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**ASIAN AMERICAN
INSTITUTE**



MEMBER OF
ASIAN AMERICAN CENTER
FOR ADVANCING JUSTICE

Asian American Institute Newsletter

January 2011

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Dear Asian American Institute,

We are excited to start a new year with you!

We will begin with an update on AAI's work in the community. It's been a busy 3 months with turning out votes for the November 2010 House of Representative elections, hosting an Asian American policy briefing for legislators, policymakers, and community-based organizations, testifying before the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee in support of the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011, responding to Meeks' comment on the Asian American community, and preparing for the upcoming Mayoral Candidates' Forum.

Join us on Tuesday, February 8th at St. Augustine Hall for the Mayoral Candidates' Forum Event to learn how mayoral candidates address issues most important to Asian Americans in Chicago.

We would also like to thank all of you who supported the DREAM Act and those of you who have donated to our Annual Campaign. If you haven't already, here's your chance to [donate today!](#)

Thank you,

Tuyet Le
Executive Director

Mayoral Candidates' Forum

OUR VOTE, OUR POWER



**PAN ASIAN VOTER
EMPOWERMENT**
ASIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
6:30pm - 8:00pm
(Doors open at 6:00pm)

St. Augustine Hall (1345 W. Argyle Street)
(Free Parking available at St. Augustine College)
(Buses available through partner organizations)

This February, Asian Americans in Chicago will head to the

Legal Advocacy News

**AAI ADVOCATES FOR ASIAN AMERICAN VOTING
RIGHTS**



**AAI Supports SB 3976, Illinois Voting Rights Act of
2011**

polls to choose a new mayor. Through our Pan Asian Voter Empowerment (PAVE) campaign of 11 partner organizations, we have the opportunity to ensure the next mayor takes Asian American issues seriously, both in rhetoric and action.

To do that, we need to show our collective power and strength as a community. We urge Asian Americans to gather and show our strength by hearing how mayoral candidates address issues most important to Asian Americans in Chicago. Our PAVE campaign is the only campaign in Chicago to hold a forum and increase Asian American voter visibility through our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort.

Be a part of this unique Asian American effort to combine civic outreach with voter turnout for the February 2011 municipal elections.

Want to volunteer? We need help setting up and tearing down the event! For more information contact Alisha Saville at 773-271-0899 x254 or alisha@aaichicago.org and James Pappachen at 773-655-3081 or jpappac@gmail.com.

Asian Americans in Chicago -- Represent!
[View Mayoral Candidates' Forum Flyer](#)

SAVE THE DATE! Milestone Awards Benefit, April 28th

Save the Date! The Asian American Institute's 19th Annual Milestone Awards Benefit Dinner is coming up on Thursday, April 28th, 2011. We will be holding the event at the Mid-America Club, 200 E. Randolph Street, 80th Floor, in Chicago.

The event begins with a VIP reception at 5:00pm, registration and a reception at 6:00 followed by dinner and the program at 7:00.

Tickets will go on sale in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please contact Jean Fujiu for more information or for sponsorship opportunities: (773) 271-0899 ext. 210 or jean@aaichicago.org.

We hope to see you on April 28th!

[View our corporate sponsorship opportunities](#)

Thank you to our early sponsors:
[Southwest Airlines](#)
[Exelon](#)
[ABC-7](#)

AAI in the News

Asian Americans Outraged by Meeks' Comment



Asian American Institute was outraged at a comment made by State Senator and former mayoral candidate James Meeks stating that Asian Americans, Hispanics, and women do not face discrimination in Chicago. For more information, please read AAI's [press release](#) and [op-ed](#), as well as this [Chicago Tribune article](#).

Farewell and Welcome to AAI Staff

AAI testified before the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee in support of SB 3976, The Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011.... [Read More](#)

Civil Rights Organizations Issue Joint Statement on Reapportionment Data

Asian American Institute and other members of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice -- along with other civil rights and civic engagement organizations -- recently issued a statement regarding reapportionment and redistricting data, explaining that the focus should be not be on partisanship but, rather, on people and communities.... [Read More](#)

Asian American Voters Faced Difficulties at Polls on November 2

During the elections on November 2, 2010, Asian American Institute and Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community monitored several polling sites across the West Ridge and Chinatown areas of Chicago, reporting multiple language access barriers.... [Read More](#)

AAI Presents at NAPABA Convention in Los Angeles

AAI's Legal Director, Ami Gandhi, spoke at seminars regarding redistricting and public interest legal work at the National Asian Pacific Bar Association annual convention in Los Angeles, California in November of 2010.... [Read More](#)

AAI ADVOCATES FOR ASIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS OWNERS

AAI Wants To Hear Your Stories!

As part of our affirmative action advocacy efforts, AAI has been collecting stories from Asian American business owners about discrimination that they have faced.... [Read More](#)

HACIA Offers Free Minority Contractor Training Program

Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA), in partnership with IDOT, DCEO, and IWE, is proud to present the new Minority Contractor Training Program....[Read More](#)

Call for Nominations for SBA Council on Underserved Communities

The United States Small Business Administration is accepting nominations through January 31, 2011 for its newly formed Council on Underserved Communities.... [Read More](#)

Save the Date: Forum on April 7

Mark your calendar for "Asian American Disabilities Forum: Accessibility, Employment and Workforce Integration" on April 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Access Living, 115 W. Chicago Ave....[Read More](#)

Community Organizing News

AAI POLICY BRIEFING

On November 15, 2010, AAI hosted an Asian American policy briefing for legislators, policymakers, and community-based organizations. The event was

Goodbye to Samir Goswami

Samir Goswami has been the Policy Director at AAI since November 2010. In his time here, he has made a positive impact on our community. The Asian American Institute wishes him the best at Lexis Nexis in Washington D.C.

