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## Editors-in-Chief Note

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## Editors' Note

The *Asian American Law Journal* remains a vital thread in the tapestry of Asian American voices in legal scholarship. While the population of Asian American law students continues to rise, we remain one of merely two journals focusing on Asian American jurisprudence in the entire nation's system of legal scholarship. The 2015–16 year was a year full of unique challenges, moments of solidarity, and continued questioning of the role of AAPI students on a campus and in a world defined sharply by the black-white paradigm.

Our volume begins with a creative and timely article by Stewart Chang entitled *Is Gay the New Asian?: Marriage Equality and the Dawn of a New Model Minority*. Chang analyzes potential similarities between the development of stereotypes involving the Model Minority Myth and the dangers of a model minority stereotype for gay identity.

In *Comprehensive Immigration in the Jim Crow Era: Chinese Exclusion and the McCreary Act of 1893*, Professor Gabriel J. Chin and Daniel K. Tu trace historical insights about comprehensive immigration reform in the legislative history behind the McCreary Act of 1893.

*Inclusion and Exclusion in American Legal History* by Professor Mark E. Steiner analyzes the various ways in which Asian Americans have been both excluded and included in mainstream American legal history. Professor Steiner provides a survey of different American legal history works and analyzes the relative exclusion of Asian American jurisprudence from the field.

We also present three excellent student notes providing a diversity of perspectives on the current and controversial issue of affirmative action. These different perspectives reflect the basic premise that Asian Americans ourselves are incredibly conflicted on this complex and nuanced issue. *When Proportionality Equals Diversity: Asian Americans and Affirmative Action* by Chan Hee Chu, J.D. Class of 2015, seeks to provide balance to the current debate on affirmative action by insisting on the fair representation of Asian American opposition to affirmative action in legal academia. Kelsey Inouye, University of Hawaii J.D. Class of 2015, publishes *Asian Americans: Identity and the Stance on Affirmative Action*, analyzing the differing perspectives of Asian American viewpoints on affirmative action through the lens of sociohistorical analysis. Finally, Emily Zia, our Senior Articles Editor, asks the poignant question: *What Side Are We On? A Call to Arms to the Asian American Community* and firmly advocates for Asian Americans to serve as allies to African-

American and Latino groups in the ongoing debate.

We are also publishing Frank Wu's Symposium Piece from our 2015 Symposium entitled *Blank Space: Asian Americans & Affirmative Action*. Wu's keynote speech is a powerful analysis of a critical modern question—*Are Asian Americans Now White?* Wu advocates that Asian Americans must make a choice and choose an identity.

The 2015–16 school year was a historic and challenging one for our law school. While we may have once celebrated the appointment of Sujit Choudhry as the first Asian-American Dean at Berkeley Law, we denounced his actions of sexual harassment through letters in solidarity with the Coalition for Diversity and other journals on this campus.

We were proud to support and sign on to the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Amicus Brief supporting the continued use of affirmative action in the remanded *Fisher II* Supreme Court case. These efforts were led by our own Submissions Editor, Lindsey Quock.

We were proud to host numerous events to advance Asian American issues. We hosted Joyce Xi, daughter of Professor XiaoXing Xi, who was falsely accused by the FBI of being a spy for the Chinese government. Professor Leti Volpp moderated the event while Aarti Kohli from Asian Law Caucus offered her views on the continued racial profiling of Asian Americans in espionage cases. Professor Emily Ryo from USC Law was chosen as this year's Neil Gotanda lecture honoring a rising Asian American academic. Her lecture was titled *From Exclusion to Deportation: Migrants as Moral Agents* and emphasized the links between illegal immigration during the Chinese Exclusion Era and current debates about illegal immigration.

Our symposium was postponed this year to support AFSCME 3299's speaker boycott to advocate for exploited subcontracted workers on the Berkeley campus. Titled *Undocumented & Unheard*, the Symposium's keynote speaker was to have been Prerna Lai, clinical supervisor at the East Bay Community Law Center and would have featured Professor Stephen Lee of UC Irvine, Esther Cho, a doctoral student in sociology, and Hong Mei Pang, ASPIRE Community Organizer at Asian Americans Advancing Justice—Asian Law Caucus. Fortunately, the combined boycott efforts of the law school and students across the UC Berkeley campus led the UC system to insource nearly 100 contracted low-wage workers. Our symposium has been rescheduled for October 2016.

We are also proud to have recruited an expanding membership base. This year, we held our inaugural AALJ Editorial Board retreat, added to our ever-growing list of AALJ social activities, including a first-ever Paint Nite, and even won "Best Drink" for our thirst-quenching melon soju at the law school's All-Journal Halloween Party. We are proud to leave our tight knit community to our next Editors-in-Chief Peggy Ni and Jon Tanaka.

As we continue to grapple with the present-day challenges related to

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the discrimination, exclusion, and oppression of the Asian American community, the *Asian American Law Journal* continues to strive to reflect the complexity and intersectionality of these issues. We thank all of our editors, members, and sponsors who make the publication of the journal possible.

In solidarity,

Stephen Chang and Marissa Lin  
Editors-in-Chief  
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*Asian American Law Journal*

*The Asian American Law Journal Mandate*

The mandate of the *Asian American Law Journal* is to publish commentary, analyses, and research on the experiences and concerns of Asian Americans. We believe that to advance the Asian American movement, we must recognize the diversity among Asian American communities and cultivate scholarship that promotes understanding and empowerment in order to foster resistance to oppression and the achievement of justice. The movement includes, but is not limited to, the intersections of gender, class, sexual orientation, religion and race. We recognize the histories of Pacific Islanders and support those who choose to maintain distinct community identities. In solidarity with all peoples who have been subordinated, we embrace the opportunity to publish works that address issues relating to all marginalized communities. The mission of our journal is to speak truth to power; to borrow from poet Janice Mirikitani, “We give testimony. Our noise is dangerous.”