“REMEMBER THAT CONSCIOUSNESS IS POWER.”

-YURI KOCHIYAMA
FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF JUSTICE

Civil Rights Moments + Movements
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FOUR DECADES OF:
Fighting racial + religious profiling + discrimination
Empowering our communities
Fighting evictions to keep people in their homes
Fighting to keep immigrant families together

1972
Defended San Francisco Chinatown youth from police brutality and unprovoked racial violence by SF Police Department (Chen v. Scott)

1975
Defended the desegregation of large nurses’ classes, most in Harlem, New York, and Detroit school districts from illegal racial profiling in the New York City schools (Rideau v. Board of Education)

1980
Fought to overturn the World War II internment decision in a case that challenged the 1986 removal of 44,425 children of Japanese ancestry from U.S. mainland school systems in the wake of the Japanese internment (Nobis case)

1983
Won a landmark settlement of sweeping violations of civil rights protections for pregnant women and minority groups at the Los Angeles County Medical Center (Tortilleria La Mejor)

1985
Protected undocumented workers from employment discrimination and racial harassment, successfully challenging the 1989 Ninth Circuit decision that limited the imposition of employment discrimination claims (Peterson v. Western Roofing, Inc.

1988
Increased participation of Asian Americans in the workplace by challenging discrimination that prohibited Asian workers in Los Angeles from receiving health and medical benefits (FAP v. Anaheim Hospital)

1991
Won $100,000 on behalf of 19 garment workers and their families who were mistreated and exploited in the garment industry (Debo v. Franky’s, et al.)

1994
Sued to prohibit the implementation of Proposition 209’s constitutional amendment that prohibited the use of race and ethnicity as a factor in public employment, public education, or public contracting (Sing v. Wilson)

1996
Won a landmark settlement of sweeping violations of civil rights protections for pregnant women and minority groups at the Los Angeles County Medical Center (Tortilleria La Mejor)

2000
Won an order vacating the conviction of a 22-year-old Asian American who worked at a restaurant and was found guilty on charges of theft (T. v. Wilson)

2003
Defended Asian, Arab, Middle Eastern, and LGBTQ residents of the Bay Area from anti-Muslim, anti-Arab, and anti-Quran rhetoric following the 9/11 terrorist attacks (Khatami v. Gochnauer)

2004
Advocated for allergy and asthma victims’ right to know why medications were being prescribed (Young v. Ameritech)

2010
Represented Steve L., a DREAM Act student at City College of San Francisco, who sought a way to remain in the country while he was serving in the U.S. military (U.S. v. Steve L.]

2011
Sued the San Bruno Board of Supervisors for the passage of the Safe San Bruno Civil Rights Ordinance that barred discrimination based on gender and sex (O’Stricker v. Board of Supervisors)

2012
Testified and organized to pass the Sanctuary Cities Act, which provides cities with protections for immigrants and refugees (AB 450)

2013
Represented the Asian American Federation in a federal lawsuit against the city of San Francisco, the San Francisco Civil Rights Commission, and the San Francisco Police Department (St. v. Wilson) in a case that disentangles the nature of the Safe San Francisco Civil Rights Ordinance

2014
Won in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals a 2012 order that dismissed a lawsuit challenging a federal law that strengthened the rights of Asian Americans in family law cases (Sing v. Stortz)

2015
Defended Asian Americans from unconstitutional racial profiling and discrimination when police carried out an immigration raid in Los Angeles (2014 v. Kamey)

2016
Defended Asian Americans from unconstitutional racial profiling and discrimination when police carried out an immigration raid in Los Angeles (2014 v. Kamey)

2017
Fought to overturn the implementation of Proposition 187’s constitutional amendment that prohibited the implementation of employment discrimination claims (Peterson v. Western Roofing, Inc.

