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All contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) and mail to 99 Hudson Street, 12F, New York, NY 10013-2815. You can also donate online at <http://www.aaldef.org/support>. Thank you!

Welcome to the newly redesigned
**Outlook Newsletter, where
 you'll find updates on AALDEF
 cases, activities, and events.**

Founded in 1974, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) is a national organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans. By combining litigation, advocacy, education, and organizing, AALDEF works with Asian American communities across the country to secure human rights for all.

AALDEF focuses on critical issues affecting Asian Americans, including immigrant rights, post-9/11 civil liberties, voting rights, economic justice for workers, language access to services, educational equity and youth rights, housing and environmental justice, and the elimination of hate violence, police misconduct, and human trafficking.

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Get Involved!

It is only with your help that we can continue to provide the litigation, education, and advocacy that our community has come to depend upon over the last three decades. To contribute to AALDEF, please go to <http://aaldef.org/support>.

Volunteer

AALDEF is grateful for the support of volunteer lawyers, students, translators, graphic designers, media professionals, and more! To learn more about volunteer opportunities at AALDEF, please visit <http://aaldef.org/support/volunteer>.

Events

In October, AALDEF offered a sneak peek of Tony Award winner David Henry Hwang's uproarious new Broadway play *Chinglish*, with a special Q&A for AALDEF supporters after the performance. To learn more about upcoming AALDEF events, please visit <http://aaldef.org/events>.

AALDEF's Young Professionals Committee (YPC) is a networking and social group for young professionals living in the New York City area. To learn more about the YPC, please visit <http://aaldef.org/about-us/young-professionals-committee>.

**Asian American Legal Defense
and Education Fund**

**OUTLOOK
Fall 2011**

AALDEF
 99 Hudson St., 12F
 NYC 10013-2815



SAVE THE DATE:

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Our annual Lunar New Year Celebration will take place on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at PIER SIXTY, Chelsea Piers in New York City, honoring the 2012 Justice in Action Award recipients Parkin Lee of The Rockefeller Group, Yale Law professor Jean Koh Peters, and Fared Zakeria, CNN host and *Time* editor-at-large. For sponsorship and ticket information, contact Lillian Ling at 212.966.5932.

Social Media

Follow us on Twitter ([@aaldef](https://twitter.com/aaldef)) and Like us on Facebook (bit.ly/aaldef)! Read the insightful and hilarious commentary of noted journalist Emil Guillermo on the AALDEF blog (aaldef.org/blog).

Catch up on the latest highlights from AALDEF's fight for civil rights:

Educational Equity

New York City Must Help English Language Learners

After years of advocacy by AALDEF, the NYS Department of Education intervened in New York City's failing education of English language learners this October, issuing an unprecedented "Corrective Action Plan." The Plan requires NYC to add 125 new bilingual education programs, improve language assessment and parent outreach, and prioritize English instruction in certain Asian immigrant districts. "Finally, the state has recognized the severity of the problem and is using its authority to find solutions," said Khin Mai Aung, Director of AALDEF's Educational Equity Project. "We look forward to the City's cooperation, and AALDEF will be making sure it is enforced."



AALDEF Sues for Transparency of Student Data

The New York City Department of Education has consistently failed to respond to AALDEF's requests for data on English language learners and students with disabilities, in direct contravention of freedom of information laws. In June, AALDEF and Advocates for Children of New York filed a lawsuit seeking an order compelling the Department of Education to release certain records that are needed to determine whether students are being provided with equal access to education.

White House Takes on Bullying of AAPI Students

Asian American and Muslim American students are far more likely to be bullied than any other racial minority, according to grim new data released by the U.S. Department of Education. AALDEF staff attorney Thomas Mariadason joined Assistant U.S. Attorney General Thomas Perez and other advocates in a day-long Bullying Prevention Summit in October to educate students and parents on harassment. "Post 9/11, bias-based bullying toward religious and immigrant communities has been a consistent issue," said Mariadason. "It is a critical time for the White House to address it."

Immigrant Rights

Alabama's Repressive New Immigration Law

Alabama's new anti-immigrant law is the harshest in the nation. It allows police officers to stop persons "suspected" of being undocumented immigrants—which in effect allows police to demand immigration documents from any person who looks "different" or who speaks a language other than English. The law even criminalizes the act of giving an undocumented person a ride to a church or hospital. AALDEF and other civil rights groups have filed an *amicus* brief to stop its enforcement.

Voting Rights

Asian-Language Ballots Now Required in Eleven States

This October, the Census Bureau announced that bilingual ballots and language assistance must be provided to Asian American voters in 11 states, covering 22 cities and counties, in six Asian languages, as required under the federal Voting Rights Act's language assistance provisions (Section 203). For the first time, South Asian language assistance will be provided in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York City (Queens), and Hamtramck, Michigan. AALDEF will monitor the provision of language assistance to voters in the 2012 elections and will conduct a multilingual exit poll of Asian American voters in several states.



