

Contributors

Editors



Stewart Kwoh is the president and executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC). APALC is the largest and most diverse legal assistance and civil rights organization targeting Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. He is the co-author of *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground: New Dimensions on Race in America*, 2002. Kwoh was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow in 1998. He is the first Asian American attorney and human rights activist to receive this highly prestigious recognition, often referred to as a “genius grant.”



Russell C. Leong is the editor of UCLA's *Amerasia Journal*, the interdisciplinary journal of Asian American Studies. He is an adjunct professor of English and Asian American Studies, and also serves as the project head of the U.S./China Media Brief at UCLA. www.uschina-mediabrief.com

Authors



May Lee Heye is a trial attorney for the United States Department of Justice Antitrust Division, where she prosecutes white collar crime. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, she worked in private practice. She has volunteered for the Asian Law Caucus.



Bill Ong Hing is a professor of Law at the University of California, Davis, where he teaches Judicial Process, Negotiations, Public Service Strategies, Asian American History, and directs the law school clinical program. In addition to these duties, Professor Hing is the author of numerous academic and practice-oriented books, and articles on immigration policy and race relations. Among his other achievements, he is also the founder of, and continues to volunteer as General Counsel for, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco.



Dale Minami is an attorney and partner with Minami Tamaki LLP in San Francisco, specializing in personal injury and entertainment law. He has been involved in significant litigation involving the civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities, including: *Korematsu v. United States*, *United Pilipinos for Affirmative Action v. California Blue Shield*, *Spokane JACL v. Washington State University*, and other landmark cases. He was a co-founder of the Asian Law Caucus, Inc., a community-interest law firm, a co-founder of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, the first Asian American Bar Association in the United States, the Asian Pacific Bar of California and the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans, a registered political action committee.



Karen Narasaki is the president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center, formerly known as the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium. The AAJC is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans through advocacy, public policy, public education, and litigation.



Angela Oh is an attorney, teacher, and public lecturer. Her law firm, Oh & Barrera, LLP, is based in Los Angeles. The firm offers representation in state and federal criminal matters and civil rights. The various commissions and boards she has served include the California Commission on Access to Justice and the board of directors for Lawyers Mutual Insurance Co., and the Washington, D.C.-based Women’s Policy, Inc. and the Western Justice Center Foundation.



Mary Ellen Kwoh Shu is blessed to come from a family of many heroes — her mother, Beulah Quo, her father, Edwin, and her brother, Stewart. She and her husband, Jack, have three children — Christina, Teddy, and Julia — and have made their home in La Mesa, California. A former psychiatric social worker, Mary Ellen is now enjoying another career as an elementary school librarian.



Julie Su is Litigation Director at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC). She is also a MacArthur Fellow, recipient of the Reebok International Human Rights Awards, and was named one of the “Top 75 Women Litigators” in California by the *Daily Journal*. Su was the lead attorney for the Thai and Latino workers.



Casimiro Urbano Tolentino is a labor and civil rights lawyer. He has been an administrative law judge II for the state of California since 1992. He was assistant chief counsel for the Department of Fair Employment and Housing for six years enforcing California’s civil rights laws, and was a regional attorney and regional director for the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. He has also co-founded numerous organizations including the Pilipino American Bar Association and the board of the Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (a civil rights advocate for the Asian Pacific communities based in Washington, D.C.), now the Asian American Justice Center.



Kent Wong is director of the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education, where he teaches Labor Studies and Asian American Studies. Kent has also served as national president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, and the United Association for Labor Education.



Eric Yamamoto is an internationally recognized law professor at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law. He is known for his legal work and scholarship on civil rights and racial justice, with an emphasis on reparations for historic injustice. He is a founding member of the Equal Justice Society and speaks regularly across the country and internationally on issues of racial reconciliation, reparations, civil and human rights and national security and civil liberties. In 1983 and 1984, Professor Yamamoto served as a member of Fred Korematsu's *coram nobis* legal team.



Helen Zia is the author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001). She is board co-chair of the Women's Media Center and a member of the Committee of 100, a national organization of Chinese American leaders.

Curriculum Consultant



Esther R. Taira currently consults for organizations including the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Go for Broke Education Center, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California. She was the instructional specialist in charge of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Multicultural Unit until her retirement in 2002. In her 36 years with the district, she wrote a number of district curriculum guides and developed and presented workshops.

Editorial Assistants



Irene Lee is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in Asian American Studies at UCLA. Inspired by her experiences both in school and at the APALC, she hopes to pursue a profession that is dedicated to improving conditions for minority and low-income communities. On and off campus, she has been involved with: the Rotary Interact Club, Unicamp, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.



Ryan Khamkongsay did his undergraduate studies at USC as an Economics major, while serving as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard. He currently works at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Program Administration. Outside of APALC, he is an advocate for the Thai/ Laotian American communities and an activist for marriage equality.



Jieun Jacobs attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, majoring in History while lettering on the women's tennis team. She is currently attending Southwestern Law School's two-year SCALE program and will graduate with a J.D. in May 2009. She has been a volunteer and law clerk at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles (Advancing Justice - LA)

Founded in 1983 as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles (Advancing Justice - LA) serves more than 15,000 individuals and organizations every year. Through direct services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, leadership development, and capacity building, Advancing Justice - LA focuses on the most vulnerable members of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community while also building a strong voice for civil rights and social justice.