2016
Advocated for Asian American and Pacific Islander students in a federal lawsuit against the city of San Francisco, the San Francisco Civil Rights Commission, and the San Francisco Police Department (St. v. Wilson)

2017
Led the passage of the Safe San Francisco Civil Rights Ordinance in Berkeley, California in 2017

For a complete list of highlights from the last 45 years, visit our website at asianlawcaucus.org.
The mission of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus is to promote, advance, and represent the legal and civil rights of API communities. Recognizing that social, economic, political and racial inequalities continue to exist in the United States, Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus is committed to the pursuit of equality and justice for all sectors of our society with a specific focus directed toward addressing the needs of low-income, immigrant, and underserved APIs.

MISSION

Aarti Kohli became the Executive Director of Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus in December 2016 and has been working on immigrants’ rights issues for the past twenty years. She is deeply committed to serving and learning from local communities and using that knowledge to inform policy and impact litigation work. Formerly, she was the Director of Immigration Policy at the Warren Institute at UC Berkeley School of Law. Prior to her work in California, she worked in Washington, DC, as Judiciary Committee counsel to Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA) and as Assistant Legislative Director at UNITE union where she lobbied on behalf of low-income garment workers who were primarily immigrant women.

ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WE ENVISION A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYONE HAS DIGNITY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, IMMIGRATION STATUS, AND LANGUAGE ABILITY.

PROGRAMS

NATIONAL SECURITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

WORKERS’ RIGHTS

HOUSING RIGHTS

ASPIRE

VOTING RIGHTS

A GLIMPSE INTO OUR WORK
Our National Security and Civil Rights team protects the civil rights of individuals and communities unjustly impacted by overbroad national security policies by combating racial and religious profiling and intrusions into privacy rights with a particular focus on Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities.

The 2016 Presidential Election ushered in a time of heightened fear and uncertainty for many AMEMSA immigrants and their families. Islamophobic campaign promises included “banning Muslim immigrants and refugees,” instituting a “Muslim registry” and promising to roll back and target the rights of immigrants and AMEMSA communities.

Immediately following the first Muslim Ban executive order, our National Security and Civil Rights team was inundated with calls from the community and headed to San Francisco International Airport to represent our clients and provide free and culturally-sensitive legal services for other travelers who were detained. We assisted dozens of travelers and their families, including children and the elderly, in the first few days of the Muslim Ban and have since assisted over 50 individuals impacted at the airports. Because of our community lawyering model, we were able to collectively secure the release of several individuals detained at the airport, including an Iranian elderly couple detained for nearly 30 hours.

Within the first six months of the new administration, we have conducted over 65 rapid response Know Your Rights events in English, Arabic, and Farsi to over 2,500 AMEMSA individuals, which is more than double our usual annual numbers.

Our attorneys led and collaborated in rapid response networks that headed back to the airport during the second and third versions of the Muslim Ban to ensure that there was legal support on hand and that Customs and Border Protection was complying with court orders and not violating the rights of our clients. We will continue to stand against bigotry and hatred of any kind against our communities, no matter what comes our way.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO STAND AGAINST BIGOTRY AND HATRED..."
In June 2016, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte launched a war on drugs in the Philippines, targeting individuals with alleged histories of drug use who live in the slums of Philippine society.

In May 2017, our Immigrant Rights team prevailed on applications for relief under the Convention Against Torture for two Filipino clients who had struggled with drug addiction in the past. We argued that if our clients were deported to the Philippines, they would be killed in the drug war. Consequently, their deportations were prevented, and our clients can remain in the U.S., where they have lived with their families since early childhood.

In November 2016, we ran a legal clinic for deportees in Cambodia. Our Immigrant Rights team met with 54 deportees, all of whom were brought to the United States as refugees during the Khmer Rouge, picked up convictions as youths growing up in resource-deprived neighborhoods, and then deported as adults after serving their sentences.

We were part of the 1Love Movement, who met with the government task force that had been convened by the Prime Minister on this issue.

