



# 2025

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

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50th Anniversary Celebration  
**Fighting for Justice**  
50 Years of United Community Services  
Friday, October 3, 2025



# 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 social and legal services, education, and outreach to those who need it most.

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

# Our Vision

API Legal Outreach envisions a society where justice, equity, and humanity are foundational values and all communities. We aim to empower individuals and communities through direct support and collaborative action.

# Our Values

- **Justice** - We pursue justice, equal rights, and protections for the underrepresented.
- **Humanity** - We lead with empathy and recognize the worth and dignity of every person.
- **Compassion** - We approach work with compassion and understanding for the lived experiences of marginalized communities.
- **Community Service** - We are committed to providing community based direct services and outreach.
- **Learning and Knowledge** - We embrace the shared responsibility to learn from the communities we serve.



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October 3, 2025

Dear Supporters,

API Legal Outreach is coming up on 50 years of community services! The pressure is on us from cutbacks in funding to political storms against diversity and immigrant communities. It almost feels like year 1 not year 50.

This year we are facing threats from the federal government and the loss of funding from public sources. But, nothing will stop us in fighting for the rights of our communities. No government threats will deter us from our drive for equal justice and equal access to vital services.

Fifty years ago we demanded basic rights for our communities: equality and dignity; freedom from violence; the rights to housing, education, employment, and safety net services. API Legal Outreach is the organization doing the work in the communities while representing the most marginalized of our community. We are not talking about it; rather we are in the trenches. Our programs will continue to advocate for the rights of individuals to be free from gender based violence, the rights of our seniors and those with disabilities to lead independent and dignified lives, the rights of immigrants to be free from exploitation from human traffickers and to be protected under the law, the rights of tenants to decent housing and the rights of our youth to be free from violence and to have equal opportunities.

Now more than ever, API Legal Outreach remains committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have strengthened our dedication to the work for justice with culturally appropriate, holistic, community driven services. Your support sustains our work and boosts the morale of our staff during a time when we feel attacked from many sides. Even in this 50th year we all have much work to do as we join together to move forward. We remain deeply grateful for your past and future support.

Thank you on behalf of our Staff and Board of Directors,

Dean Ito Taylor  
Executive Director

# >1970's

## Founding and Roots

- Founded as Nihonmachi Legal Outreach in San Francisco's Japantown
- Partnered with UJCS, Kimochi, JCYC, and other grassroots organizations and focused on direct, community-based services
- First staff were hired and office established in Japantown.

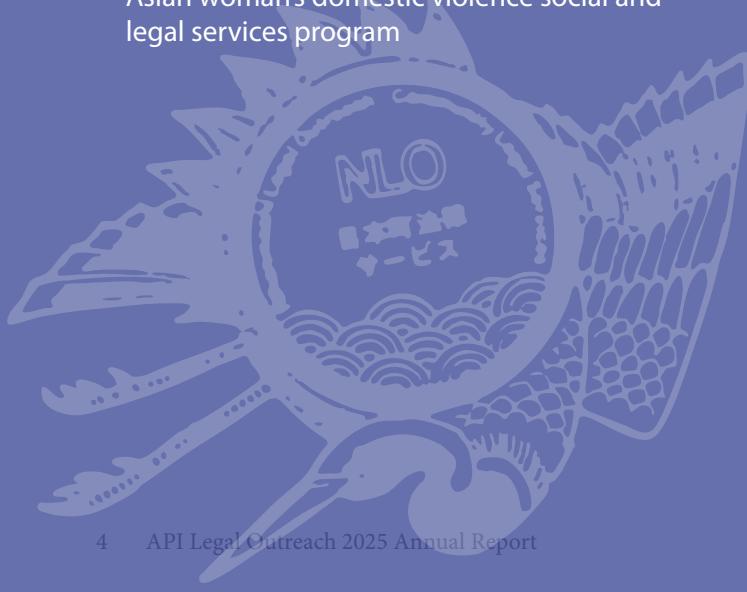


# >1990's

# >1980's

## Legal Services & Advocacy

- NLO grows to 3 staff
- NLO advocated for Japanese American Redress and Reparations, testifies before Congress
- NLO joins Chol Soo Lee Defense Committee
- NLO joins with Cameron House to start the first Asian woman's domestic violence social and legal services program



- NLO grows to 14 staff.
- NLO starts services in Oakland with its Asian Community Domestic Violence Clinic
- Established the Youth Advisory Council as a peer education and leadership initiative combating domestic and dating violence by unlearning violence.
- Asian Women's Shelter Collaborative receives a state grant to start the first-of-its-kind project joining Asian Women's Shelter, Cameron House, and Narika that provided a continuum of care to survivors.
- NLO co-founds the Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic in San Francisco.
- NLO assists hundreds of concentration camp survivors apply for reparations.
- Youth Project's film wins best picture at the Asian Film Awards.



