

**STANDING  
TOGETHER**  
*for*  
**RACIAL  
JUSTICE**

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ANNUAL  REPORT



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER



Photo by Andrew Seng

Her words especially rang true in 2014 – a year in which we continued to see attacks on voting rights ahead of the 2014 Midterms, sustained efforts by Congress to cut funding for the U.S. Census and critical data collection, police brutality against communities of color and continued efforts to deny immigrants basic human rights. These challenges do not impact just one community but were felt across all communities of color.

That’s one of the reasons the 6th Annual Advancing Justice Conference was aptly themed “Standing Together for Racial Justice.” Our fight to achieve equality cannot be, and should not be, conducted in ethnic silos.

We owe it to the collective to stand together, and to do more to represent the multi-racial community we are all a part of. Every day we partner with our civil rights allies, as we work toward the same goal of equality and justice for all.

For those of you who have supported our work through the years, thank you. If you have not yet had a chance to give to Advancing Justice | AAJC, we invite you to browse through this report and consider making a contribution today. Together, we will move forward in solidarity.

With gratitude,

**Mee Moua**, President and Executive Director  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

In 2014, we lost our great human rights leader, the legendary Yuri Kochiyama, who dedicated her life to social justice campaigns, including protests against the Vietnam War, detention of political prisoners and the fight for reparations for World War II internees.

Kochiyama was also well known in the 1960s for her work with Malcolm X and the Black Panther movement. She served as a bridge builder between the African American and Asian American communities, warning against polarization of the Asian American community from the rest of the racial justice movement.

She once said, when asked about how we must move forward in the fight for equal rights: “I think today part of the mission would be to fight against racism and polarization, learn from each other’s struggle, but also understand national liberation struggles – that ethnic groups need their own space and they need their own leaders. They need their own privacy. But there are enough issues that we could all work together on.”

# WHO WE ARE

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. We fight for civil and human rights for all Americans and empower Asian Americans to participate in our democracy. Through advocacy and policy, capacity building and public education, and litigation, we advocate for an America in which all Americans are able to equally benefit from, and contribute to, the American dream.

In addition to our work in Washington, Advancing Justice | AAJC builds partnerships with local and state-based Asian American organizations nationwide. Through our Community Partners Network, we are able to lift up the voices of our community and engage grassroots leaders to make lasting policy change.

Advancing Justice | AAJC is part of the Advancing Justice affiliation, which also includes: Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), Advancing Justice – Atlanta, Advancing Justice – Chicago and Advancing Justice – Los Angeles.



For two decades, I have supported Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC in various ways, both in my professional and personal capacities, for one simple reason: we need Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC! While there are many wonderful organizations around the country that work diligently to improve the lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), there is only one with the expertise and credibility, scale of resources, research and advocacy skills, and the passion and motivation necessary to represent the interests of all of our fast growing communities. As long as AAPIs encounter civil rights and discriminatory policy challenges, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC must continue to fight for us in Washington.

— **Mark Keam**, National Advisory Council and Senior Advisor, Verizon Strategic Affairs

# BUILDING A GENERATION OF NEW ADVOCATES

Advancing Justice | AAJC held its inaugural Youth Leadership Summit in 2014, bringing diverse college students from across the country to Washington, D.C., to learn how to advocate for racial justice and civil rights. After three days of intensive training, which culminated in legislative visits with members of Congress, the students took what they learned home and put their new organizing and advocacy skills to use in their own communities.



## 2014 YOUTH SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Summit participants were eligible for a \$200 project stipend to support a community project. Student leaders chose to use the funds for a variety of activities, including running clinics that offered pro bono legal counsel for high school students seeking to apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

## STORY

### *“A chance to tell my story” Jes Phillip reflects on the 2014 Youth Summit*

One of my favorite moments of the youth summit was visiting Capitol Hill, where I finally got a chance to tell my story. As the senators listened, I shared with them my experiences as the “unknown Micronesian student” in almost every college campus I’ve been on. I also shared my story of being forced to show my green card, in order to be granted admission, regardless of my grades.

After the summit, I had the privilege of organizing a youth meeting for a small group of Micronesian youth in the Pacific Northwest to discuss the importance of higher education in our communities. I invited guest speakers to join me in giving words of wisdom. We encouraged the youth to pursue levels of higher education, talked about the steps of attending college and how to apply for scholarships, and offered the necessary tools they should have before going to college. It was a wonderful experience, and stemmed from my experience in Washington.

# STRENGTHENING ROOTS

Nearly two-thirds of Asian Americans are foreign born, and as the fastest-growing racial group in the nation, our community is deeply impacted by our broken immigration system. Through our leadership on the Asian American Immigration Table, Family Immigration Coalition and National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), Advancing Justice | AAJC consistently advocates for fair and humane immigration policies including reforming our current family-based system so that families aren’t separated for decades.