At the close of the meeting, the task force announced that deportations would be halted until the repatriation agreement between the United States and Cambodia is revised. Our team drafted the new agreement that Cambodia has proposed to the United States.

We also litigated cases in federal court to push back against ICE’s practice of holding immigrants in indefinite detention. Many API immigrants cannot be deported because their home countries will not accept them. But ICE still detains them for months and years, causing needless suffering for families and communities. We secured the release of dozens of people by filing habeas petitions, and helping detainees file habeas petitions on their own. We stand with all immigrants to ensure that their rights are protected.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
TRANSFORMING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

In December 2015 Pedro Figueroa received a call that his car, which he had reported stolen only a few days earlier, had been found. After work Pedro went to an SFPD police station to recover it. Instead, SFPD officers arrested and detained him, contacted ICE, and then released him through a side exit into the waiting arms of ICE agents. Pedro was taken into custody by ICE and kept in immigration detention for two months; his immigration proceedings are ongoing.

This action violated Pedro’s constitutional rights as well as San Francisco’s Sanctuary Ordinance, which prohibits law enforcement from engaging in immigration enforcement. Our Criminal Justice Reform team collaborated with FREE SF, a local immigrant rights coalition, to advocate for his release. In January 2017, along with co-counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP, we represented Pedro in a lawsuit against the City and County of San Francisco for violating the Sanctuary Ordinance and breaching his right to due process.

Thanks to our team and because of Pedro’s case, San Francisco updated its Sanctuary and Due Process for All Ordinances to further limit cooperation between city law enforcement and federal immigration officials. These ordinances prohibit San Francisco city employees from utilizing city resources to assist ICE and cooperating with ICE detainer and notification requests, which seek to transfer people from jails directly into ICE’s custody for deportation. The Sanctuary and Due Process for All Ordinances protect our immigrant communities and keep families together.

Our Criminal Justice Reform program advocates for a transformation of the criminal justice system. We challenge entanglement of local police in immigration enforcement and file lawsuits against police misconduct.
Our client Eddie came to the U.S. seeking work to support his family in the Philippines. As a recent immigrant, he had difficulty finding good-paying work. He got a job as a caregiver at a facility where he slept on the floor and worked around the clock attending to elderly and disabled residents. Despite the important caretaking work he performed and his long work hours, he was paid only $1,500 a month.

Unaware of his rights, Eddie didn’t realize he was being exploited. He kept his head down and kept working. He also stayed quiet because his employer had fraudulently promised to submit an immigration petition for him to remain lawfully in the U.S. But when Eddie saw elderly patients being abused and beaten, he decided he could no longer stay silent. After he reported the elder abuse and wage violations, his employer retaliated by firing him. She also threatened to report him to immigration authorities and to withdraw the non-existent immigration petition.

Because of Eddie’s courage in coming forward, the elder abuse stopped and the facility was eventually shut down. Our team helped Eddie win wage and hour claims against the employer and also petitioned for a U Visa for legal status based on his employer’s abuses against him. Following a three-year wait, Eddie’s U Visa was finally granted in 2016, along with derivative visas for his wife and son. After more than 10 long years apart during which they were only able to see each other via Skype, Eddie and his family were finally reunited earlier this year.

Our Workers’ Rights program provides legal counseling, policy advocacy, direct services and impact litigation for low-income immigrant workers on a wide range of workplace issues, including race and national-origin discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour problems, and unemployment insurance benefit appeals. We also partner regularly with worker centers to support workplace organizing, worker-led campaigns, and the development of immigrant worker leaders.
In June 2016, fourteen tenants living in a single room occupancy (SRO) residential building in Oakland’s Chinatown banded together to file a lawsuit against their new landlord, who recently purchased the building. Generally, rent in SRO buildings is more affordable because each tenant has a single room and then shares bathroom and kitchen facilities with the other tenants in the building. Accordingly, SROs have historically been places where immigrants working in low-wage industries reside. In this particular SRO, most of the tenants are Chinese immigrants, many of them seniors, and most are limited English proficient or monolingual Chinese speakers.

