the message is clear and concise. The last thing you want is for people to be scratching their heads at your rally because they can't determine what is it you are trying to say.
- Who are you trying to reach with your message (i.e. students, the community, university administrators)?
- Are members of the press going to be present? If yes, then have press packets ready for them with vital information such as school demographics, speaker/protestor biographies, copies of important speeches, a contact person, etc.
- Will the presence of community leaders/influential figures assist in achieving the objective? If yes, will they be present?
- Are you documenting every step? If not, you should be because what you are doing is momentous and should be remembered. So bring a camera and a video recorder. □

<sup>1</sup> Espiritu, Yen Le. Amerasia Journal.

# Outside the Classroom and Onto the Streets

**T**his section touches upon a few issues that are being addressed by leading Asian American organizations. It's important to find an issue that matters to you and about which you feel strongly. If you find something of interest in this section and you'd like to learn more and get involved, take a look at the resource section in the back of the guide. Give that organization a call or send an email; ask for more information and how you can help out.

## Access to Health Care and Addressing Health Care Issues

Studies have shown that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are prone to certain diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and diabetes. Due to the model minority myth, as described in the *Stereotypes* section, Asian Americans are more likely to be overlooked when concerns over Asian American health arise. Other contributing factors include language and cultural barriers, the stigma that is associated with certain conditions and a lack of health insurance.<sup>1</sup>

Some Organizations/Persons Addressing This Issue: The Japanese American Citizens League, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, National Asian Women's Health Organization, Asian Health Services and the South Asian Public Health Forum

## Asian American Gang Violence

Despite the stereotype of the model minority and the high graduation rate of Asian Americans, there is an increasing number of individuals within the Asian American community who are dropping out of school and joining gangs in their communities. Inter-Asian gang violence continues to surge and cripples not only the Asian American youth community, but the community at-large.

Some Organizations/Persons Addressing This Issue: Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Japanese Community Youth Council, API Legal Outreach

## Anti-Asian Sentiment/Hate Crimes

From the senseless killing of Vincent Chin in 1982 to acts of violence that occur against Asian Americans today, hate crimes, hate incidents and defamation remain a priority issue for the Asian American community. Whether it is a racial slur that is scrawled upon a dormitory door or a murderer that is targeting Asian Americans, the effect can hold the community at bay.

Some Organizations/Persons Addressing This Issue: The Japanese American Citizens League, Organization of Chinese Americans, Southern Poverty Law Center, Asian Law Caucus, Asian American Justice Center

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions

If an educational institution has an Asian American and Pacific Islander enrollment above 10%, the Higher Education Act authorizes the U.S. Department of Education to issue grants to the institution and to AAPI students enrolled at the university. The university should then develop programming and studies that serve those minority and low-income minority students. This piece of legislation has yet to make it through Congress.<sup>2</sup>

Some Organizations/Persons Addressing This Issue: Congressman David Wu, Senator Daniel K. Akaka, the Japanese American Citizens League, Southeast Asian Resource Action Center, National Asian American Student Conference

## Domestic Violence in Asian American Communities

Over one-half of the Asian American population is comprised of new immigrant communities, and many times these families emigrate from countries where there are few, if any, laws that protect women's rights. In many instances, cultural norms allow for husbands to abuse their wives to maintain the power dynamic. According to a Chicago non-profit that works with Korean American women, many Asians are recent immigrants and/or undocumented, have limited English proficiency, are economically disadvantaged and are unaware of their legal rights and existing community resources. Those immigrants who are dependent upon their abusers for their resident status fear being deported if they should go to the police.<sup>3</sup>

Some Organizations/Persons Addressing This Issue: Korean American Women In Need, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, API Legal Outreach

## United States/Asia Relations

Some of the contemporary issues within this field include the trade agreements between U.S./China and U.S./South Korea, the human rights concerns with China and its membership in the United Nations, the threat of nuclear weapons and human rights atrocities of North Korea, the use of child labor and the number of health issues occurring within many South/Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander nations.

