



2019

A N N U A L R E P O R T

44th Anniversary Celebration

Strength in Community

Friday, October 4, 2019

Welcome

Strength in Community

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping us gather strength in our community. The constant pounding from the bleak news of uncontrolled gun violence, the detention and separation of children and their families, unchecked violence against women, the absence of basic rights to shelter and food in the midst of growing wealth is taking its toll on us.

Just as we have in the past, we will stand together to support our immigrant communities. Just as those that have struggles in their daily lives have shown us the strength and determination to survive and thrive, we will follow their examples to continue to stand and resist. On this 50th Anniversary of Asian American Studies, let us take a moment to also draw strength from our common histories in our efforts to prevent the deterioration of civil rights, social justice, and equal opportunities.

For our 44th Anniversary, API Legal Outreach chose to celebrate Strength in Community. By recognizing our collective strength, we are celebrating our accomplishments but also our resilience, our ability to uplift one another, and our dedication to push for progressive change.

We have so much more work to do. Thank you for standing in solidarity with those facing injustices around you, whether it be those experiencing abuse at home or violence at the border. We remain united by compassion, culture, and history but we will only succeed if we all succeed together.

Your support and volunteerism have sustained us over these 44 years. Your encouragement has helped us through the organization's most challenging times. We remain deeply grateful for your past and future support. On behalf of our staff and board of directors, thank you, again!

Dean Ito Taylor
Executive Director



Who We Are

API Legal Outreach works to break down barriers in a legal system that has historically barred immigrant communities and communities of color from the justice they deserve. Our clients are marginalized and made invisible because of their economic status, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual preference, race, religion, nationality, and language.

We confront the daily struggles of those denied basic rights and benefits of this society - and we do so by working directly in the community, as a part of the community. We work in shared cultures and over 12 different languages and dialects to provide holistic legal services, education, and outreach to those who need it most.

From offices in Oakland and San Francisco, our community workers, lawyers, and advocates work in partnership with other community-based agencies to represent and empower underserved Bay Area communities.



The Violence Against Women Project

Empowering Survivors

Each year hundreds of survivors of domestic violence call API Legal Outreach seeking legal advice and assistance. They ask questions about what will happen to them, their children, their immigration status, should they move forward in leaving their abuser. Some are not emotionally or psychologically ready to proceed. But through counseling, advocacy and the development of a safety plan most are able to move forward to leave the violence.

Through our longstanding collaboration with partner agencies like the Asian Women's Shelter, Donaldina Cameron House and other community based groups, we continued our unique model of service.

We are able to provide comprehensive family law, immigration law, and public benefits to domestic violence survivors. We also work to ensure that their social service needs are met and they are supported through an often very traumatic legal process.

Our model of service includes conducting trainings, advocating for system reform, and advocating in the legislative process. Through these processes we strive to expand access to ensure our clients have their legal and social service needs met.

During 2018-2019:

- Provided survivors of domestic violence with wraparound services through working with community partners including Asian Women's Shelter, Ruby's Place, and Donaldina Cameron House.
- Provided assistance and technical support to local community based organizations

The Senior and Disability Rights Project

Fostering Independence and Dignity

API Legal Outreach provides comprehensive direct legal services for seniors and adults with disabilities in all issues including: elder abuse, long-term care planning, public benefits, immigration, and naturalization. Each case is carefully screened in order to address all legal and social service needs by working closely with social service partners. The project reaches out to our communities by visiting senior centers, churches, senior meal sites, and regional centers to ensure that our services continue to be accessible to those in need.

Elder abuse and abuse of adults with disabilities continue to be vastly underreported and misunderstood within the API and general community, conflicting with the tradition of respect for seniors. Such abuse is a particularly delicate topic since the abuse is frequently a spouse, adult child or other family member and someone who the elder or adult with disabilities is dependent upon for financial assistance, housing, and other needs.