# >2000's

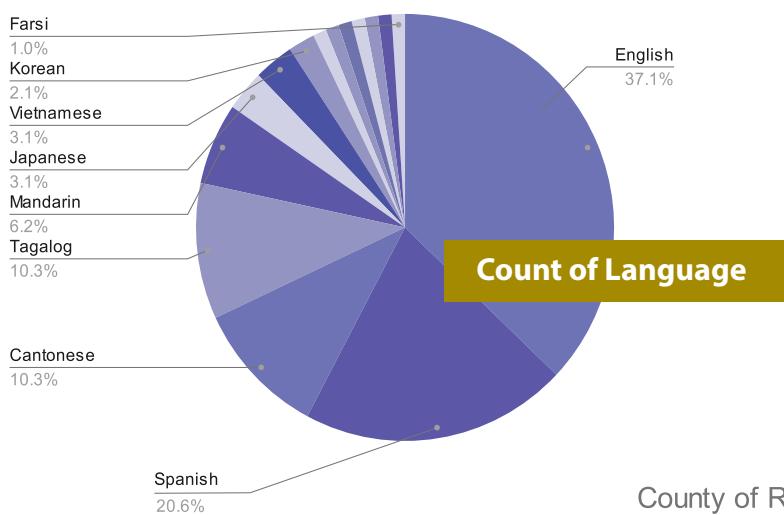
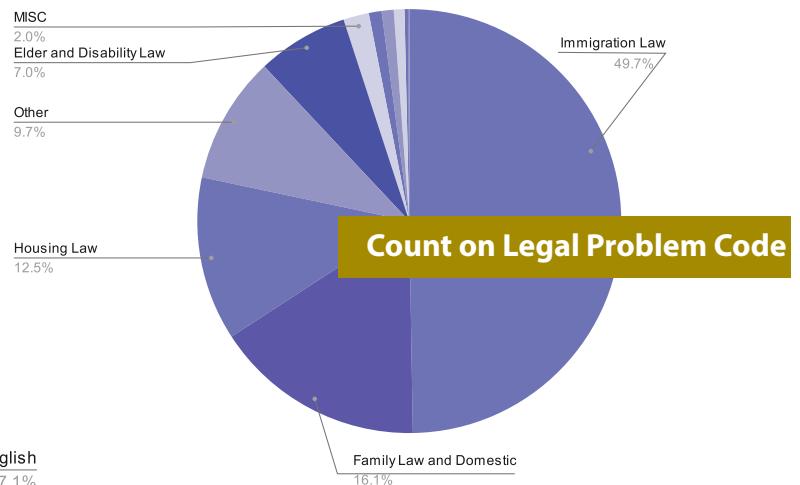
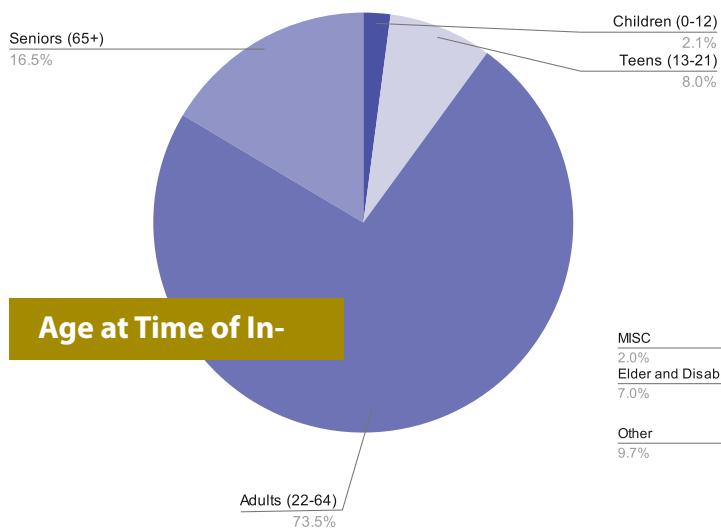
- NLO transitions name to Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach
- API Legal Outreach grows to 23 staff
- Began first of its kind anti-human trafficking program and co-founded Anti-Trafficking Collaborative of the Bay Area (ATCBA) with Cameron House, Narika, and Asian Women's Shelter
- Purchased office building at 1121 Mission Street
- Joins with the family to seek justice for Claire Joyce Tempongko
- Joins with AABA to start pro bono legal clinics
- Formed Elder Abuse Task Force
- Began regional naturalization services
- Youth Project presents first That's Not Love Talent Show