Some Organizations/Persons Addressing This Issue: Congressman Mike Honda, the Japanese American Citizens League, Liberty in North Korea, International Red Cross, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

1 "Asian American." *Office of Minority Health*. 01 August 2006. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 13 Dec 2006 <<http://www.cdc.gov/omh/Populations/AsianAm/AsianAm.htm>>.

2 United States. Southeast Asian Resource Action Center. *Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions*. Washington, DC: 2006.

3 "Domestic Violence 101." *KAN-WIN*. 27 February 2006. Korean American Women In Need. 28 Mar 2007 <<http://www.kanwin.org/en/index.htm>>.

# Paving the Way for Asian Americans of Tomorrow

**F**or those of you out there getting your hands dirty and making a difference, it's nice to know that you're not alone. People have come before you and felt the same drive to make this country better. The following individuals listed in this section are not the Norman Mineta, Dan Inouye, Mike Honda, Dalip Singh Saund, Patsy Mink, and Robert Matsui you're so used to hearing about (even though they are great leaders). Rather these individuals are a reflection of the direction Asian Americans are headed towards in politics and in the community. One of these profiles could be **you** someday...

## Bobby Jindal



Indian American Congressman Piyush "Bobby" Jindal is a native of Louisiana, born in Baton Rouge. He is a graduate of the Louisiana Public School System, Brown University and Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar.

In 1996, two years after graduate school at Oxford University, he was appointed Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH).

After serving in that capacity for two years, Jindal was appointed Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. This presidential appointment made him a senior health policy advisor to President George W. Bush. Since being elected in 2004, Jindal has been appointed to the House Committee on Homeland Security, the House Committee on Resources, and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## Helen Zia



Helen Zia is an award-winning journalist and scholar who has covered the Asian American community and social and political movements for many years. She is the author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*, a finalist for the prestigious Kiriya Pacific Rim

Book Prize. She is also co-author, with Wen Ho Lee, of *My Country Versus Me*, which reveals what happened to the Los Alamos scientist who was falsely accused of being a spy for China in the “worst case since the Rosenbergs.”

She is a graduate of Princeton University’s first graduating class of women. She quit medical school after completing two years, then went to work as a construction laborer, an autoworker and a community organizer, after which she discovered her life’s work as a writer.

A second generation Chinese American, Zia has been outspoken on issues ranging from civil rights and peace to women’s rights and countering hate violence and homophobia. In 1997, she testified before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on the racial impact of the news media. She traveled to Beijing in 1995 to the UN Fourth World Congress on Women as part of a journalists of color delegation. She has appeared in numerous news programs and films; her work on the 1980s Asian American landmark civil rights case of Vincent Chin is documented in the Academy Award nominated film, “Who Killed Vincent Chin?” and she was profiled in Bill Moyers’ PBS documentary, “Becoming American: The Chinese Experience.”

## Jun H. Choi



Jun H. Choi, a Korean American, is currently the mayor of Edison Township, New Jersey, where he grew up as a child.

Choi graduated from J.P. Stevens High School, earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology and his Master’s in public policy and administration from Columbia University. He is a Leadership New Jersey fellow and has taught economics and public policy as an adjunct professor.

Mayor Choi’s background includes a range of experiences in the government and the private and non-profit sectors. Prior to his position at the Department of Education, he held positions at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget working on improving the longer-term solvency of the Social Security system. He also worked as a management consultant for Ernst & Young LLP advising Fortune 500 companies on business and technology strategy.

Choi has been involved in politics since college, and served on the 2000 Bill Bradley for President campaign in New Jersey, New Hampshire and California. His primary roles were serving as special assistant to the New Hampshire state director and field coordinator.

## Mee Moua



Mee Moua is an attorney, a community activist, a working mother and a state senator in Minnesota. Moua was first elected to the Minnesota legislature in a special election in January 2002, becoming the highest ranking Hmong American elected official in the United States.

