



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, announces Jean Shiraki as the new JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellow, named after the esteemed Hawaii Senator. She begins her fellowship, funded by Eli Lilly, at the JACL office in Washington, D.C in September. The position focuses mainly on health care, and she will work with other Asian American organizations to raise more health awareness and work towards closing the disparities.

Ms. Shiraki received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Health and Humanity and a minor degree in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Southern California (USC) in May 2008. As a pre-medical student, Ms. Shiraki was involved in health research concerning analysis of potential genes for Type II Diabetes, along with performing lab work at USC's Dental School concentrating on harmful bacteria that causes oral diseases. USC's partnership with Los Angeles' County Hospital allowed Ms. Shiraki to volunteer in the Collegiate Medical Volunteer program where she shadowed residents and attending doctors in the Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emergency Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine departments. However, her most significant volunteer program was in southern Honduras where she worked with both Honduran and American doctors to provide medical care to rural villages. There, she helped in triaging patients, taking vital signs, and consulting in the pharmacy.

Eager to broaden her horizons after she graduated, Ms. Shiraki also has some experience as a technology consultant. She worked on a project involving the largest class action law suit to date in the United States. There, she learned to manage and analyze large electronic databases through programs such as SQL.

Born and raised in Kauai, Hawaii, Ms. Shiraki grew up with a strong Asian American background with her father being part of the Sansei generation and her mother, a native from Japan. Naturally learning Japanese as a second language from her mother, she enjoys visiting her family in Japan. As an only child, she has always been determined to become a doctor and to work towards improving the health of those around her. She hopes that this fellowship will give her the opportunity to really reach out to the Asian American community before applying to medical school.