## FASTING FOR FAMILIES

In April, Advancing Justice | AAJC immigration staff joined 97 other women, including a dozen Asian American and Pacific Islander women, in a 48-hour all-women fast for immigration reform on the National Mall, organized by We Belong Together. During the two-day event, Mee Moua had the privilege of tying red “blessing strings” on the wrists of each guest, including White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, U.S. Representative Luis Gutiérrez and several other members of Congress.

## ACT BOLD. ACT NOW.

Throughout 2014, Advancing Justice | AAJC continued to elevate the Asian American voice on immigration. Mee Moua was privileged to represent the Asian American and Pacific Islander community with a seat at the table with President Barack Obama. While our organization supports the broader national immigration coalition’s requests on immigration, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has unique asks of the president – such as fixing the visa backlog – which we saw reflected in the president’s final package of executive actions announced in November.

## IMMIGRANT RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTED DURING ADVANCING JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) León Rodríguez highlighted the impact of current and future immigration policies on Asian American and Pacific Islander communities as a keynote speaker for the Advancing Justice Conference. Staff from USCIS also hosted a Q&A session about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), educating about how to apply and how to encourage other Asian American and Pacific Islanders to apply.

# FIGHTING FOR EQUAL PROTECTION

When all else fails, advocates must rely on the courts to secure and uphold equal legal protections. Through our friend-of-the-court briefs and litigation program, Advancing Justice | AAJC has built and strengthened our relationship with the broader racial and social justice movement, advancing equal protections for all Americans on a wide range of issues including health care, education, reproductive rights, immigrant rights, criminal justice and racial justice.



## RALLYING AT THE HIGH COURT

In 2014, Advancing Justice | AAJC filed friend-of-the-court briefs in 18 cases in federal courts. This includes the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, in which for-profit companies succeeded in denying female employees access to affordable contraceptive coverage. Here, Advancing Justice | AAJC staffers rallied outside the U.S. Supreme Court before the justices heard oral arguments in March.

## STORY

### ***Our impact on affirmative action and equal opportunity programs***

The July 2014 decision by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* highlights Advancing Justice | AAJC's impact on critical legal issues affecting Asian Americans. Our organization filed friend-of-the-court briefs in every aspect of this case, supporting the University of Texas's policy that considered race in its admissions process. The U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion in this case in 2012, and then sent the case back to the Louisiana-based federal appeals court to re-consider under the high court's new standards. The 5th Circuit ruled in the university's favor, upholding the race-conscious admissions policy. This was a victory for Asian Americans, who are a vastly diverse community that benefits from affirmative action and equal opportunity programs. Because of our advocacy, Asian Americans were able to stand firmly with the larger racial justice movement to achieve this victory for increased diversity in higher education.

# GROWING OUR POLITICAL POWER

Voting discrimination, language barriers, lack of access to voter resources and unfamiliarity with the voting process and political candidates have all contributed to lower levels of civic engagement in the Asian American community. Advancing Justice | AAJC is working to overcome these challenges so Asian Americans can achieve full potential political power and influence the future direction of our nation.

## REDUCING LANGUAGE BARRIERS AT THE POLLS

Roughly one in two Asian American adults have difficulty speaking English. Advancing Justice | AAJC released a report before the 2014 Midterm Elections, educating about Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, which says that voters who have trouble reading and/or writing English can bring someone of their choice to help them in the voting booth. During the 2014 Midterm, Advancing Justice | AAJC and our partner APIAVote ran a National Asian Language Election Protection Hotline to make sure that voters know their rights at the polls. Hotline volunteers were available to assist voters live in Bengali/Bangla, Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Our Community Partners passed out more than 10,000 Election Protection Hotline cards, and we advertised the hotline in ethnic media.



## CLOSING THE GAP LEFT BY *SHELBY COUNTY v. HOLDER*

Since the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in 2013, Advancing Justice | AAJC has worked to identify legislative strategies to repair the high court's damage to voting rights protections. Here, Mee Moua reinforced our stake in the voting rights debate at the Rally for Voting Rights: Fix *Shelby County v. Holder*, held in June.