When Moua graduated from high school, her family moved to Minneapolis and later she attended Brown University, in Providence. Following graduation, she attended the Lyndon

Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. She attended the University of Minnesota Law School, graduating in 1997.

In addition to her work at the State Capitol, she has also been a featured speaker at many community gatherings, events and celebrations throughout Minnesota and around the country. She has been a bridge builder among diverse communities and a champion of causes that promote freedom, equality and opportunity for all.

## John C. Liu



New York City Councilman John C. Liu is the first and only Asian Pacific American to be elected in New York City. Councilman Liu has afforded access to government for APAs and for all groups who have lacked a strong voice in government.

Liu attended local public schools and graduated from the Bronx

High School of Science and Binghamton University, where he earned a degree in mathematical physics. Prior to serving in the City Council, he worked as a manager at the global consulting firm of PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Liu is the chairperson of the Council’s Transportation Committee. He also serves on committees on Education, Consumer Affairs, Contracts, Oversight & Investigations and Lower Manhattan Redevelopment. As chairperson of the Council’s Committee on Transportation, Liu focuses on the critical role transportation options play in economic development and access to jobs. Additionally, as a member of the Council’s Committee on Education, he insists on raising standards in our public schools, increasing reliance and trust in teachers to teach and investing city resources in future generations. He has also provided millions of dollars to fund high-tech upgrades to local schools.

## Adrian Hong



Korean American Adrian Hong currently serves as executive director of Liberty in North Korea, or LiNK, an international non-governmental organization devoted to human rights in North Korea, and to the protection of North Korean refugees all over the world. Hong founded the non-profit organization

in March 2004. He has briefed and advised members of the U.S. Senate and House, the National Security Council, officials of the U.S. State Department, as well as diplomatic and parliamentary representatives from the Republic of Korea, Japan, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, the European Union, and officials of many international organizations and agencies.

Hong serves on the board of directors of the Korean American Coalition, Washington D.C. Area Chapter (KAC-DC). He also serves on the board of the Mirae Foundation, an organization dedicated to overseeing the annual Korean American Student Conference, and mentoring Korean American collegiate leaders. He grew up in San Diego, California.

# reSources

## Japanese American Citizens League

### JACL National Headquarters

1765 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Phone: 415.921.5225  
E-mail: [jacl@jacl.org](mailto:jacl@jacl.org)  
Web: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)

### Midwest District

5415 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60640  
Phone: 773.728.7170  
Fax: 773.728.7231  
E-mail: [midwest@jacl.org](mailto:midwest@jacl.org)

### Northern California – Western Nevada – Pacific District

1255 Post Street, Suite 805  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: 415.345.1075  
Fax: 415.345.1077  
E-mail: [ncwnp@jacl.org](mailto:ncwnp@jacl.org)

### Pacific Northwest District

671 South Jackson Street, #206  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Phone: 206.623.5088  
Fax: 206.623.0526  
E-mail: [pnw@jacl.org](mailto:pnw@jacl.org)

### Pacific Southwest District

244 S. San Pedro Street, #406  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: 213.626.4471  
Fax: 213.626.4282  
E-mail: [psw@jacl.org](mailto:psw@jacl.org)

### Washington, D.C. Office

1828 L Street NW, Suite 802  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone: 202.223.1240  
Fax: 202.296.8082  
E-mail: [dc@jacl.org](mailto:dc@jacl.org)

### Pacific Citizen Contact Information

250 E. First Street, Suite 301  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: 213.620.1767  
Fax: 213.620.1768  
E-mail: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)

## Civil Rights/ Human Rights

### Asian American Institute

4753 North Broadway, Suite 904  
Chicago, IL 60640  
Tel: 773.271.0899  
E-mail: [aai@aaichicago.org](mailto:aai@aaichicago.org)  
Web: [www.aaichicago.org](http://www.aaichicago.org)