Advancing Justice - LA is a unique organization that merges the work of a traditional legal service provider and a civil rights organization. To achieve its goals of justice and equality, Advancing Justice - LA draws on four strategy areas: direct legal services, impact litigation, policy analysis and advocacy, and leadership development.

As a direct legal services provider, Advancing Justice - LA serves the diverse AANHPI community with legal intake and counseling, education, and representation in areas such as family law and domestic violence, consumer rights, healthcare, immigration and citizenship. Through its staff and volunteers, it has the capacity to facilitate numerous languages including Korean, Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Khmer, Thai, Vietnamese and others, along with English and Spanish. Advancing Justice - LA is the only legal service provider in Los Angeles County that maintains this type of language capacity, and thus is an important resource for indigent monolingual or limited English speaking individuals who are in need of legal assistance.

At the same time, as a civil rights advocacy organization Advancing Justice - LA has been involved with a wide range of civil rights issues, including hate crimes monitoring, police-community relations, voting rights, and immigrant rights. In addition, Advancing Justice - LA takes a leadership role in promoting collaboration with other ethnic groups, advocacy groups, and social service providers on a range of issues concerning the Los Angeles community at large.

In its litigation strategy area, Advancing Justice - LA, along with other advocates, led the groundbreaking workers' rights lawsuit, *Bureerong v. Uvawas*, and worked with Thai and Latino garment workers to hold manufacturers and retailers accountable for sweatshop conditions. Advancing Justice - LA continues to use a grassroots model of litigation that includes casework, outreach, education, and policy advocacy, to empower workers to engage in a broader movement for social justice.

Finally, Advancing Justice - LA's focus on interethnic relations and multiracial coalition building is evident in its youth, parent, and community-focused leadership development programs, as well as in its work in workers' rights, hate crimes prevention, and coalition building within the AANHPI community. In all of these areas, Advancing Justice - LA is explicitly multi- and cross-racial in its approach and seeks to develop both youth and adult advocates and leaders whose work can cross-racial, ethnic, geographic, and other boundaries.

For more information, please visit the official Advancing Justice - LA website: advancingjustice-la.org or call: 213-977-7500.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice is a national affiliation of five leading organizations advocating for the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and other underserved communities to promote a fair and equitable society for all. The affiliation's members are: Advancing Justice - AAJC (Washington, D.C.), Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), Advancing Justice - Atlanta, Advancing Justice - Chicago, and Advancing Justice - Los Angeles (Advancing Justice - LA). Advancing Justice - LA is based in downtown Los Angeles, with satellite offices in Orange County, CA, and San Gabriel Valley, CA. Advancing Justice - LA co-runs the Sacramento office with Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus.

UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Since 1969, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has “sought to enrich the experience of the entire university by contributing to an understanding of the long neglected history, rich cultural heritage, and present position of Asian Americans in our society” (Steering Committee to establish the UCLA Asian American Studies Center). More than four decades later, the Asian American Studies Center along with the Asian American Studies Department (established in 2004) are making important educational and intellectual contributions to American higher education and society in terms of pedagogy, research, and through community linkages nationally and internationally.

With nearly 60 Faculty Affiliates from 26 disciplines, UCLA has the largest and most diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies faculty of any university in the United States. The Center’s faculty advisory committee members are nationally, internationally, and professionally recognized for their achievements in scholarship, teaching, and community service in the areas of: Anthropology, Law, Library and Information Science, Ethnocommunications, Geography, Gender Studies, Medicine, Education, Psychiatry, Political Science, East Asian Languages and Culture, Economics, Asian American Literature; English and Creative Writing, History, Psychology, Public Health, Social Welfare, Urban Planning, Film and Television, Sociology, Nursing, Dentistry, and Management.

From its beginnings, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has been engaged in researching and documenting Asian American and Pacific Islander communities—past and present. The Center, through its students, staff, faculty, and alumni, has forged community partnerships with the aim of producing knowledge that benefits all involved, rooted in the greater Los Angeles area, but also extending nationally and internationally. Multidisciplinary, transnational, and comparative approaches, moreover, have enriched the understanding of Asian American and Pacific Islander issues in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and policy-related areas.

Some of the Center’s major accomplishments include:

- * Largest and most diverse faculty of any university in the United States
- * 11 Endowments for Chaired Professorships, Research Programs, and Lectureships
- * More Than 25 Scholarships, Fellowships, and Academic Prizes
- * Institute of American Cultures Fellowship Programs and Research Grants
- * Two National Scholarly Journals and Award-Winning Center Press
- * Largest University-Based Asian American Studies Library and Archives
- * Center for Ethnocommunications in documentary film
- * Leader in Policy-Based Research

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Education Through Struggle

25th Anniversary Mural located at UCLA Asian American Studies Center
3230 Campbell Hall, University of California Los Angeles, CA 90095

Artist: Darryl Mar

Photo: Mary Uyematsu Kao

Mural Statement: (for the complete artist's statement and list of artists and supporters, visit the Center)

"...In choosing the images for the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Mural, we focused on the issues of identity, community, and education. The two men walking forward were part of the multicultural coalition of the Wounded Knee Protest in the 1960s. Today we join in continuing their collective struggle in battles such as immigrant rights, affirmative action, and justice for workers. As we make our own mark on the world, we must do it in concert with our community...."

It is without a doubt that education is the goal that comes out of our struggles, but we must not forget that education is the fuel for the spirit of social equality...."

DARRYL MAR received his Master of Arts in Asian American Studies, UCLA. The commissioned mural was funded in part by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action (CAPSA) and the California Arts Council.