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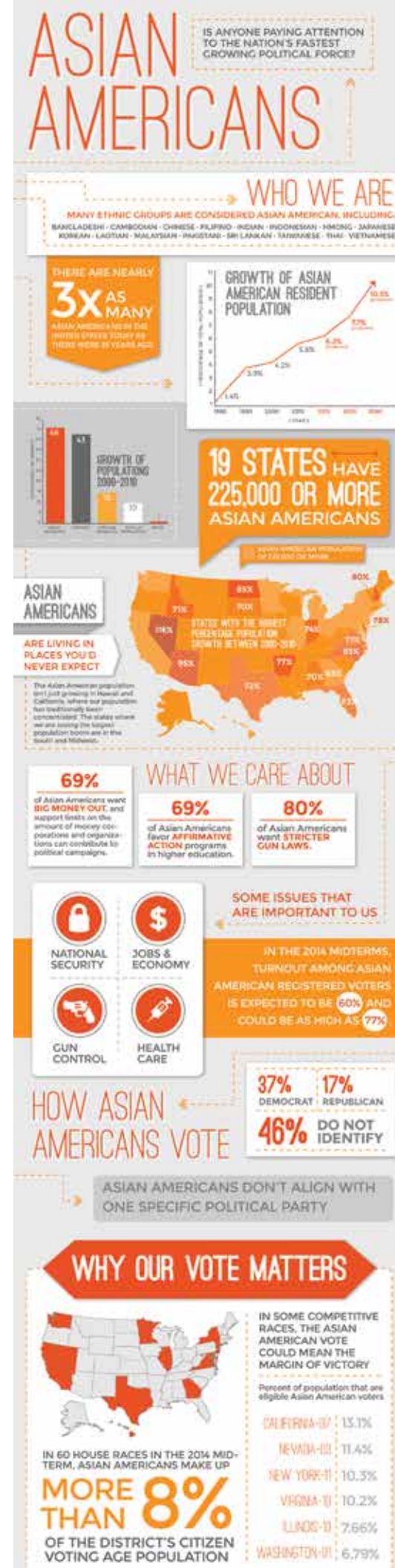
**BEFORE THE ELECTION  
10,000  
PROTECTION HOTLINE  
CARDS WERE PASSED OUT**

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## THE NATION'S FASTEST-GROWING POLITICAL FORCE

Before the 2014 Midterms, Advancing Justice | AAJC released the APIAVote and Advancing Justice | AAJC 2014 Voter Survey, which revealed the political attitudes of more than 1,300 Asian American registered voters in advance of the 2014 Midterms. The story of the growing political importance of the Asian American voter was picked up by dozens of press outlets, putting pressure on candidates to seriously court Asian American voters and pay attention to the issues we care about.

## THE STORY OF THE GROWING POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN VOTER WAS PICKED UP BY DOZENS OF PRESS OUTLETS, PUTTING PRESSURE ON CANDIDATES TO SERIOUSLY COURT ASIAN AMERICAN VOTERS



## STORY

### Booming in the South: Report highlights demographic shift in U.S. South

Asian Americans Advancing Justice released in September a new demographic report, A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the South. The report highlighted the demographic shift in the U.S. South, where the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) population has grown nearly 70 percent between 2000 and 2010. The numbers make it clear that Asian Americans and NHPIs are by far the fastest growing racial groups in the South, even outpacing the growth of Latinos.

Advancing Justice released the report to the public and the press at its annual Advancing Justice Conference, with the message that our communities will be a driving force in the South's economy and will provide the margin of victory in future elections. Later, our Community Partners in Washington, D.C., Houston, Atlanta and Miami joined with Advancing Justice | AAJC to host local launch events through October to introduce the report to local stakeholders, including elected officials, government representatives and community leaders, with the hope that these influencers will begin to invest in our rapidly growing community.

### MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF DATA IN THE U.S. CENSUS

Advancing Justice | AAJC joined with our partners to write and publish the report, Race and Ethnicity in the 2020 Census: Improving Data to Capture a Multiethnic America in November. In the course of our country's history, census data has helped spur the passage of seminal civil rights protections because it objectively illuminates unequal opportunity and unequal access. The collection of accurate, comprehensive race and ethnicity data in the census is central to implementing, monitoring and evaluating a vast range of civil rights laws and policies, from fair political representation and voting reforms, to equal opportunity and access across all economic and social sectors of society, including housing, education, health care and the job market. Advancing Justice | AAJC continues to work with the larger racial justice movement to ensure the U.S. Census Bureau collects and publishes as detailed data as possible about Asian American and Pacific Islanders communities.



The Atlanta launch and the dissemination of the Southern demographic report have really helped us share our story and more effectively reach decision makers in our communities. We have shared with and have received a number of requests for the Southern demographic reports from legislators, government officials, community leaders, community members and members of the business sector. We are extremely excited for the many discussions that are happening as a result of this valuable set of data and recommendations.

— **Chaiwon Kim**, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services based in Atlanta, Georgia

# ADVANCING JUSTICE CONFERENCE “STANDING TOGETHER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE”

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The 6th Annual Advancing Justice Conference, “Standing Together for Racial Justice,” was held in Washington, D.C., September 25–26. The Advancing Justice Conference is the largest national conference focusing on civil and social justice issues impacting Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Nearly 450 advocates and activists traveled to Washington, D.C., for the conference.



Mee Moua shakes hands with Advancing Justice Conference keynote speaker, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro. Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services León Rodríguez delivered the conference’s second keynote address.