### Asian American Justice Center

1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 1200  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202.296.2300  
E-mail: [abaldillo@advancingequality.org](mailto:abaldillo@advancingequality.org)  
Web: [www.advancingequality.org](http://www.advancingequality.org)

### Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10013  
Tel: 212.966.5932  
E-mail: [info@aaldef.org](mailto:info@aaldef.org)  
Web: [www.aaldef.org](http://www.aaldef.org)

### Asian Law Caucus

939 Market Street, Suite 201  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Tel: 415.896.1701  
E-mail: [genf@asianlawcaucus.org](mailto:genf@asianlawcaucus.org)  
Web: <http://www.asianlawcaucus.org>

### Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies

1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, #835  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202.296.9200  
E-mail: [apaics@apaics.org](mailto:apaics@apaics.org)  
Web: [www.apaics.org](http://www.apaics.org)

### Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

815 16th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel: 202.508.3733  
E-mail: [apala@apalanet.org](mailto:apala@apalanet.org)  
Web: [www.apalanet.org](http://www.apalanet.org)

### Asian Pacific Islander American Vote

1666 K Street, NW, Suite 440  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel: 202.223.9170  
E-mail: [info@apiavote.org](mailto:info@apiavote.org)  
Web: [www.apiavote.org](http://www.apiavote.org)

### Hmong National Development, Inc.

1112 16th Street, NW, Suite 110  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202.463.2118  
E-mail: [info@hndinc.org](mailto:info@hndinc.org)  
Web: [www.hndinc.org](http://www.hndinc.org)

### Liberty in North Korea

P.O. Box 33052  
Washington, D.C. 20044  
Tel: 202.714.5465  
E-mail: [info@linkglobal.org](mailto:info@linkglobal.org)  
Web: [www.linkglobal.org](http://www.linkglobal.org)

### Korean American Coalition

3727 W. 6th Street, #515  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
Tel: 213.365.5999  
E-mail: [charles@kacla.org](mailto:charles@kacla.org)  
Web: [www.kacnational.org](http://www.kacnational.org)

### National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 310  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Tel: 301.587.2781  
E-mail: [navasa@navasa.org](mailto:navasa@navasa.org)  
Web: [www.navasa.org](http://www.navasa.org)

### National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, #730  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202.293.2688  
E-mail: [kahuja@napawf.org](mailto:kahuja@napawf.org)  
Web: [www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org)

### National Federation of Filipino American Association

2607 24th Street, NW, Suite 4  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
Tel: 202.986.1153  
E-mail: [admin@naffaa.org](mailto:admin@naffaa.org)  
Web: [www.naffaa.org](http://www.naffaa.org)

### Organization of Chinese Americans

1322 18th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202.223.5500  
E-mail: [oca@ocanatl.org](mailto:oca@ocanatl.org)  
Web: [www.ocanatl.org](http://www.ocanatl.org)

### Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund

1413 K Street, NW, 5th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Tel: 202.393.2700  
Web: [www.saldef.org/](http://www.saldef.org/)

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Case Postale 2500  
CH-1211 GenÈve 2 DÈpÛt Suisse  
Web: <http://www.unhcr.org/>

## Education

### California State University, Fullerton Asian American Studies

Asian American Studies Program,  
H-314  
California State University, Fullerton  
Fullerton, CA 92834-6868  
Tel: 714.278.2006  
Web: [hss.fullerton.edu/asian-american/](http://hss.fullerton.edu/asian-american/)

### Cornell University Asian American Studies Program

425 Rockefeller Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Tel: 607.254.4774  
Web: [www.arts.cornell.edu/asianam/](http://www.arts.cornell.edu/asianam/)

### NYU Asian/Pacific/American Studies

41-51 E. 11th Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10003  
Tel: 212.998.3700  
E-mail: [apa.studies@nyu.edu](mailto:apa.studies@nyu.edu)  
Web: <http://www.apa.nyu.edu/>

