



Dear Naznin,

I am excited to share the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center's newsletter, *The APALRC Pulse*, with you! We hope this newsletter provides information about who we are, our mission, and our programs. Founded in 1998 and incorporated in 1999, **the APALRC is entering its 25th year** of providing linguistically accessible and culturally appropriate services to the metropolitan-D.C.'s Asian American Pacific Islander community. In the coming year, we look forward to:

- Renewing our commitment to the APALRC's mission to provide linguistically accessible and culturally appropriate civil legal services to the immigrant community.
- Continuing to inform and educate the community on issues that affect them, such as immigration and anti-Asian hate.
- Increasing our visibility within the communities in which we provide services.

As we begin to celebrate **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**, I want to recognize the tremendous commitment of our staff, board of directors, interns, and volunteers to our mission. I also want to acknowledge the contributions of the APALRC's former staff, board members, interns and volunteers.

Finally, as we look forward to the future, I want to thank the APALRC's founders who saw the need for a program that understood the linguistic and cultural barriers facing our community and took the initiative to create such a program.

Best Wishes,

Naznin Saifi  
Executive Director



## FROM THE BLOG

### THE LEGAL LENS

**The Gendered Impact of “Gender-Neutral” Immigration Laws:  
Family Reunification by Resham Patel, 2023 Intern**

In 1965, Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act, establishing a preference for family reunification and reserving 75% of admissions for this purpose. Despite policy changes over the years, family reunification has remained a fundamental principle of United States immigration law. Under this tenet, certain relatives of US citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents (commonly referred to as “green card holders”) are preferred. At face value, such a family-based system appears gender-neutral. However, in practice, such immigration laws disproportionately impact women.

[Read More](#)

## UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS



### Mayer Brown and APALRC Citizenship Workshop

May 4, 2024  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Rockville Memorial Library

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER & US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PRESENT:  
**HATE CRIMES & BIAS FORUM**  
AT CHINATOWN SERVICE CENTER

### Know Your Rights Workshop: Hate Crimes & Bias Forum

Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM  
Chinatown Service Center

*RSVP at  
[helpline@apalrc.org](mailto:helpline@apalrc.org) or  
(202) 706-7135*



### Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration

May 19, 2024  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Seneca Valley High School

*Visit the APALRC's table!*

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Save  
the  
date

### The APALRC's 25th Anniversary Thursday, October 24 6:00 to 8:30 PM

This fall, the APALRC celebrates 25 years of providing linguistically accessible and culturally appropriate services to the metropolitan-D.C.'s Asian American Pacific Islander community. Registration and event details will be shared this summer!

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 25th anniversary, please contact us at [development@apalrc.org](mailto:development@apalrc.org).

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Vivian Lee Adkins

*Staff Attorney, Stop Anti-Asian Hate Campaign*

**What are the primary areas of your work at**

**APALRC?** I educate the community on how they can respond to and combat anti-Asian hate. The API community has seen a sharp rise in hate crimes, bias incidents, discrimination, bullying, and human trafficking since 2020. I want the APALRC to be a place where victims of anti-Asian hate can feel comfortable reporting their experiences and seeking legal relief or referrals to resources that can help.



**What inspired you to join the staff and serve in your position?** I have experienced anti-Asian hate in my own life and have seen it played out in the lives of friends. A common theme I hear from API's is they don't know who to report their experiences to, they don't think anything can be done, and they have to suffer injustice quietly. One example is a friend's mom was driving and hit by another driver. The police officer responding refused to take her statement claiming that he couldn't understand her. He took the other driver's word that she caused the accident and wrote the police report accordingly. Of course, the March 2021 spa shooting in Georgia killing 8, among other horrific violence against API's, highlight how racism can turn deadly.

**What are you most proud of APALRC accomplishing during your time on staff?** We put on a Know Your Rights Presentation on Anti-Asian Hate and Bystander Training for about 75 residents of DC's Chinatown in conjunction with the Department of Justice, FBI, Metropolitan Police, and the US Attorney General's Office. We had interpreters in Mandarin and Cantonese. The community members were very appreciative and expressed their own stories, experiences, and frustrations that informed the training of law enforcement officers and other justice officials in cultural sensitivity.

*Vivian attended Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City and studied Political Science. When asked about one fun fact the APALRC community may not know about her, she shared: "I am an avid runner having run the Boston Marathon 3 times and the JFK-50 twice. I also enjoy traveling, hiking, cycling, rock climbing, skiing, and weight lifting."*

[Learn more about our team →](#)

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT



### Meet Curtis Lu

*Board Chair and General Counsel, FTI Consulting, Inc.*

**What inspired you to join the board and provide your service in this capacity?** I joined the Board because I was passionate about our mission to provide legal services to the Asian American and Pacific community, who would otherwise be denied access to the American legal system because of a lack of resources, cultural unfamiliarity, or lack of English language skills.

**What are you most proud of APALRC accomplishing during your time on the board?**

Despite the many challenges of running a small legal services organization, we have continued to adapt our service offerings to meet the changing needs of our target client population.

**What do you hope to see from APALRC as it continues to grow in the future?**

Our staff is our greatest and most important asset. I hope that we can continue to foster their development and growth as legal professionals.

*Curtis attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, and studied Government & Foreign Affairs. When asked about one fun fact the APALRC community may not know about him, he shared: "I've been to 28 of 30 major league baseball stadiums -- hope to knock the last two out this summer!"*

## SUPPORT THE APALRC

HAPPY ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN,  
AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH!

### MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

This AANHPI heritage month, **make a gift** to support the critical legal resources and services that APALRC provides! The APALRC is a 501(c)(3) public charity that depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations who believe we provide a much-needed service to the Asian Pacific American population in the DC Metropolitan area.



*Your gift sustains the work of the APALRC and allows us to reach so many more community members who need our support! Thank you for helping us provide critical resources and services to our community.*

DONATE



The mission of the APALRC is to provide linguistically accessible and culturally appropriate civil legal services to the low-income Asian American Pacific Islander community of metropolitan D.C.



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