The lawsuit against the landlord who purchased the SRO in Oakland’s Chinatown alleges that the landlord has tried to force these fourteen tenants out of their homes in order to develop the property to attract wealthier tenants. Rather than using legal means, the landlord has resorted to tactics such as demolishing the shared bathroom and kitchen facilities and harassing the tenants.

With the assistance of Advancing Justice - ALC and the housing and civil rights firm of Sundeen & Salinas, the tenants filed suit against the landlord for the unjust treatment. In August 2016, the tenants won their first victory. The Alameda Superior Court ordered the landlords to repair the demolished facilities and stop tenant harassment. While this case is still ongoing, Advancing Justice - ALC is honored to stand by the Oakland Chinatown tenants for the courage they are showing in standing up for their rights. Their struggle for justice is emblematic of the fight for affordable housing for fixed and low income seniors and working families who are increasingly being pushed out of the Bay Area.

Our Housing Rights program provides legal counseling and representation to tenants facing evictions and unlawful actions by landlords in the San Francisco Bay Area. Our advocacy focuses on both housing and community development.
When you think about activism, what do you envision? Your answer could range from a rally to a peaceful protest to a group of concerned citizens in a living room. When you think about art in community organizing, the only image in your head probably involves creating a poster with a pithy slogan for a march.

ASPIRE sought to mesh together community organizing and art by launching Flip the Script, a community project that sought to expand art-in-activism, or artivism, and to grow the leadership of undocumented Asian Pacific Islanders in San Francisco Bay Area. The arts project promoted community education around issues affecting undocumented communities and built practices of healing among undocumented youth to transform the stigma and fear over immigration status into self-determination and agency for long-term change. This project also fortified the bridge that has been built with other communities of color.

Through Flip the Script, ASPIRE explored the myriad of experiences that immigrant communities go through and that affect mental health and healing and integration. Undocumented API youth learned from and worked with local artists for one year in monthly art workshops. They explored, experimented, and created art pieces illustrating their many intersecting identities and showcased their artwork in two pop-up gallery events.

ASPIRE is the first pan-Asian, undocumented youth group in the country with the mission to empower undocumented Asian Pacific Islander youth and young adults.

...TO TRANSFORM THE STIGMA AND FEAR OVER IMMIGRATION STATUS INTO SELF-DETERMINATION AND AGENCY FOR LONG-TERM CHANGE.”
VOTING RIGHTS
PROTECTING + EXPANDING OUR DEMOCRACY

In May 2017, we worked with the Afghan community in Fremont on ensuring that their voices were heard in the democratic process. The City of Fremont, CA recently drew the district lines for its City Council and completely overlooked the City’s Afghan community, dramatically underestimating its size and splitting the Afghan community into several parts. This would have robbed the Afghan community of its voice in city elections. Our Voting Rights team immediately contacted leaders of the Afghan community in Fremont, provided technical and legal assistance, and educated Fremont’s Afghan community to give them the chance to fight for themselves in the process. Our community outreach occurred in concert with legal advocacy to Fremont’s City Council and City Attorney.

At City Council meetings, huge numbers of Afghan community members who had never engaged in city politics stepped forward to give testimony about how much Fremont meant to them and how important it was to keep the Afghan community’s cultural and commercial hub—known to some as Little Kabul—whole in Fremont’s district map.

Ultimately, the Afghan community won a new City Council district that not only keeps Little Kabul intact but also pairs it with Afghan residential centers. The Afghan community didn’t just overcome invisibility; it demanded a seat at the table and can now have a meaningful voice in Fremont city politics for years to come.