# >2010's

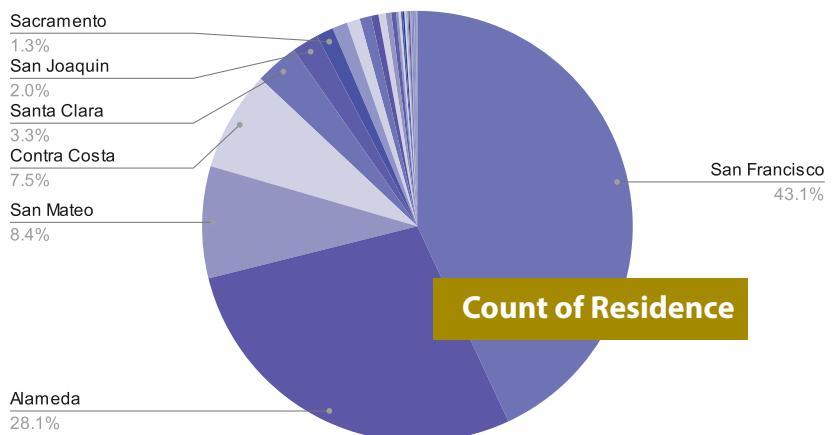
- Opened office in Stockton to serve API's in Central Valley
- Started disability rights project
- Developed services to prevent mortgage fraud and the loss of home ownership in API communities, particularly in Modesto and Stockton
- Developed new services to assist LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence Continued strengthening of partnerships and collaborations
- Opened TRO Clinic in San Mateo Country
- Assisted low-income tax filers with a unique API tax clinic
- Youth Project produced *Come Back to Me* awarded best public service film.
- Youth Project develops API-ACT summer activism program
- APILO joins in national movement to support same sex marriage and files appellate court amicus brief to support equal protection under the law.
- APILO staff grows to 37
- Provided remote legal services in response to COVID 19 shut downs
- Began anti-API hate services and collaborated with other communities of color to work against racial violence
- Developed small business assistance program with API Council to support recovery in cultural corridors
- Responded to attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Expanded immigrant rights legal services in response to unjust anti-immigrant policies.
- APILO staff grows to 48
- Continued advocacy in immigrant rights, anti-trafficking, disability rights, housing justice, senior rights, youth empowerment leading into the 50th anniversary.

