45th Anniversary Celebration

SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
PIER SIXTY, Chelsea Piers in New York City

2019 Justice in Action Award recipients

Vanita Gupta
President and CEO,
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Michael C. Wu
Senior VP, General Counsel, and Secretary, Carter’s Inc.

To become a dinner sponsor or to buy tickets, contact events@aaldef.org.
AALDEF continues to challenge the administration’s threats to eliminate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a move that would endanger the future of nearly one million young people and their families. Community organizer Stephanie Park has conducted several educational workshops, while Annie Wang, director of AALDEF’s Immigrant Justice Project, has provided direct legal assistance to DACA youth seeking to renew their status.

In September, AALDEF criticized the announcement by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) of a proposed “public charge” rule that could deny permanent resident status to immigrants who use government services, such as nutrition programs and housing assistance. Under the new rule, immigration officers would consider age, health, and employability in deciding whether to issue green cards. AALDEF denounced the proposed changes, which threaten working families and children’s health.
As more than 31% of new green card holders are from Asian countries, the rule would have a disproportionately adverse impact on Asian American families.

AALDEF will continue to protect the rights of immigrants and refugees and advocate for immigration policies based on human rights principles.

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

The New York County Lawyers Association recognized AALDEF legal director Ken Kimerling in September with its 2018 Public Service Award. During his 21-year tenure at AALDEF, Ken brought the first-ever wage theft cases on behalf of Asian immigrant take-out delivery workers and won millions of dollars in back wages and overtime pay for low-wage workers in the restaurant, garment, hotel, and domestic service industries.

Earlier this year, AALDEF won its case against a Korean restaurant owner, who transferred his property to family members in order to avoid paying a $2.67 million judgment to his workers. We succeeded in setting aside these fraudulent conveyances so that the workers will be able to collect on their wage theft judgment.
In September, Audrey Winn joined AALDEF as a Skadden Fellow. She is representing Asian immigrant workers in a project to build economic justice and access to legal services for workers in the New York City "gig economy."

DEMOCRACY AND VOTING RIGHTS

AALDEF’s multilingual Asian American Exit Poll provides a unique snapshot of Asian American voters on Election Day. This year’s exit poll of more than 8,000 Asian American voters in 14 states offers valuable information about Asian American voter preferences that are often overlooked in mainstream media polls.

Preliminary exit poll results revealed strong Asian American support for Democratic candidates in Senate races in Nevada, Florida, and Texas and also gubernatorial races in Florida, Georgia, and Michigan.

Voter turnout was high across the country. In a dramatic shift, Democrats took control of the U.S. House of Representatives, while Republicans picked up
seats and maintained control of the U.S. Senate. Check AALDEF's website for the release of more detailed exit poll results, including top issues of concern to Asian American voters and the need for language assistance at the polls.

Following the elections, AALDEF will focus on measures to ensure an accurate population count in the 2020 Census, including removal of a citizenship question that would deter participation by immigrants and communities of color. We will also be working in multiracial coalitions to develop new redistricting plans—Unity Maps—that increase political representation for communities of color.

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

In August, AALDEF and 34 Asian American groups and higher education faculty filed an amicus brief in support of race-conscious admissions in a lawsuit alleging that Harvard University discriminated against Asian American applicants. In our brief, we contend that by improperly grouping the diverse pool of Asian American applicants into a single "Asian" category, the plaintiff actually
perpetuates the “model minority” myth and fails to disclose that its requested remedy—eliminating affirmative action—would mostly benefit white applicants, not Asian Americans. In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed in *Fisher v. UT-Austin* that race may be considered as one of several factors in the admissions process. After a three-week trial in October, the federal district court in Boston is expected to issue its decision soon. Foley Hoag LLP is pro bono co-counsel.

**ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY**

On June 11, nearly 400 people gathered at Rumi to support AALDEF and its efforts to protect the rights of immigrants and the Asian American community. Summer Event Committee members supported our summer party and helped raise funds for our free legal advice clinics, grassroots outreach, and community education.
JOIN THE ADVOCATES CIRCLE

Your support can sustain our work year-round to protect the Asian American community. Advocates Circle donors receive special opportunities to learn about AALDEF’s work through roundtable events with staff attorneys, meetings with program directors, latest updates on our progress, and invitations to Advocates Circle events. Contact our development department at (212) 966-5932 ext. 205 or email info@aaldef.org.

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2019
45 YEARS OF RIGHTING WRONGS

SUPPORT AALDEF TODAY!

AALDEF (EIN: 13-2855641) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please contact us if you have questions about how your gift can make an impact at (212) 966-5932 ext. 208 or by email at donate@aaldef.org.
ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND

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.

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