During 2018-2019:

- Sponsored the API Elder Abuse Task Force for our community-based partners to address issues of safe and secure living for elders and adults with disabilities.
- Active member of the San Francisco Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) that advises the Mayor on issues surrounding services for elders and adults with disabilities in the City.
- Provide legal and technical support for partner organizations in the areas of elder law and abuse

The Immigrant Rights Project

Advocating for Immigrant Communities

API Legal Outreach's commitment to advancing the rights of immigrants is rooted in the histories of our families and communities. With growing anti-immigrant policies and the stoking of anti-immigrant hatred by politicians, it is more essential than ever that APILO provide direct legal services for the diverse immigrant communities of Northern California.

During 2018-2019:

- Represented individuals in applying for asylum, VAWA, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, U and T visas, and LPR status.
- Defended individuals in Immigration Court facing unjust removal actions
- Held bi-monthly immigration clinics with volunteers from the Asian American Bar Association (AABA).
- Held weekly immigration clinics at Asian Health Services through the Alameda County Health Consortium.

Provided one-on-one monthly consultation at the Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center.



API Legal Outreach naturalization clinic



Former API Legal Outreach immigration clients

The Housing Rights Project

Advocating for Vulnerable Tenants & Homeowners

The housing project at API Legal Outreach works on behalf of San Francisco Bay Area tenants to prevent homelessness and preserve affordable housing. The housing rights team provides full-scope legal representation in eviction matters, assists in resolving habitability concerns, contests illegal rent increases, and defends against foreclosures. As the region's housing costs continue to rise, long-term residents have become increasingly reliant on housing advocates like ours to protect their rights to remain in their homes.

During 2018-2019:

- Provided full-scope legal representation for over 100 tenants facing eviction in San Francisco.
- Continued to strengthen presence outside of the Bay Area by providing outreach, counseling, and representation to homeowners at risk of foreclosure in the Central Valley.
- Successfully advocated for the rights of clients to remain in their homes at administrative law proceedings, where the team has been successful in nearly 100% of its hearings.
- Provided leadership training and tenant education to tenants and community leaders regarding housing issues.
- Began providing full-scope legal representation in eviction matters in Oakland.
- Advocated for affordable housing with the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco.



Post Bar Fellow advocating for affordable housing for seniors in front of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Project Success

Our client fell behind on her rent by a single month, and instead of working with her to pay off the back rent (which had been the standard procedure), the landlord opted to serve a 3-Day Notice to Pay or Quit, and then instituted an unlawful detainer action when payment was not tendered by the 3rd day. After a long and drawn out litigation period, we were finally able to push the landlord to entertain the possibility of a settlement instead of fighting for an eviction through a trial by jury. However, after further investigation, we found out why the landlord was so eager to settle the matter. Due to a bedbug infestation, much of our client's personal property had been damaged. The tenant gave notice to the landlord, but he was unresponsive. The tenant estimated that she had suffered thousands of dollars worth of damages and wanted to make sure that she would at least have the ability to seek compensation for the harm that she has suffered. While it was no issue in getting the landlord to agree to go in to spray her unit to address the infestation, the initial proposal would also have required her to waive any claims she might have against her landlord.

Though we were unable to get the landlord to agree to pay our client a sum of money to compensate her for the damage that she suffered, we were able to work in an important provision that would allow the tenant to pursue her claims further even after the completion of the eviction action. The end result is that the tenant will be able to remain in her unit, will be able pay her back rent on a very flexible payment plan, and will retain her right to sue her landlord for any damages suffered. What began as an attempt to bully a long-term tenant into voluntarily moving out ended with the landlord having likely incurred thousands of dollars in attorney's fees with the tenant still in possession of her unit.

The Anti-Trafficking Collaborative of the Bay Area

Combating Modern-Day Slavery

The Anti-Trafficking Collaborative of the Bay Area (ATCBA) with its partners, Asian Women's Shelter and Banteay Srei, has provided comprehensive social and legal services for more than 19 years. To date, the ATCBA has served hundreds of victims of human trafficking from Northern America, Asia, the Pacific Islands, Africa, Latin America, and Europe. The ATCBA's clients span between the ages 7 to 75 years old, of varying ethnicities, nationalities, and gender identity. The ATCBA works to ensure that survivors of human trafficking are assisted not only in obtaining immigration relief, but also emergency and long-term housing, civil litigation, victim-witness advocacy, advocacy for restitution in the criminal proceedings, medical services, therapy and other social services.

