

# APA Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center

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# LRC

December 11, 2008

Dear Friends,

How would you feel if you were denied the right to vote? Or if your parents were the target of criminal activity? Or if Asian business owners were denied access to basic government information? Or if a victim of domestic violence were unable to access legal assistance due to cultural and linguistic barriers?

Over the past ten years, the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center has taken on these and other legal challenges to continue its mission to advance justice for low-income and limited English proficient Asian Pacific Americans of the Washington, D.C. region. Throughout 2008, APALRC has provided direct legal services, community education, and advocacy on issues impacting Asian Pacific Americans, such as domestic violence and family law, language access, housing and community justice, crime-victim assistance, and cultural competency.



In November, the APALRC hosted its Tenth Anniversary Celebration to honor those who helped to build the APALRC over the past decade from a volunteer legal referral helpline at Georgetown University Law Center to a professional legal services organization with a full-time executive director and legal staff. At the event, the essence of the APALRC's mission was captured in the personal story told by one of the APALRC's former clients:

I am thankful to the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center for opening doors in the United States. I came to the U.S. five years ago from Japan ... against my family's wishes, but I felt strongly about marrying my children's dad. However, he abused me and life became very difficult for me. Life was more difficult because of language, cultural difference, lack of family support, and lack of friends.

At the time I decided I needed to get out of my marriage, I had two sons who were seven months and two years old. ... I had no money, no job, no home where I felt safe and no immigration status. I felt helpless. ...

When APALRC helped me file my [Violence Against Women Act] petition, it opened a door for me and I got a big step toward a better future. I have gone to school, graduated and gotten a license as a nail technician. I am working at a spa

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***APALRC: Ensuring Access to Justice for Asian Pacific Americans for 10 Years***

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

and salon as a nail technician and am able to support myself and my two babies. Without APALRC's help, I do not know what I would have done.

Please consider making a financial commitment to support APALRC's work to address the needs of our community. Particularly this year, your donations are vital to accomplishing our mission. The current economic crisis has seriously eroded the ability of our foundation and government supporters to maintain their support for the coming year. At the same time, the economic downturn is increasing the level of need of our community.

Every contribution, of any size, makes a difference. Because 2008 is the third and final year of the APALRC's "Challenge Campaign," your donation may be subject to a matching gift from a generous donor who has pledged to match up to \$75,000 in donations over the period of the campaign. It may also be eligible for a matching program through your employer, so please inquire at work.

To make a gift, please complete and mail back the enclosed pledge card along with your credit card information or check. Please remember to fill out your e-mail address to receive our program updates, interesting news, and upcoming event invitations!

For your convenience, you may also donate online and sign-up to our list-serve at [www.apalrc.org](http://www.apalrc.org). If possible, please consider a pledge of at least \$25/month for this upcoming year to ensure that APALRC can provide much needed high-quality assistance to the community.

As we reflect and give thanks at the end of the year, we review the charities and causes that are important in our lives. When you do so, please remember the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center and the members of our community who depend on it to safeguard their legal rights as they aspire to achieve the American Dream.

Thank you and best wishes for a joyous holiday season.



Theodore D. Chuang  
Chairman, Board of Directors



Myron Dean Quon  
Executive Director

*\* APALRC is a 501 (c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

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