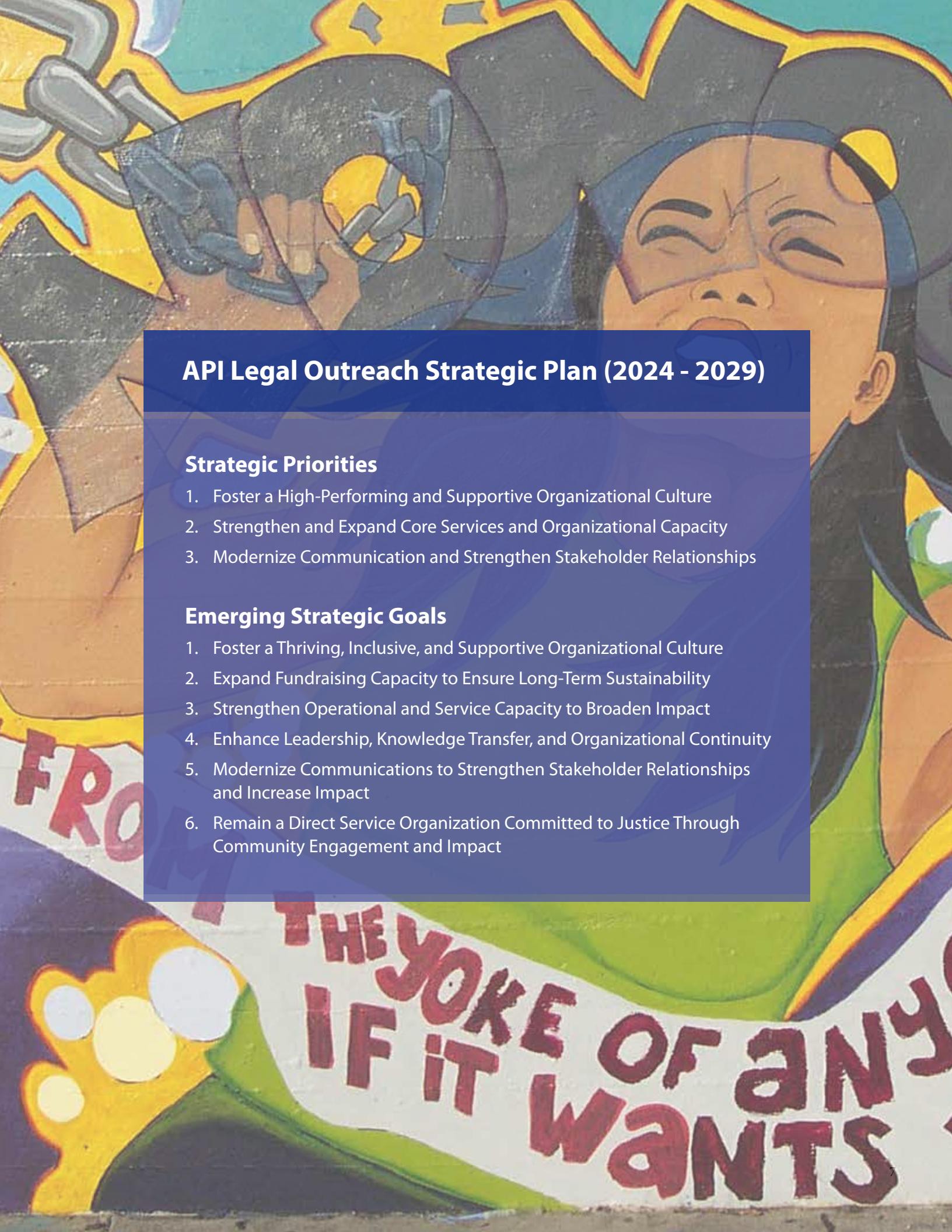
# >2020's

# Who We Serve



## County of Residence





## API Legal Outreach Strategic Plan (2024 - 2029)

### Strategic Priorities

1. Foster a High-Performing and Supportive Organizational Culture
2. Strengthen and Expand Core Services and Organizational Capacity
3. Modernize Communication and Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships

### Emerging Strategic Goals

1. Foster a Thriving, Inclusive, and Supportive Organizational Culture
2. Expand Fundraising Capacity to Ensure Long-Term Sustainability
3. Strengthen Operational and Service Capacity to Broaden Impact
4. Enhance Leadership, Knowledge Transfer, and Organizational Continuity
5. Modernize Communications to Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships and Increase Impact
6. Remain a Direct Service Organization Committed to Justice Through Community Engagement and Impact

# The Gender Based Violence Project



Photo credit: Bohemian Photography

## Empowering Survivors

Freedom from violence is a basic human right. Working with our community partners, API Legal Outreach provides culturally competent services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking using a holistic approach to address their needs for legal protections, housing, employment, counseling, children's services and other support services. Each year, hundreds of survivors of domestic violence call API Legal Outreach seeking legal advice and assistance including divorce matters, child custody, and domestic violence restraining orders. Through longstanding partnerships with the Asian Women's Shelter, Donaldina Cameron House and other community based groups, we connect survivors to essential social services that help them navigate an often traumatic legal process. These collaborations ensure that survivors receive both legal advocacy and the critical support needed to rebuild their lives.

## Project Impact:

- Delivered critical legal remedies and protections for survivors of all forms of violence and their families in a variety of cases that intersect with immigration and human trafficking.
- Advocated for survivors in same-sex relationships and helped to overcome barriers to legal and social support.
- Continued to expand access to justice through integrated legal and social service partnerships.
- Provide legal support for survivors and families going through the criminal justice system.
- Collaborated to strengthen services and impact with other nonprofits as a co-founding member of the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium

# The Immigrant Rights Project



Photo credit: Sundry Photography

## 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 the current, unprecedented attacks on our community and immigrants in general, it is more essential than ever that APILO provide direct legal services, consultations, outreach and education for the diverse immigrant communities of the Bay Area. This year, there has been a barrage of new, anti-immigrant policies and laws, making all of our cases more complex and difficult. We are responding to an increased demand for consultations, legal services, clinics, and requests for community training on ICE enforcement and due process rights. With increased deportations and arrests at immigration court, our community is anxious, fearful, and in need of more support than ever.