During 2018-2019:

- Presented at the largest anti-trafficking conference hosted by the Freedom Network USA, alongside St. James Infirmary, Bay Area Sex Worker Advocacy Network (BAYSWAN), and those with lived experiences. Presentation was titled, "Sex Workers as Anti-Trafficking Champions? Collaborating Across Boundaries to Challenge False Dichotomies to Liberate Us All," which highlighted the presenters collaborative efforts in passing the Prioritizing Safety for Sex Workers Policy with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office and the San Francisco Police Department, a first of its kind in the nation. This inspired the passing of Assembly Bill 2243, Sex Worker Immunity, and subsequently, Senate Bill 233, Improving Sex Worker Health and Safety.
- In collaboration with the Consulate of Mexico with their Labor Rights Week outreach events, API Legal Outreach conducted outreach to the Consulate Offices of Mexico, El Salvador, Peru, and Guatemala.
- Collaborated with San Francisco Department of Public Health and other community based organizations to conduct outreach on labor rights to immigrant massage workers.
- Advocated for the victim-survivors of a labor trafficking case prosecuted by the Assistant US Attorney's Office of the Northern District of California. The trafficker was convicted on charges of obtaining forced labor from victims and for harboring undocumented individuals for commercial advantage or private financial gain.
- Conducted numerous presentations with community based organizations and other stakeholders. Highlights were presenting with Legal Aid at Work to the California Department of Social Services' Adult and Senior Care Program's Senior Managers, to provide information and red flags about labor exploitation and trafficking that happens in care home facilities, presenting at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office Victim Services Division community event raising awareness on human trafficking, and finally at AirBnB's headquarters to discuss how the technology sector can assist in combatting trafficking.
- Provided technical assistance in more than forty-four instances to varying service providers regionally, and across the nation. Was featured on various media outlets, including news publications like the Appeal, and radio, like KALW public radio.

The Youth Advisory Council

Unlearning Violence and Building Community

Our youth program provides social services, case management, leadership development, and violence-prevention curriculum to youth ages 13-24 in the Bay Area. We also train high school interns in community organizing, civic engagement, and leadership to identify and solve problems in their own communities. Our high school interns come from an array of places across the San Francisco Bay Area, and have organized campaigns and workshops directed toward their peers around dating violence prevention, immigrant rights, and LGBTQ+ identities/relationships. At the core of our youth work at APILO, we stand behind leveraging our own influence to provide opportunities for youth to take control of their own destinies.

During 2018-2019:

- The youth program had record enrollment in our summer program, API-ACT (Asian Pacific Islander Activism and Community Teachout). 17 youth participated in a week of trainings, workshops, and field trips to learn about community organizing, civic engagement, and API history and identity. We worked with community partners to introduce youth to issues such as domestic violence, food justice, immigration, criminalization, housing and gentrification, among others.
- The youth program expanded its reach to high schoolers by partnering with OUSD schools Madison Park High School and Coliseum College Preparatory Academy. In addition to holding classes at these school sites on Women of Color, APILO staff provided students with open office hours, referrals to legal and social services resources, and violence-prevention curriculum.
- The youth program expanded its reach to college-aged students by hiring a part-time youth advocate. Amber Chang, the first to take this position, is a former YAC intern. She worked to outreach and contextualize our anti-violence work to college students. Amber created a workshop on dating violence, consent, and legal rights for college students.
- The youth program continues to sustain Youth Advisory Council, our year-round internship for high schoolers from San Francisco, Oakland, Daly City, Castro Valley, and San Ramon. There are currently 12 interns working on peer-to-peer outreach and education on dating violence prevention, immigrant rights, and LGBTQ+ identities/relationships. Additionally, our youth interns led legislative conversations during this last budgeting period with the San Francisco Mayor's Office and the SF Board of Supervisors about sustaining social programs that address gender-based violence.