Our Voting Rights program works to expand and protect the voting rights of all immigrant communities to ensure full participation of all eligible voters in the electoral process.
LITIGATION HIGHLIGHTS
IMPACT LITIGATION HIGHLIGHTS - A YEAR IN REVIEW

PREAP, ET AL. V. JOHNSON, ET AL.
In December 2013, we filed a class action lawsuit challenging the federal policy of detaining certain immigrants without giving them the opportunity to prove they pose no flight risk or danger to the public. The suit alleges that individuals in California who are being held in mandatory detention are not transferred directly from criminal custody on certain offenses, should at least be entitled to a bond hearing.

The district court ruled in our favor. In August 2016, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court decision, leaving in place an injunction requiring the government to provide bond hearings to class members across the state. The government is seeking to appeal the decision.

Keeler Van Nest & Peters, the ACLU of Northern California, and ACLU Immigrant Rights Project are our co-counsel.

Omar v. Kerry, et al.
In April 2015, we filed a suit on behalf of Mosed Omar against the U.S. Department of State after the U.S. Embassy in Yemen revoked his U.S. passport and left him stranded in the middle of a civil war. The embassy had revoked his passport based on a false statement about his name, which Mr. Omar, a diabetic, had been coerced to sign after being interrogated for hours by embassy staff without food and water. The complaint alleges that the State Department had no legal basis to revoke Omar’s passport.

In the fall of 2015, Judge Corley granted our motion for preliminary injunction and ordered the government to return Omar’s passport. In February 2016, we won our summary judgment motion to vacate the revocation decision and ordered the government to return Omar’s passport.

In August 2016, the Ninth Circuit granted our motion for a preliminary injunction and ordered the government to restore the kitchen and bathrooms to a usable condition and cease harassing the tenants. The demolition left more than 25 households with just three bathrooms and one shared kitchen for approximately 8 months.

In August 2016, the court granted our motion for a preliminary injunction and ordered the landlord to restore the kitchen and bathrooms to a usable condition and cease harassing the tenants. The demolition left more than 25 households with just three bathrooms and one shared kitchen for approximately 8 months.

The judge ruled in the workers’ favor and held that the restaurant’s actions were improper, “threatened serious prejudice” to the workers, and ordered corrective action, including enjoining the restaurant from reverifying existing employees during the pendency of the case. The case is still pending.

Covington & Burling is our co-counsel.

In June 2016, we filed a complaint on behalf of 14 immigrant tenants living in a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) building at the edge of Oakland’s Chinatown. The complaint alleges several claims against the landlord, property owners and managers, including tenant harassment and elder abuse. The complaint asserts that after acquiring the property, the new owner/landlord sought to push out the occupants with a campaign of harassment in order to renovate the building and attract more lucrative tenants. The demolition left more than 25 households with just three bathrooms and one shared kitchen for approximately 8 months.

In August 2016, the court granted our motion for a preliminary injunction and ordered the landlord to restore the kitchen and bathrooms to a usable condition and cease harassing the tenants. The demolition left more than 25 households with just three bathrooms and one shared kitchen for approximately 8 months.

Under the judge’s order, the restaurant’s actions were improper, “threatened serious prejudice” to the workers, and ordered corrective action, including enjoining the restaurant from reverifying existing employees during the pendency of the case. The landlord has been directed to restore the kitchen and bathrooms to a usable condition and cease harassing the tenants. The demolition left more than 25 households with just three bathrooms and one shared kitchen for approximately 8 months.

The judge ruled in the workers’ favor and held that the restaurant’s actions were improper, “threatened serious prejudice” to the workers, and ordered corrective action, including enjoining the restaurant from reverifying existing employees during the pendency of the case. The case is still pending.

Sunden & Salinas (jointly representing the tenants with ALC) and the Oakland City Attorney’s Office (representing the City of Oakland) are our co-counsel.

