

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER NAMES ZENOBIA LAI NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC), a legal advocate for justice for the Asian American community in the D.C. metropolitan region, announced today the appointment of its new Executive Director, Zenobia Lai, Esq., effective May 2, 2011. In this capacity, Ms. Lai will build upon the APALRC’s current programs and strengthen collaborative efforts with key local community organizations. She will work with public and private program and funding partners, and will chart a course for the next iteration of services that will propel the organization to an even more effective and crucial role in the region.

“Zenobia has devoted her career to advancing the legal and civil rights of Asian Americans, and her skills and experiences in legal services, advocacy, and fundraising make her the ideal leader for APALRC as we move forward,” said Curtis Lu, Chair of the APALRC Board of Directors.

“I am honored to have been selected as the APALRC’s new Executive Director and excited to be a part of an organization that is dedicated to ensuring access to justice for the Asian Pacific Americans in the region,” said Ms. Lai. “I look forward to working with the Board, staff, and community partners to continue the APALRC’s critical services to the community.”

Ms. Lai comes to APALRC with two decades of legal services experience. As Managing Attorney at the Greater Boston Legal Services, she directed the Asian Outreach Unit, which provides linguistically and culturally appropriate legal services to low-income, limited-English proficient Asian Americans, and developed a national model for connecting student resources to maximize legal assistance available to immigrant communities, who face linguistic and cultural barriers in accessing mainstream legal services. Ms. Lai also worked with regional and national funders to advocate for resources to support community-legal services collaboration, and to advance social change through the practice of community lawyering.

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*APALRC: Ensuring Access to Justice for Asian Pacific Americans since 1998*

[www.apalrc.org](http://www.apalrc.org)

In addition, Ms. Lai served as Executive Director at the Asian Law Caucus, a civil rights legal organization that provides civil rights advocacy and civil legal services to the Bay Area Asian American community, and built coalition with community-based organizations and other advocacy groups to maximize resource-sharing and strategy coordination on key issues impacting Asian Americans, including redistricting, hate violence, racial profiling, immigrant rights, and workers' rights.

Ms. Lai served as the President of the Board of the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund, and supported innovative efforts and projects that provided much needed legal assistance to emerging needs of the growing Asian immigrant communities. She was honored as "Community's Unsung Heroine of 2007" by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, recognized as one of the "Best Lawyers Under 40" by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and awarded "Community Service Award" by the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts. She holds a J.D. from University of Minnesota Law School and a B.S. in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin- Madison.

### **About APALRC**

*APALRC is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the legal and civil rights of Asian Americans in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan community through direct legal services and referrals, education, and advocacy. Through its innovative programs and strategic partnerships, the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center addresses the individual legal needs of low-income and limited-English proficient Asian Americans, particularly in the areas of housing, domestic violence, and immigration, and advocates for broad-based systemic change on civil rights issues affecting Asian Americans. For additional information, please visit, [www.apalrc.org](http://www.apalrc.org).*