Youth participants gardening during API-ACT



Youth visiting our community partner, Bayanihan Community Resource Center



Youth Advisory Council with API-ACT participants

Financial Report

API Legal Outreach gratefully acknowledges the following for their financial support in 2018-2019:

Alameda County Health Consortium

American Immigration Lawyers Association, Northern California Chapter

Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

California Department of Social Services

City of Oakland, Department of Housing and Community Development

City and County of San Francisco, Department on the Status of Women

City and County of San Francisco, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

City and County of San Francisco, Human Services Agency, Department of Aging and Adult Services

Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

Korean American Community Foundation of San Francisco

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State Bar of California - Bank Settlement

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State Bar of California - Legal Services Trust

Sunlight Giving

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Youth Leadership Institute

Collaborative Grants

Anti-Trafficking Collaborative of the Bay Area

(City & County of San Francisco, Department on the Status of Women)

CRISP Collaborative

(Immigrant Legal Resource Center - Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Grove Foundation, and Hurlbut Johnson Charitable Trusts)

Domestic Violence Assistance Program

(Asian Women's Shelter - California Governor's Office of Emergency Services)

East Bay Naturalization Collaborative

(Immigrant Legal Resource Center-The New Americans Campaign, van Loben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, Y&H Soda Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation)

San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative

(CARECEN - City & County of San Francisco, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development)

San Francisco Immigrant Legal and Education Network

(Dolores Street Community Services - City & County of San Francisco, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development)

San Francisco Options for Comprehensive Actions for Youth

(Asian Women's Shelter - City & County of San Francisco, Department on the Status of Women)

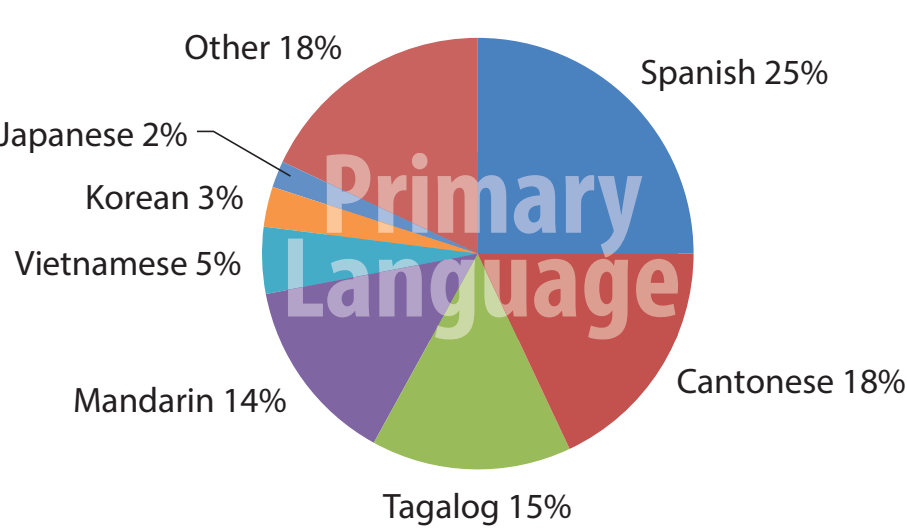
San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative

(Self Help for the Elderly - City & County of San Francisco, Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs)

