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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!

How Can I Get Involved?

Donate

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 past four decades. To learn more about donating to AALDEF, please visit www.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 www.aaldef.org/support/volunteer.

Events

In August, AALDEF and Kaye Scholer hosted "Asian American and Practicing Law – An Evening of Sharing Stories from Big Law to Nonprofits," with Helen Wan, author of *The Partner Track*. Don't miss our next event! To learn more about upcoming AALDEF events, please visit www.aaldef.org/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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 99 Hudson St., 12F
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Get to Know AALDEF on Social Media



**Coming in 2014:
AALDEF celebrates its 40th anniversary!**

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

**OUTLOOK
Winter 2013**



What's the easiest way to find out about AALDEF's latest activities and stay up-to-date on civil rights news? Follow AALDEF on Twitter (@aaldef) and like us on Facebook (bit.ly/aaldef).

Our Award-Winning Tumblr Raise Our Story
Raise Our Story, the Tumblr launched by AALDEF's undocumented youth group, was selected by *TIME* as one of the 30 Best Tumblrs of 2013! Follow raiseourstory.tumblr.com to see why. Keep up with more news about RAISE and immigrant rights on Twitter at @raiseourstory and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RaiseOurStory).

AALDEF Alumni Network
 Former AALDEF staff, board members, interns, and volunteers, join the AALDEF Alumni Network on Facebook (www.facebook.com/AALDEFAlumni).

AALDEF Blog by Emil Guillermo
 Catch up on renowned journalist Emil Guillermo's award-winning commentary on the AALDEF blog at www.aaldef.org/blog.

February 12 - Theater party for David Henry Hwang's new play about Bruce Lee, *Kung Fu*, premiering at the Signature Theatre in NYC. Details: events@aaldef.org.

March 25 - AALDEF 40th anniversary gala at PIER SIXTY, Chelsea Piers, NYC, with 2014 Justice in Action Award recipients John Chou of AmeriSourceBergen Corporation and Mari Matsuda of the U. of Hawaii at Manoa. William S. Richardson School of Law. Details: 212.966.5932 and events@aaldef.org.

SAVE THE DATE 2014

Stay tuned for news about upcoming events! In 2014, AALDEF celebrates its 40th anniversary. Justice and that lawyers should serve the needs of the people. They believed that the law should be used as a tool for social inspired by the civil rights and antiwar movements of the 1960s. Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). came together in Lower Manhattan to create the Asian American In 1974, a small group of lawyers, activists, and students



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

Educational Equity

Kentucky Middle-Schooler Stands Up to Harassment

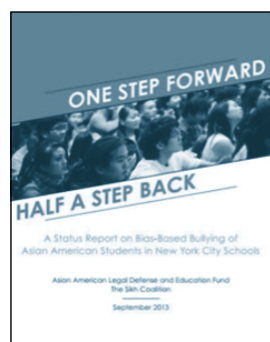
"Chink." "Gook." "Asians can't play basketball." These were just some of the racial slurs that middle-schooler and Asian American adoptee Milena Clarke heard every day for years. She was ignored and even penalized by school officials for speaking up about the racial harassment. As one of only a few Asian Americans in her Kentucky school district and on her basketball team, she suffered most of the harassment in isolation, until she and her family came to AALDEF. "It has been a constant part of my life on the team and in school," said 14-year-old Milena.



AALDEF filed complaints urging an investigation of these incidents of racial harassment. "School officials have an obligation to stop harassment once they're notified of it," said AALDEF staff attorney Thomas Mariadason. Milena and her family also spoke to ESPN.com and other media, drawing attention to the hidden issue of bullying. This fall, the U.S. Department of Education agreed to investigate the lack of school response to Milena's bullying.

Survey: 50% of NYC Asian Students Report Bullying

A new report by AALDEF and The Sikh Coalition reveals that 50% of the Asian American students we surveyed in NYC public schools said they had been bullied. Less than half of the bullying victims surveyed reported that their school met NYC's requirement of parental notification of bullying incidents.



"We must renew our commitment to preventing bias-based harassment from threatening the education of Asian American students," said Khin Mai Aung, Director of AALDEF's Educational Equity Program. AALDEF and The Sikh Coalition have surveyed city students to evaluate Chancellor's Regulation A-832, NYC's 2008 bias-based harassment measure, since it was implemented five ago as a response to several high-profile harassment incidents of Sikh students.

New Orleans Families Unite for Language Services

In New Orleans school districts, limited English proficient students and their families have been underserved, damaging their quality of education and putting them at a huge disadvantage to attaining success in their schools. In August, AALDEF and the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association (VAYLA) announced their new complaints to the

Departments of Justice and Education on behalf of limited English proficient students and their parents in New Orleans schools. A new federal investigation has been opened.

Housing and Environmental Justice

Are Chinatowns Disappearing?

For more than a century, Chinatowns have been home to thriving low-income immigrant communities. But Chinatowns on the East Coast are on the verge of disappearing. Census data show that white populations are increasing faster in the three largest East Coast Chinatowns than they are in the overall cities in which they are located. Chinatown's Asian American communities are vanishing in the face of luxury development.



"The gentrification that threatens to transform these areas is not just the natural result of market forces but has been accelerated by city government policies," said AALDEF staff attorney Bethany Li. In the first-ever study of its kind, AALDEF embarked on a three-city land use study of Chinatowns in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. Our new findings show how city governments are the hand behind areas of accelerated gentrification. AALDEF held a webinar with community organizers in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York to forge strategies on how to protect Chinatown residents and small businesses in the future.