In the fall of 2016, we filed a wage and hour class action on behalf of immigrant workers at the popular Bay Area Burma Superstar restaurant chain. Shortly before Christmas, workers reported that the employer had distributed and instructed workers to sign documents including mandatory arbitration agreements, meal and rest break waivers, and new I-9 employment verification forms. By signing the forms workers would have arguably been giving up important rights in the pending suit. The employment verification forms also raised the specter of immigration enforcement and threatened to chill workers from coming forward. We filed a motion to stop the restaurant’s actions.

Legal Aid at Work and Centro Legal de la Raza are our co-counsel.
POLICY + LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ADVANCING VOTING RIGHTS

AB 918 (BONTA) - CALIFORNIA VOTING FOR ALL ACT
Sponsored by Advancing Justice – California. AB 918 would ensure that limited-English proficient voters do not encounter barriers when voting by making translated ballots and bilingual poll workers more accessible to a wide range of minority language communities and by making certain translated materials available to voters by mail for the first time. AB 918 would push California beyond the requirements of federal Voting Rights Act and make California the nationwide leader on ensuring access to voting for immigrant communities.

COUNTERING BIAS AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

SB 31 (LARA) - FIGHT 4 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
Sponsored by American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Advancing Justice - California, Council on American-Islamic Relations, California Chapter. SB 31 prohibits a state or local agency from providing or disclosing to federal authorities personally identifying information regarding a person’s religious affiliation when the information is sought for compiling a database of individuals based on religious affiliation, national origin, or ethnicity. SB 31 also prohibits state and local law enforcement from collecting information about an individual’s religious beliefs or affiliations except under certain circumstances.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

SB 54 (DE LEON) - CALIFORNIA VALUES ACT
Sponsored by College for All Coalition, California Teachers Association, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights. AB 699 would uphold immigrant students’ constitutional right to a public education. The legislation would ensure that K-12 schools are safe learning environments for undocumented immigrant students by prohibiting ICE access to school sites unless there is a valid judicial warrant, prohibiting schools from collecting information regarding the immigration status of students or their family members, providing know-your-rights information to parents, and finding alternatives to keep kids out of foster care.

IN 2016, WE CO-DRAFTED AND CO-LED THE SUCCESSFUL STATEWIDE EFFORT TO PASS THE TRUTH ACT (AB 2792 - BONTA).

The Truth Act improves transparency regarding local law enforcement entanglement with ICE and ensures that immigrants in local law enforcement custody are informed of their right to refuse interviews with ICE. In particular, the Truth Act:

PROVIDES “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS” TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL
The Truth Act requires that local law enforcement agencies, prior to an interview between ICE and an individual in custody, provide a written consent form that explains the purpose of the interview and that the individual may decline the interview. The bill requires the form to be translated in multiple languages.

ENSURES FAIR NOTICE TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL
The Truth Act requires that if a local law enforcement agency provides ICE with notification of an individual’s release date and time, then the local law enforcement agency must also provide the same notification to the individual and their attorney or permitted designee.

INCREASES TRANSPARENCY & SHINES A LIGHT AROUND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT WITH ICE.
The Truth Act requires a local legislative body to hold an annual community forum if local law enforcement allows ICE access to any individual. Additionally, this bill ensures that records related to ICE access are subject to the Public Records Act.

These protections are especially vital at a time when the federal administration has drastically ramped up deportation operations and ratcheted up pressure on local law enforcement to participate in immigration enforcement. In 2017, we are currently engaging in an intensive implementation effort that includes contacting every police and sheriff’s department in California to provide information about the new law, monitor compliance, and provide technical assistance. We also continue to manage www.iceoutofca.org, which provides a wealth of resources about state immigrant law protections and model sanctuary policies. We provide advice and assistance to advocates nationally on strengthening local and state immigrant rights protections.
"Come and See the Action!"

ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE

ASIAN LAW CAUCUS

LOCAL TO NATIONAL

100 DAYS OF JUSTICE

PROTECT - ADVOCATE - DEFEND

FROM INAUGURATION DAY TO DAY 100 OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

HERE’S WHAT WE’VE DONE:

★ We provided rapid response, free legal help to travelers at SFO affected by the Muslim Ban.
★ We passed a city ordinance prohibiting city resources from being used to create a Muslim or other discriminatory registry.
★ We addressed housing discrimination while fighting the evictions of elderly & other vulnerable populations.
★ We protected the due process and workplace rights of low-wage, immigrant workers by advocating for AB 450 & fighting exploiting & retaliating against workers.
★ We passed a city ordinance prohibiting city resources going towards the FBI’s discriminatory tactics through the Joint Terrorism Task Force.
★ We strengthened state protections for immigrants and refugees against harmful federal policies by pushing for the passage of the “CA Voting Act for All,” and the “CA Values Act.”
★ We kept immigrant families together by litigating against local law enforcement that violates due process for immigrants.
★ We empowered hundreds of community members through our Know Your Rights outreach & training in our office, classrooms, places of worship, and community centers.

THE PATH TO VICTORY WILL TAKE MORE THAN 100 DAYS

100DAYSOFJUSTICE.ORG

THE HAMILTON CHALLENGE

On June 26, 2017 we joined the Immigrants, We Get The Job Done Coalition. Created by Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of the hit musical Hamilton, and the Hispanic Federation, the Coalition had 12 organizations handpicked by Lin-Manuel.

Over the month long campaign, we created three videos that showcased who we were and generated unprecedented traffic to our website and social media. Our social media content earned over 327,000 impressions from viewers over the course of the campaign. Every chance we had, we took advantage of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s widespread name recognition and the acclaim of his musical to successfully, “Get the job done!”

MEET SAIRA HUSSAIN (TEEN VOUGE):

VOICES OF DEMOCRACY REPORT (LA TIMES):

HATE CRIME TRACKER (NPR):

MUSLIM BAN 1.0 SFO (MOTHER JONES):

PEDRO FIGUEROA (LA TIMES):

Vincent Chin (HUFFPOST):
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2017/05/19/vincent-chin-murder-detroit-us_594400771e4b0f15cd5bafe14

COLIN KAEPERNICK (EDGE OF SPORTS):
https://megaphone.link/PPY8450655572

ANTI-REGISTRY ORDINANCE (COLORLINES):

MUSLIM BAN 2.0 (SF CHRONICLE):

A Snapshot

#HAM4ALL

NEWS + MEDIA

PUBLICATIONS + CAMPAIGNS

ASIAN LAW CAUCUS

PHOTO: LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
YURI KOCHIYAMA FELLOW

DANNY THONGSY

After his parents fled Communist Laos, Danny was born in a Thai refugee camp. At the age of two, Danny came to the United States. Growing up in Stockton, California, Danny was surrounded by poverty and gang violence. At seventeen, Danny was sentenced to life in prison. Despite incarceration, he finished his High School Diploma/GED, completed three vocational trade certificates, and earned a college degree. As years passed, Danny grew into an advocate and a member of Kid CAT, a group of youth sentenced to life in prison. With Kid CAT, Danny advocated for the passage of SB 260 and 261 resulting in his parole grant along with hundreds of other youth sentenced to life in prison. After being paroled last year, Danny was sent to an immigration detention center. With the help of Asian Prisoner Support Committee and Asian Law Caucus, Danny finally won his freedom at the beginning of 2017.

At the Asian Law Caucus, Danny engages in policy advocacy, organizing, and legal support for the Immigrant Rights and Criminal Justice Reform programs.

The Yuri Kochiyama fellowship is a year long opportunity given to formerly incarcerated Asian and Pacific Islanders to build leadership and advocacy among directly impacted people. The fellowship supports the intersectional experiences of people suffering from the traumatic cycle of incarceration and deportation.