Redistricting for Fair Representation

This year is the once-in-a-decade opportunity to redraw district lines to reflect Asian American population growth and secure political representation.

AALDEF Presents a "Unity Map" for New York City

Asian Americans, numbering over one million, are among the fastest growing populations in New York City, but no Asian American has ever been elected to the NY State Senate or U.S. Congress. Together with LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the National Institute for Latino Policy, and the Center for Law and Social Justice, AALDEF proposed the Unity Map, which redraws New York City voting districts to keep Asian Americans and other communities of color together. Under the Unity Map, there will be four Asian American majority State Assembly districts and one Asian American majority State Senate district.



AALDEF has also been working with Asian American community advocates in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania to assist them in preparing testimony at local redistricting hearings and providing them with technical assistance in drawing proposed districts and maps.

Arizona Toughens Rules for Foreign-Born Voters

AALDEF filed an *amicus* brief in *Gonzalez v. State of Arizona* seeking to overturn Arizona Proposition 200, which requires new voters to provide proof of citizenship. We argued that Prop 200 violates the National Voter Registration Act, enacted by Congress in part to prevent state voting requirements that disproportionately harm racial minorities.

Post 9/11 Civil Liberties

NYPD Surveillance of Muslims

The Associated Press reported that the NYPD has been conducting secret surveillance of Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Americans. Sources said "mosque crawlers" were sent to monitor sermons and officers were encouraged to make arrests to pressure citizens into become informants. AALDEF, the Brennan Center, and Muslim Advocates responded by filing a request under New York's Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) asking the NYPD to release information on its Intelligence Department's racial profiling activities. Our goal is to provide a check on the NYPD so that it does not target people solely because of their religion, race, or ethnicity.

NJ Township Bans Community Mosque

After the Al Falah Center made plans to renovate an existing building into a mosque and Muslim community center, the Township of Bridgewater, NJ suddenly altered its zoning laws to block the development. AALDEF, with co-counsel Arnold & Porter, Archer & Greiner, and the Brennan Center, is challenging this zoning law because it prevents the Muslim community from freely exercising its religion and discriminates on the basis of religion. In July, a NJ federal court ruled that the Al Falah Center and the Muslim community could proceed with the lawsuit.

Economic Justice

Health Care Agency Fails to Pay Workers for Months

AALDEF has filed five separate lawsuits on behalf of health care workers hired by Gold & Silver Aging Home Care agency, based in a Manhattan penthouse. The workers had not been paid for their work for months, and were never paid overtime. They were given checks that bounced, or were told not to deposit checks because there were no funds in the agency's bank account. "This is an intolerable situation," said AALDEF Legal Director Ken Kimerling. AALDEF will consolidate these five claims to obtain back wages plus liquidated damages, as provided by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and New York state labor laws.

Garment Workers Sue Factory for Thousands in Unpaid Wages

AALDEF has filed a new lawsuit on behalf of 13 garment workers against the owners of a Chinatown factory. The factory was closed while owing the workers thousands of dollars in unpaid wages and hundreds of thousands of dollars more in unpaid overtime wages. The case, *Ho v. Sim Enterprises, Inc.*, is now in discovery.

Housing and Environmental Justice

AALDEF Contests Rezoning of Immigrant Neighborhood

Low-income Asian and Latino immigrants and churches in Sunset Park, Brooklyn are protesting the New York City planning department's proposed rezoning of the 128-block neighborhood. "The rezoning will force families to move elsewhere because rents will increase," said Bethany Li, staff attorney at AALDEF. "It will also push out small businesses that are vital to the immigrant communities surrounding them." AALDEF and South Brooklyn Legal Services are representing the community by appealing the Appellate Division decision in September that upholds the City's review of the rezoning's impacts.

Anti-Trafficking Initiative

Indian Workers Seek Largest Trafficking Class Action

AALDEF is representing 500 former Indian guest workers who were lured to the U.S. with the false promise of green cards to rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. This could be the largest human trafficking case in U.S. history. The workers were forced to pay \$1,050 a month to live in overcrowded, unsanitary, and racially segregated labor camps, where 24 men shared a trailer with only two toilets. "These Indian guest workers toiled under a climate of fear and coercion," said AALDEF staff attorney Ivy Suriyopas, who is seeking class certification for the workers along with co-counsel Southern Poverty Law Center, the ACLU, and Dewey & LeBoeuf.



Korean Worker Sues Buddhist Monk for Trafficking

AALDEF has filed a complaint in Brooklyn federal court on behalf of a Korean immigrant worker against a Buddhist monk and his family members for violating federal human trafficking and labor laws. The plaintiff was forced to work long hours without pay, medical care, or freedom to leave the house for twelve years. Last year, she finally escaped and is standing up for her legal rights.

Freedom Network and Anti-Trafficking Advocacy

As an organizational member of the Freedom Network, AALDEF proposed a list of practical amendments to the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, including providing greater services to children trafficked for labor and meeting immigration needs of survivors.