South of Market Housing Collaborative

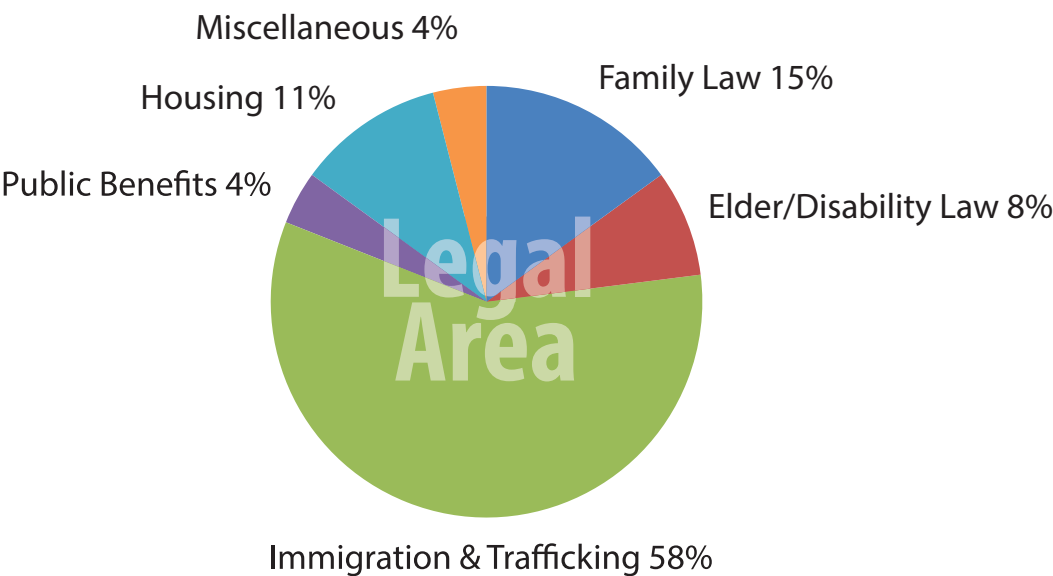
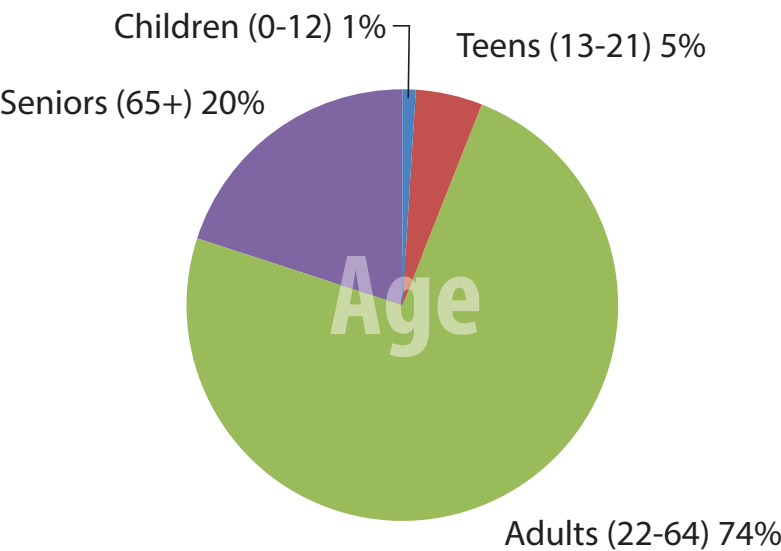
(South of Market Community Action Network - City & County of San Francisco, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development)

Impact



Other languages include: Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chiuchow, Farsi, French, Georgian, Hindi, Indonesian, Khmer, Lao, Mien, Mam, Mongolian, Nepali, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Samoan, Swahili, Taishan, Telugu, Thai, Tongan, Turkish, Urdu,

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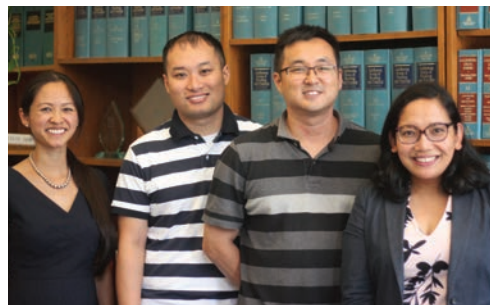
Lilia Arellano, Hien Lam, Julissa Santiago,
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with Bianca Mabute-Louie



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Thank You to Our Volunteers

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Congratulations!

API Legal Outreach

Thank you for 44 years of providing legal representation, social services, and advocacy to those that need it the most in our community.

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Minette Kwok, Partner

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We are proud to support

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in its legal representation,
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Congratulations on 44 years of advocacy
and building **STRENGTH** in **COMMUNITY**.

It's an honor to support your mission by
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Wendy C. Horikoshi, M.S.



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*Remembering Sharon Ngim, early board
member NLO, which became APILO*

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