STAFF + BOARD + LEADERSHIP

2017 STAFF

We want to acknowledge and thank those staff who have moved on from ACL in the past year: Christopher Punongbayan (former Executive Director), Nasiria Bargzie, Christina Dang, Mariam Hosseini, Jehan Laner, Thomas Lee, Tejal Mankad, Reem Suleimann, and David Ta.
One of our greatest strengths as an organization has been the network of alumni, volunteers, and key supporters who have helped to shape who we are today. Comprised of supporters and alumni who are influential leaders of the community, the Leadership Council ensures that we have access to expertise and resources to effectively carry out our mission.

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE HEROES

FUNDERS
FISCAL YEAR JUNE 2016 - JULY 2017

GOVERNMENT GRANTS
State Bar Trust Fund of California - Equal Access Fund and IOLTA Fund and Bank Community Stabilization and Reinvestment (BCSR)
City and County of San Francisco, Human Services Agency, Department of Aging and Adult Services
City and County of San Francisco, Mayor’s Office of Housing & Community Development
City and County of San Francisco, Rent Board
City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Arts Commission
Dolores Street Community Services for the San Francisco Immigrant Legal and Education Network
Chinese Progressive Association through City and County of San Francisco, Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE)
Central American Resource Center, CARECEN of Northern CA - San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative (SFLDC)
Vera Institute of Justice, Inc. - National Qualified Representative Program (NQRP)
The Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco

FOUNDATION GRANTS
Anonymous
AABA Law Foundation
The California Endowment
Eileen K. Haas Fund
Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
Ford Foundation
Ford Foundation
The Hellman Family Fund
Jacques M. Littlefield Foundation
The James Irvine Foundation
Levi Strauss Foundation
The Libra Foundation
Minami Tamaki Yamauchi Keek & Lee Foundation
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
National Employment Law Project

NEO Philanthropy, Inc.
Open Society Foundations
Overlook International Foundation
Pactal Fund
Red Envelope Giving Circle
Rosenberg Foundation
The San Francisco Foundation
Showing Up for Racial Justice
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Social Change Initiative
Sunlight Giving
Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation
Wallace H. Coulter Foundation
Zellerbach Family Foundation

Our FY 2015 - 2016 donor list is available upon request.
The names highlighted in orange identify former and current staff, volunteers, Board and Leadership Council members. Our FY 2015-2016 donor list is available upon request.
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE - ASIAN LAW CAUCUS - ANNUAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2016 - 2017

The names highlighted in orange identify former and current staff, volunteers, Board and Leadership Council members. Our FY 2015 - 2016 donor list is available upon request.

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FINANCIALS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Fiscal year: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

REVENUE
Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017

- Foundation Grants*: $2,034,571
- Government Grants: $998,748
- Individual & Corporate Giving: $346,087
- Special Events: $234,952
- Other Income: $132,181

Total Revenue: $3,747,039

Advancing Justice Summit: $116,250
In-kind Services: $3,536,439
Total Revenue with Summit + In-kind Services: $7,399,728

*Note: Restricted foundation revenue that will be released in FY 2017-2018 is excluded from this fiscal year’s revenue.

EXPENSES
Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017

- Program Services: $3,003,422
- General + Administration: $247,372
- Fundraising: $187,182

Total Expenses: $3,437,976

Advancing Justice Summit: $116,250
In-kind Services: $3,536,439
Total Expenses with Summit + In-kind Services: $7,090,765
Our immigrant and refugee communities are in a state of emergency. In the past year, we have seen anti-immigrant and Islamophobic posturing by the new administration followed by a barrage of federal policies that are rolling back much of the progress we have made in the past decade. We continue to pivot to address new threats to our communities but need additional flexible resources in order to meet the growing need.

We are raising $500,000 for our Community Defense Fund so that our lawyers and community advocates at Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus can continue to provide the most formidable legal services, community education, impact litigation, and policy advocacy. Now more than ever, flexible financial support will enable us to respond rapidly and to implement emergency strategies to protect our communities and defend our civil rights.

A VISIONARY ANONYMOUS DONOR WILL MATCH YOUR DONATIONS DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR AND DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT.