

## 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](http://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*, *Spo-kane 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.

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## *Organizations*

The mission of the **Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC)** is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact Asian Pacific Americans and to create a more equitable and harmonious society.

APALC was founded in 1983 with broad community based support and is now the largest organization in the country focused on meeting the legal needs of one of the nation's fastest growing populations. APALC serves more than 15,000 individuals and organizations each year through direct services, community education, training, and technical assistance.

APALC 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, APALC draws on four strategies: direct legal services; impact litigation; policy analysis and advocacy; and leadership development.

As a direct legal services provider, APALC serves the diverse APA communities with intake, legal counseling, education, and representation in poverty law areas such as family law and domestic violence, consumer rights, immigration, and housing. Through its staff and volunteers, it has the capacity to facilitate numerous languages including Korean, Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Khmer, Indonesian, and Vietnamese, along with English and Spanish. APALC 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 APAs who are in need of legal assistance.

At the same time, as a civil rights advocacy organization APALC 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, APALC 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, APALC, 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. APALC continues to use a grassroots model of litigation that includes casework, outreach, education, and policy advocacy, to empower garment workers to engage in a broader movement for social justice.

Finally, APALC'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 garment workers' rights, hate crimes prevention, and coalition building within the API community. In all of these areas, APALC 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.

APALC is affiliated with the Asian American Justice Center.

For more information, please visit the official APALC website: <http://www.apalc.org> or call: 213-977-7500.

The **UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC)** is one of four ethnic studies centers at the University of California, Los Angeles. Established in 1969, the Center is recognized as the premier research, publications, and teaching program in the field of Asian American Studies. Together with the department of Asian American Studies, UCLA has the largest undergraduate and graduate program in Asian American Studies in the nation with faculty from all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Its renowned Press publishes the *Amerasia Journal* and *AAPI Nexus*.

#### PROGRAMS

Research

Curriculum Development

UCLA Asian American Studies Press

Library and Archives

Leadership Training

New Media and Technology

EthnoCommunications

U.S./China Media and Communications Program

Community Partners

Public Programming

Director: Don T. Nakanishi

For more information: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/> or call: 310-825-2974.

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## *Acknowledgements*

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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.