## Project Impact:

- Represented and assisted hundreds of individuals in applying for asylum, VAWA, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, U and T visas, naturalization, DACA and LPR status positioning them to obtain a work permit and better support their family and community.
- Provided on call attorneys as part of the San Francisco Rapid Response Network responding on an emergency basis when residents are detained by ICE.
- Defended dozens of individuals in Immigration Court and participated in the Attorney of the Day program helping unrepresented individuals at their immigration court hearings
- Held monthly immigration clinics in partnership with the Asian American Bar Association (AABA) and the Monument Crisis Center in Concord.
- Provided Know Your Rights training to community members, churches, and non-profit agencies regarding ICE enforcement and due process rights.



# The Senior and Disability Rights Project



## Fostering Independence and Dignity

The Senior and Disability Rights Project provides comprehensive direct legal services and education for seniors and adults with disabilities in all issues including: elder abuse, long-term care planning, public benefits, immigration, and anti-discrimination advocacy. The project addresses all legal and social service needs by working collaboratively with other APILO projects and social service partners. The abuse of elders and adults with disabilities is a delicate topic that continues to be underreported and misunderstood within the API and general community since abuse frequently comes from a spouse, adult child, or other family member that the elder is dependent upon. Despite the challenges the project remains committed to expanding services, strengthening outreach, and ensuring justice. Each successful case represents someone maintaining independence, accessing vital services, or gaining the knowledge to advocate for themselves.

## Project Impact:

- Provided legal services for over 200 seniors and adults with disabilities in securing essential benefits, resolving housing issues, gaining legal status, and protecting them from abuse.
- Empowered more than 1,000 community members through education sessions and resources.
- Restored access to public benefits for survivors of domestic violence.
- Collaborated with APILO housing project to prevent the eviction of seniors.
- Advocated for justice and institutional change in response to discriminatory harassment.

# The Housing Rights Project

## Advocating for Vulnerable Tenants & Homeowners



The Housing Project works tirelessly 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 unjust 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. Despite ongoing funding shortages and late stage litigation issues that undermine the tenant's ability to mount effective defenses, the Housing Project attorneys continue to step in at critical moments to defend clients against the loss of housing.

## Project Impact:

- Provided full-scope legal representation for over 100 households facing eviction in San Francisco as a member of the city's Tenant Right to Counsel initiative.
- 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.
- Provided full-scope legal representation for tenants at risk of eviction in Oakland.
- Advocated for affordable housing before governmental policy-makers.



# The Anti-Trafficking Project



San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking honors APILO Executive Director, Dean Ito Taylor

## Combating Modern-Day Slavery

Aligning with APILO's core mission, the Anti-Trafficking Project takes a holistic survivor-centered approach in providing culturally and linguistically sensitive legal services to hundreds of human trafficking victims from North America, Central America, South America, Asia, the Pacific Islands, Africa, and Europe. The Anti-Trafficking Collaborative of the Bay Area bringing together the services of Asian Women's Shelter, Banteay Srei, and API Legal Outreach provides comprehensive services to ensure that human trafficking survivors are assisted with immigration relief, long-term housing, civil litigation, restitution in criminal proceedings, medical services, therapy and other social services. Each success is a story – a family reunified, a child or children legally safeguarded, and a client's privacy respected and protected.

## Project Impact:

- Advocated for survivors with legal relief such as T/U visas, housing, and trauma recovery.
- Partnered with pro-bono out of state counsel to obtain vacatur relief for human trafficking survivors.
- Obtained criminal protective orders against traffickers, rescinded deportation orders, and terminated removal cases against victims.
- Provide legal support for survivors and families going through the criminal justice system.
- Continued partnership and collaborations as the only Anti Trafficking program in the nation by and for the immigrant community.

Human Trafficking Group:

Patricia Hernandez Salazar, Qomil Davis,  
Vanessa Campbell, Claudia Reyes



## Anti-API Hate Project



Photo credit: Elvert Barnes, CC BY-SA 2.0

### Standing Against Hate

The Anti-API Hate Project provides legal representation, advocacy, and community education to prevent racial violence and provide holistic services for those suffering from discrimination and violence due to their perceived race, ethnicity, religious, or cultural background. Discrimination can be deeply traumatic and can come in many forms – whether through hostile housing environments, unequal treatment in public spaces, or even systemic bias within the justice system. As a result, the Anti-API Hate Project takes on cases across multiple legal domains and pursues a variety of legal remedies such as U-visas, naturalization, removal defense, asylum, civil litigation, among others. In the wake of Covid, the politically motivated blame placed on China for the pandemic, and systemic inequities impacting vulnerable communities, the Anti API Asian Project remains steadfast in its resolve to protect community members and provide the relief they need to heal.



Photo credit: Sheila Fitzgerald

### Project Impact:

- Provided legal representation to survivors of racial violence.
- Presented anti-hate violence prevention workshops in partnership of community based organizations and churches/temples.
- Assisted families through the legal process by facilitating meetings with the District Attorney's Office and representing survivors at court hearings.
- Partnered with the City of Daly City to hold clinics and consultation spaces to community members in the peninsula and neighboring counties.
- Collaborated with the California Asian American Bar Association and the Asian American Bar Association of Northern California to host and staff legal clinics and trainings.



Photo credit: Odua Images

The API Small Business Project provides legal representation, advocacy, and community education to businesses especially in API cultural districts and corridors. The bay area economy has been slow to recover and many API businesses failed during and after COVID because of business district shut downs and politically inspired fear of API communities. The project provide legal representation, advice, and education to support small businesses.

- Provided educational workshops to small business owners on rights, protections, and business relief programs.
- Assisted small businesses in applying for public benefits made available due to Covid related restrictions.
- Assisted businesses in responding to API hate such as threats, graffitiies and vandalism.
- Advocated on behalf of small businesses to landlord who were threatening evictions due to back rent disputes even as business were forced to close by health department actions.
- Advocated to government policy makers for additional financial assistance to API small businesses in crisis.

## Help API Legal Outreach Sustain Our Work



**API Legal Outreach** needs your tax deductible contributions to continue providing legal and social services to our underserved communities.

### Three easy ways to make a donation

**1**

Scan the QR Code using your smart phone.

Open the camera on your phone, focus on the QR code, click the notification.

**2**

Use the QR code to sign up to be a monthly donor and maximize your impact.

**3**

Visit our website at [www.apilegaloutreach.org](http://www.apilegaloutreach.org)

You can also mail us a check!

# Our People, Partners, and Supporters

## Our Staff

Abigail Armen, *Grants Management Associate*  
Aivy Pham, *Staff Attorney*  
Alice Chan, *Receptionist*  
Akiko Takeshita, *Managing Attorney*  
Alicia Cuautle-Velazquez, *Paralegal*  
Arisa Tono, *Finance Associate*  
Audrey Daniel, *Supervising Attorney*  
Aysha Moneer, *Post Bar Fellow*  
Brian Gan, *Staff Attorney*  
Ceren Dogan, *Grants Management Associate*  
Claudia Reyes, *Case Manager/Social Worker*  
D Dagondon Tiegs, *Youth Program Project Manager*  
Dean Ito Taylor, *Executive Director*  
Derrick Figueras, *Grants Management Associate*  
Diane Matsuda, *Staff Attorney*  
Diana Rangel, *Administrative Assistant*  
Dipanjali Mardemootoo, *Staff Attorney*  
Elizabeth Wong, *Staff Attorney*  
Gabrielle Ann Sison, *Post Bar Fellow*  
Gabrielle Villadolid, *Intake Coordinator*  
Greg Palomares, *Supervising Attorney*

Hee Jeong Matz, *Immigration Associate*  
Isabel Lopez-Garcia, *Administrative Assistant*  
Jason Truong, *Supervising Attorney*  
Junko Kenmotsu, *Case Manager/Social Worker*  
Kenny Song, *Deputy Director*  
Linda Li, *Legal Administrative Assistant*  
Nancy Wong, *Staff Attorney*  
Nicholas Ong, *Operations Manager*  
Patricia Vargas Hernandez, *Post Bar Fellow*  
Qomil Davis, *Staff Attorney*  
Rachel Kwak, *Post Bar Fellow*  
Ren Khan, *Clinic Coordinator*  
Ruby Chan, *Administrative Manager*  
Ted Tang, *Finance Associate*  
Telesia Hunkin, *Clinic Coordinator*  
Tien Hsin Sheu, *Staff Attorney*  
Thu Le, *Finance Associate*  
Vianey De La Rosa, *Receptionist*  
Vanessa Campbell, *Project Manager*  
Victoria Hartanto, *Supervising Attorney*  
Zohreh Moghadam, *Post Bar Fellow*