Welcome Elaine Disbro

Elaine Disbro is the Development Intern at the Asian American Institute (AAI). As Development Intern, she is working to expand AAI's fundraising efforts and assist with the planning and coordination of development projects....[Read More](#)

Get to know the other members of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

ASIAN AMERICAN JUSTICE CENTER (AAJC)

AAJC Connects their Community through the Digital Connectors Program



Access to broadband internet services is increasingly essential for accessing government information and benefits, applying for jobs, receiving an education, and participating in civic and social engagement. In particular, broadband internet has the ability to empower and provide critical in-language information and services to limited English proficient Asian Americans.... [Read More](#)

ASIAN LAW CAUCUS (ALC)

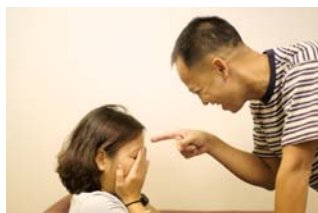
In Defense of His Education: Sophea Keo



When Sophea Keo and his family came to ALC, they were on the brink of deportation and facing an uncertain future. Born in Cambodia, Sophea Keo moved to San Francisco in 2002 with his family, soon after his mother remarried a U.S. citizen....[Read More](#)

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER (APALC)

APALC Provides Domestic Violence Legal Services to their Community



Since the Asian Pacific American Legal Center's founding

well-attended and educated legislators about specific issues of concern to the Asian American community, including poverty, health care, and voting rights, and strengthened relationships between legislators and Asian American community leaders. Some legislators attending the event included Senators Susan Garrett, Kwame Raoul, and Heather Steans, Governor Pat Quinn, and Representatives Greg Harris and Harry Osterman. AAI plans to host additional policy briefings in 2011.

AAI GETS OUT THE VOTE



On November 2nd, the Asian American Institute conducted a massive voter turnout effort in Chicago's 50th Ward, located on the far north side of Chicago. It has the largest number of Asian Americans in any ward in the city. The ethnic groups include Indian, Korean, Filipino, Pakistani, Afghani, Vietnamese, and Chinese Americans. To help with our efforts on Election Day, 45 volunteers participated in a variety of activities including canvassing, phone banking, and poll monitoring. In all, the volunteers contributed 170 hours to the effort....[Read More](#)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE DREAM ACT

Over the past few months, the fight for the DREAM Act - a major aspect of immigration reform - has been inspiring. In the past few weeks, you have been dedicated to showing the elected officials you contacted what "civic engagement" means at its heart. Thank you for all your active support over the past year, and especially for contacting Senator Kirk and other Illinois congressional targets these past few weeks....[Read More](#)

Job Opportunities with AAI

AAI Seeks Full-Time Development Director

The Development Director will expand the scope and impact of AAI's fundraising efforts, and lead the development and implementation of marketing and communications strategies that meet programmatic, organizational, and national affiliates' goals. His/Her priorities are to increase new funding sources, expand current funding sources and sustain current fundraising efforts. [View detailed job description.](#)

AAI Seeks Full-Time / Part-Time Financial Manager

The Financial Manager will perform a variety of accounting activities related to the maintenance of the general ledger, including preparation of reconciliation and analysis in accordance with established accounting principles, policies and objectives. This position is responsible for month-end close and preparation of audit work papers. There may be an opportunity to share this position with another nonprofit organization. [View detailed job description.](#)

AAI Seeks Full-Time Policy Director

more than 27 years ago in Los Angeles, APALC's multilingual staff, pro bono attorneys, law clerks and interns have helped thousands of immigrant women and children break free of abusive relationships by helping them assert their legal rights.... [Read More](#)

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The Policy Director will be responsible for leading and managing strategic policy development and advocacy. This includes developing issue briefs on key policy issues, and educating legislators and policy makers. Some current issues include affirmative action, immigration, and voting rights. S/he will work as a team with staff members, affiliate organizations, and other collaborating organizations to formulate and implement strategies to further policy objectives. For additional information and application instructions, [View the detailed job description](#).

Double Your Impact with the Challenge Campaign!

**ASIAN AMERICAN
INSTITUTE**



MEMBER OF
ASIAN AMERICAN CENTER
FOR ADVANCING JUSTICE

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT



**by making a donation today to the
Asian American Institute.**

Your donation will go towards uniting the community with a stronger voice. If we speak as one, we can have a bigger impact on the issues that affect us all.

This year, a generous funder has offered us a Challenge Grant. For any new money raised in the next year, the donor will match your contribution 1:1 up to \$100,000. Help us reach our goal by making a donation today!

Please visit our website at www.aaichicago.org for more information and to make a donation.

The Asian American Institute is one of the leading pan-Asian nonprofit organizations in the Midwest, dedicated to empowering the Asian American community through advocacy, by utilizing research, education, and coalition-building. The Asian American Institute (www.aaichicago.org), Asian American Justice Center (www.advancingequality.org), Asian Law Caucus (www.asianlawcaucus.org), and Asian Pacific American Legal Center (www.apalc.org) are members of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice (www.advancingjustice.org), which is dedicated to defending and advancing the civil and human rights of Asian Americans both nationally and in local communities.

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