### Southern Poverty Law Center Teaching Tolerance

400 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
Tel: 334.956.8200  
Web: [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)

### UC Berkeley Department of Ethnic Studies

506 Barrows Hall, #2570  
Berkeley, CA 94720-2570  
Tel: 510.643.0796  
E-mail: [ethnicst@berkeley.edu](mailto:ethnicst@berkeley.edu)  
Web: [ethnicstudies.berkeley.edu](http://ethnicstudies.berkeley.edu)

### UC Irvine Department of Asian American Studies

300 Murray Krieger Hall  
Irvine, CA 92697-6900  
Tel: 949.824.2746  
Web: [www.humanities.uci.edu/aas/](http://www.humanities.uci.edu/aas/)

### **UCLA Asian American Studies Center**

3230 Campbell Hall  
Box 951546  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546  
Tel: 310.825.2974  
Web: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/>

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Asian American Studies Program**

1208 W. Nevada, MC 142  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Tel: 217.244.9530  
E-mail: [aasp@uiuc.edu](mailto:aasp@uiuc.edu)  
Web: [www.aasp.uiuc.edu/home.html](http://www.aasp.uiuc.edu/home.html)

### **University of Minnesota Asian American Studies Program**

104 Scott Hall  
72 Pleasant Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Tel: 612.626.2022  
E-mail: [aast@umn.edu](mailto:aast@umn.edu)  
Web: <http://aas.umn.edu/index.php>

### **University of Southern California American Studies and Ethnicity Program**

3470 Trousdale Parkway, WHP 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90089  
Tel: 213.740.2426  
Web: [www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/pase/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/pase/)

### **University of Washington Department of American Ethnic Studies**

Box 354380  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195  
Tel: 206.543.5401  
Web: <http://depts.washington.edu/aes/>

## Student Organizations

### **Asian Pacific American Conference**

Centennial Student Union 243  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Mankato, MN 56001  
Tel: 507.389.2799

### **Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association**

1200 E. University Ave.  
Old Main Bldg., #104  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0001  
Tel: 523.626.3269  
E-mail: [mvp\\_apamsa@hotmail.com](mailto:mvp_apamsa@hotmail.com)  
Web: [www.apamsa.org](http://www.apamsa.org)

### **East Coast Asian American Student Union**

E-mail: [ecaasu2007@gmail.com](mailto:ecaasu2007@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.ecaasu2007.org](http://www.ecaasu2007.org)

### **Intercollegiate Taiwanese American Students Association**

Web: <http://itasa.org>

### **Korean American Student Conference**

E-mail: [kascon20@princeton.edu](mailto:kascon20@princeton.edu)  
Web: [www.kascon20.org](http://www.kascon20.org)

### **Midwest Asian American Student Union**

1210 W. Nevada Street  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Web: [www.maasu.org](http://www.maasu.org)

### **National Asian American Student Conference**

E-mail: [naascon\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:naascon_news@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.naascon.org](http://www.naascon.org)

### **National Asian Pacific American Law Students Association**

Web: [www.napalsa.org](http://www.napalsa.org)

### **South Asian Students' Alliance**

E-mail: [inquiry@sasaweb.org](mailto:inquiry@sasaweb.org)  
Web: [www.sasaweb.org](http://www.sasaweb.org)

## Community Development

### **Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation**

P.O. Box 29237  
San Francisco, CA 94129  
Tel: 415.561.2160  
E-mail: [info@aaisf.org](mailto:info@aaisf.org)  
Web: [www.aaisf.org](http://www.aaisf.org)

### **Apna Ghar**

4753 N. Broadway, Suite 632  
Chicago, IL 60640  
Tel: 773.334.0173  
E-mail: [info@apnaghar.org](mailto:info@apnaghar.org)  
Web: <http://www.apnaghar.org>