## Youth Advisory Council

Khadija Garner, *Intern*  
Ayumi Tsuji  
Asma Furkhunda  
Diya Sharma  
Rojan Mikael Habon  
Saesha Prabhakar  
Cameron Williams  
Debora Aucantinco  
Julianna Chu  
Justin Long  
Kaelyn Tan  
Kelli Thach  
Peilin He  
Sophia Doan  
Zhiqin Chan



# API Legal Outreach Staff





Abigail Armen, Derrick Figueras



Top row: Patricia Hernandez Salazar, Vanessa Campbell, Vicky Hartanto, Qomil T. Davis, Hee Jeong Matz, Ren Shimizu Khan  
Bottom Row: Brian Gan, Audrey Daniel, Claudia Reyes, Nancy Wong



Greg Palomares, Tien Hsin Sheu, Dipanjali S T Mardemootoo, Alice Chan, Junko Kenmotsu, Linda Li, Aysha Moneer, Vianey De La Rosa



## API Legal Outreach Board of Directors

Don Bautista  
Anne R. Almendral  
Michael Turner  
Stephanie Choy  
Kay Gamo  
Jinnhua Su.

**Not pictured**  
Connie Chan  
Jason Galisatus  
Lolita Kintanar  
Michael Mercado  
Sean Tamura-Sato  
Stephanie Wing Yin Wong  
Jerett Yan

# Our Volunteers

Thank you to all of our volunteers! We apologize for any inadvertent omissions.

Please contact [events@apilegaloutreach.org](mailto:events@apilegaloutreach.org)

Aisha Sanwal	James Tam	Parris Greenwood
Alex Scott	Jane Ma	Patrrick Tao
Alex Chiu	Jason Lee	Quyen Le
Amy Hammond	Jennifer Sun	Raymond Pascual
Andrew Kim	Jessica Lin	Raymond Chau
Angad Dhadda	Katie Gu	Richard Tokeshi
Anglica Bautista	Kentaro Takeda	Rob Uy
Angelica Lee	Kai Takahashi	Roy Argand
Annaleigh Nguyen	Leah Ko	Shae Kurokawa
Avantika Shastri	Leon Sun	Sharon Umene
Bouchra El Charabaty	Lori Kodama	Shinhong Byun
Brenda Chen	Ly Ly	Sonia Liu
Carol Fang	Lynne Ogawa	Stephanie Ngo
Carolina Wu	Margaret Song	Stephanie Yee
Cassidy Chansirik	Maryam Khan	Tony Aganon
Cathy Kodama	Maya Chupkov	Tracy Tao
Christina Chen	MJ Han	Ty Tokeshi
Connie Huang	Monika Bukelskyte	Judge Victor Hwang
Davelyn Bulovas	Myron Okada	Victor Ng
Debbie Chiv	Nicholas Nguyen	Wendy Tombo
Doo Lee	Niki Dinh	Wilfred Lim
Donna Kotake	Olivia Lee	Yifeng Li



Photo credit: buritora

# Financial Supporters & Grant Funders

API Legal Outreach gratefully acknowledges the following for their financial support in 2024 - 2025

Asian American Bar Association

Asian Health Services - Stop the Hate Initiative (AHS Stop the Hate)

California Access to Justice Commission

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Domestic Violence Assistance Program  
(Asian Women's Shelter)

Asian Pacific Fund

Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program  
(Cal OES HV)

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

Oakland Housing Secure Program (Centro Legal de la Raza - OHS)

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI)

San Francisco Human Services Agency / Department of Disability and Aging Services

Collaborative Resources for Immigrant Services on the Peninsula (CRISP- Immigrant Legal Resource Center)

Korean American Community Foundation (KACF)

Charles & Melita Jung Charitable Fund

Community Youth Center

San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development Gender-Based Violence Program

San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development  
(Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative Central American Resource Center - CARECEN)

San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (SFPCI- Self-Help for the Elderly)

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

State Bar of California, Equal Access Fund,  
Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account Fund, Homeless Prevention Fund

State Bar of California Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Fund

Sunlight Giving

van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation (vLSRR)



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