Khin Mai Aung, formerly the director of the Educational Equity Program at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), spoke on the panel, “Access and Equity in Higher Education: Finding Common Ground.” The Advancing Justice Conference included three plenary sessions, 33 workshops, seven planned caucus sessions, a data expo and a government expo.

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**450** ADVOCATES AND ACTIVISTS TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR THE CONFERENCE

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### YOUR GENEROSITY IS WHAT MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Thanks to you, we have achieved great success on behalf of Asian American families and communities across the country. But we cannot stop here – there is still a long way to go and we need your help. To make a gift in support of our work, please visit our website at [www.advancingjustice-aajc.org](http://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org) and click “donate.” If you prefer to make a gift with your credit card by phone, please contact our development office at 202-296-2300 ext. 119.



In a democracy like ours, it is imperative that Asian Americans have a seat at the table. Advancing Justice | AAJC has hit the national scene on important issues, but with more backing and resources, Advancing Justice | AAJC’s impact when advocating for the rights and concerns of the Asian American community can be strengthened. The matching grant from the [Wallace H.] Coulter Foundation has made it possible to now double every dollar given. For these reasons, I have contributed to support the vision, the efforts and the goals of Advancing Justice | AAJC so our seat at the table is forever visible and strong.

— Sandy Sakamoto, Board of Directors and Partner at Lim, Ruger and Kim

### SELFIE FOR A GOOD CAUSE 18TH ANNUAL AMERICAN COURAGE AWARDS

Virginia Delegate and Advancing Justice | AAJC National Advisory Council Member Mark Keam and actor Parvesh Cheena take a selfie at the 18th Annual American Courage Awards, which were held on October 2 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. This year, we were pleased to honor the director and producers of Linsanity – Evan Jackson Leong, Christopher Chen, Allen Lu and Brian Yang – for their work to break down stereotypes; MSNBC Anchor Richard Lui, for his dedication to helping others in need; and Time Warner Cable for its commitment to diversity. It was an exciting evening featuring Cheena as our master of ceremonies, and our first-ever live auction. Board Chair Paul W. Lee and Partners Advancing Justice Capital Campaign Chairman Harsha Murthy also announced the incredible success of our \$2 million match campaign. Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who made this special event possible.



# 2014 DONORS

Advancing Justice | AAJC is wholly supported by contributed funds and is governed by a voluntary board of directors. Through the generosity of an unprecedented challenge grant and the Partners Advancing Justice Capital Campaign, all new gifts made to Advancing Justice | AAJC were matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Advancing Justice | AAJC gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following foundations, corporations, nonprofits, individual and governmental organizations. If there is an error or omission, please allow us to correct it by calling (202) 296-2300 ext. 119.

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	UNRESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Grants and contributions	\$ 204,485	\$ 204,485		\$3,718,901	\$3,473,471
In kind gifts (Note 9)	2,002,503	2,002,503	\$ 500,000	2,002,503	-
Investment income (Note 2)	2,063	2,063	-	2,063	1,220
Special event	680,694	680,694	-	680,694	443,995
Rental income (Note 7)	30,929	30,929	-	30,929	30,661
Other income	7,806	7,806	-	7,806	13,129
Net assets released from donor restrictions (Note 5)	2,343,792	2,343,792	-	-	-
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>5,272,272</b>	<b>5,272,272</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>6,442,896</b>	<b>3,962,476</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>					
Affirmative Action	-	-	-	-	5,719
Anti Asian Violence and Race Relations	11,663	11,663	-	11,663	22,964
Broadband	86,525	86,525	-	86,525	115,015
Census	182,342	182,342	-	182,342	114,988
Community Partners	3,329,269	3,329,269	-	3,329,269	1,309,171
Immigration and Immigrant Rights	260,658	260,658	-	260,658	632,524
Litigation	165,229	165,229	-	165,229	91,510
Lobbying	9,838	9,838	-	9,838	125,454
Strategic Planning	158,421	158,421	-	158,421	123,456
Television Diversity	2,227	2,227	-	2,227	546
Voting Rights	409,859	409,859	-	409,859	461,014
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>4,616,031</b>	<b>4,616,031</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,616,031</b>	<b>3,002,361</b>
<b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>					
Management and General	110,928	110,928		110,928	50,129
Fundraising	471,794	471,794	-	471,794	486,412
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>582,722</b>	<b>582,722</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>582,722</b>	<b>536,541</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>5,198,753</b>	<b>5,198,753</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,198,753</b>	<b>3,538,902</b>
Change in net assets	73,519	73,519	500,000	1,244,143	423,574
Net assets at beginning of year	873,615	873,615		5,578,538	5,154,964
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 947,134</b>	<b>\$ 947,134</b>	<b>\$ 532,315</b>	<b>\$6,822,681</b>	<b>\$ 5,578,538</b>





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