### **Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence**

450 Sutter Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
Tel: 415.954.9988, ext. 315  
Fax: 415.954.9999  
E-mail: [apidvinstitute@apiahf.org](mailto:apidvinstitute@apiahf.org)  
Web: [www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute/default.htm](http://www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute/default.htm)

### **Asian Health Services**

818 Webster Street  
Oakland, CA 94607  
Tel: 510.986.6830  
Web: <http://www.ahschc.org/>

### **Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach Asian Youth Violence Prevention Project**

1188 Franklin Street, Suite 202  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Dean Ito Taylor, Executive Director  
Tel: 415.567.6255  
Web: <http://www.apilegaloutreach.org/index.html>

### **Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center**

730 Polk Street, 4th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Tel: 415.292.3400  
E-mail: [johnny@apiwellness.org](mailto:johnny@apiwellness.org)  
Web: [www.apiwellness.org](http://www.apiwellness.org)

### **Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association**

62-64 Mott Street  
New York, NY 10013  
Tel: 212.226.6280  
E-mail: [ccbany@yahoo.com](mailto:ccbany@yahoo.com)  
Web: <http://ccbany.org/eservices.html>

### **Japanese Community Youth Council**

1596 Post Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Tel: 415.202.7909  
E-mail: [info@jycy.org](mailto:info@jycy.org)  
Web: <http://www.jycy.org/index.htm>

### **Korean American Women In Need (KAN-WIN)**

P.O. Box 59133  
Chicago, IL 60659  
Tel: 773.583.1392  
Hotline: 773.583.2454  
E-mail: [info@kanwin.org](mailto:info@kanwin.org)  
Web: <http://www.kanwin.org>

### **Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.**

327 E. 22nd Street, Suite 226  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: 213.485.1422  
E-mail: [leap@leap.org](mailto:leap@leap.org)  
Web: [www.leap.org](http://www.leap.org)

### **National Asian Women's Health Organization**

One Embarcadero Center, Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Tel: 415.773.2838  
Web: <http://www.nawho.org>

### **National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development**

1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, #730  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: 202.223.2442  
E-mail: [lisa@nationalcapacd.org](mailto:lisa@nationalcapacd.org)  
Web: [www.nationalcapacd.org](http://www.nationalcapacd.org)

### **National Korean American Service & Education Consortium**

900 S. Crenshaw Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
E-mail: [nakasec@nakasec.org](mailto:nakasec@nakasec.org)  
Web: [www.nakasec.org](http://www.nakasec.org)

### **South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow**

6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400L  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
Tel: 301.270.1855  
E-mail: [saalt@saalt.org](mailto:saalt@saalt.org)  
Web: [www.saalt.org](http://www.saalt.org)

### **Vietnamese American Council**

1115 E. Santa Clara St., #8  
San Jose, CA 95116  
Tel: 408.971.8280  
E-mail: [hvietmy@viet-nam.org](mailto:hvietmy@viet-nam.org)  
Web: [www.viet-nam.org](http://www.viet-nam.org)

## Professional

### **Asian American Journalists Association**

1182 Market Street, Suite 320  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Tel: 415.346.2051  
E-mail: [national@aaaja.org](mailto:national@aaaja.org)  
Web: [www.aaaja.org](http://www.aaaja.org)

### **The Asian American Writers' Workshop**

16 West 32nd Street, Suite 10A  
New York, NY 10001  
Tel: 212.494.0061  
Web: [www.aaww.org/index.html](http://www.aaww.org/index.html)

### **Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund**

120 Wall Street, Suite 1500  
New York, New York 10005  
Tel: 212.809.8585  
E-mail: [legalhelpdesk@lambdalegal.org](mailto:legalhelpdesk@lambdalegal.org)  
Web: [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

### **National Asian Pacific American Bar Association**

725 S. Figueroa St., #1690  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Tel: 213.955.8022  
E-mail: [ed@napaba.org](mailto:ed@napaba.org)  
Web: [www.napaba.org](http://www.napaba.org)

### **National Association of Asian American Professionals**

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