Post 9/11 Civil Liberties

Victory in New Jersey Banned Mosque Case

A New Jersey federal judge ruled that our client, Al Falah Center, can present its plans for a mosque and Muslim community center in Bridgewater Township. After the Al Falah Center announced its intention to renovate an existing building into a mosque and 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, challenged the zoning law. In October, the judge ruled that Bridgewater Township could not enforce the discriminatory ordinance. "The Court's decision demonstrates that the prejudice against Muslims continues to influence the decisions of politicians in Bridgewater and across the nation," said AALDEF Legal Director Ken Kimerling.

Immigrants' Rights

Youth Group Launches *Raise Our Story*

In May, AALDEF's undocumented youth group RAISE (Revolutionizing Asian American Immigrant Stories on the East Coast) launched *Raise Our Story*, a social media project for sharing the stories of RAISE members and other undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children. "Growing up Asian and undocumented, I was constantly searching for people who could identify with the unique struggles I faced," said



Hong Mei Pang, 24, an AALDEF community organizer. RAISE members born in Singapore, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Peru recounted their experiences struggling to pay for higher education, hiding their status from their peers, finding their rights limited as low-wage industry workers, and grappling with the sacrifices made by their parents. Long-form versions of *Raise Our Story* profiles were also featured in the *Huffington Post*. In October, TIME.com named *Raise Our Story* one of the Top 30 Tumblrs of 2013, calling it "equal parts poignant and touching."

RAISE members also bought attention to the struggles of undocumented Asian American youth in a theater production, *#UndocuAsians*, which debuted last summer to a packed audience at The Culture Project. As one audience member tweeted: "Brilliant *#UndocuAsians* storytellers made us laugh & made us cry. They helped us feel human. Let's return the favor."

As immigration reform remains a major item on the legislative docket, AALDEF and RAISE are playing a key role in highlighting the concerns of undocumented Asian Americans, who have often been overlooked in the immigration reform debate. AALDEF attorneys Bethany Li and Stan Mark have been staffing free legal clinics to secure immigration relief for Asian youth under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

Anti-Trafficking

Signal International Traffickers Hit With New Lawsuits

New lawsuits have been filed against Signal International LLC, accusing the shipbuilder and its network of recruiters and labor brokers of trafficking 500 Indian guest workers to the United States and forcing them to work under barbaric conditions. AALDEF, with co-counsel Southern Poverty Law Center, the ACLU, and other law firms and civil rights groups, has been representing the workers, who were forced to live in overcrowded, unsanitary, and racially segregated labor camps. In May, three law firms filed lawsuits on behalf of 83 guest workers, and in August, five more lawsuits were filed. "The terrible ordeal of these Indian guest workers shows the urgent need for new worker protections in our immigration laws," said Ivy Suriyopas, Director of AALDEF's Anti-Trafficking Initiative.

Economic Justice

Domestic Worker Settles Case for \$63,000

In June, "Susan," a domestic worker represented by AALDEF, settled her labor claims against her former employers, a couple in New York state, for \$63,750. Through AALDEF, Susan made a demand for wages from her employers, alleging violations of minimum wage, overtime, and unpaid wages, as well as additional protections under the New York State Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. "Without full enforcement of their labor rights, domestic workers remain vulnerable to overwork and injury while performing some of the most important work in our economy," said former AALDEF Skadden Fellow Shirley Lin.

Voting Rights

Taking Back the Voting Rights Act

The Voting Rights Act is still alive! This landmark civil rights law was dealt a blow in June when the U.S. Supreme Court weakened the Justice Department's authority to stop discriminatory voting practices before they take effect. The VRA has been used to secure bilingual ballots, challenge discriminatory redistricting plans, and prevent poll site changes affecting Asian American voters. AALDEF Executive Director Margaret Fung was among the civil rights leaders who met with President Obama at the White House last July to discuss the need for VRA enforcement. "We are encouraged that the President underscored the importance of the Voting Rights Act for Asian American voters," said Margaret Fung.



In July, AALDEF filed a federal voting rights lawsuit against the NYC Board of Elections based on its failure to provide Bengali ballots and assistance to South Asian voters in Queens County. In August, on the 50th anniversary of the historic March on Washington, AALDEF joined voting rights advocates in Washington, DC to renew the call for civil rights, economic freedom, and equal opportunity for all. Days after this anniversary, AALDEF and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association-PA filed an *amicus* brief challenging Pennsylvania's voter ID law that discriminates against Asian Americans.

AALDEF Volunteers are Election Day Watchdogs

On November 5, AALDEF sent over 300 attorneys, law students, and community volunteers to monitor the gubernatorial elections in Virginia and New Jersey and the New York City mayoral elections. "Reports of voting violations in states with such large Asian American populations are unacceptable," said Glenn D. Magpantay, Director of AALDEF's Democracy Program. AALDEF also conducted a nonpartisan multilingual exit poll of almost 2,300 Asian American voters in six languages to get a snapshot of Asian American voting preferences. Thanks to all of our volunteers and community partners for their tireless efforts in protecting the vote!

Marriage Equality

Same-Sex Marriage Legalized in New Jersey

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act and ruled that the ban on federal benefits for LGBT couples is unconstitutional. AALDEF joined the ACLU of New Jersey and several civil rights groups in an *amicus* brief in *Garden State Equality v. Dow*, calling on the state to recognize same-sex marriages. "By supporting marriage equality, we are standing up for the equal treatment under law of all Americans," said Legal Director Ken Kimerling. After Governor Christie's request to delay a positive lower court ruling was rejected, he abandoned the state's appeal to the Supreme Court, allowing same-sex marriages to begin in October.