

THE CHANGING FACE OF LOS ANGELES:



Naturalization swearing-in ceremony

The Opportunities and Challenges of Immigration

LEGAL AID IS ACTIVE IN MEETING BURGEONING NEEDS

Recent immigration has rapidly transformed California into a diverse racial and ethnic society strikingly different from the comparatively homogenous Golden State of the 1960s. Before the surge in immigration beginning in the 1970s, California was 80% white and the state's growth was driven largely by migrants from other parts of the United States. Today 40% of the 35.5 million people living in California are non-white. Nearly one-in-four—almost 8.75 million—are from outside the United States. With one-third of the immigrants in this country calling California home, our state leads the way in the demographic changes transforming America in the 21st century.

Nowhere is the change more readily apparent than in Los Angeles County. Los Angeles has grown to a global community that has no ethnic majority. Los Angeles is:

- The largest Mexican metropolitan area outside Mexico
- The largest Korean metropolitan area outside Korea
- The largest Filipino metropolitan area outside the Philippines
- The largest Vietnamese metropolitan area outside Vietnam
- The largest Salvadoran metropolitan area outside El Salvador
- The largest Guatemalan metropolitan area outside Guatemala
- The second largest Chinese metropolitan area outside China
- The second largest Japanese metropolitan area outside Japan
- More Canadians live in Los Angeles than in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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executive director's

REPORT



Bruce Iwasaki
Executive Director

LAFLA's work is distinguished by the breadth of its practice, a well-established presence in low-income communities and our capacity for innovation. As described in the lead article, LAFLA is a national leader in assisting and representing victims of human trafficking, and conducting trainings for law enforcement.

FREEDOM NETWORK CONFERENCE

One example of LAFLA's leadership was co-sponsoring and planning a national conference held in March, which brought together over 220 attendees from twenty states, as well as Latvia and Taiwan. The third annual Freedom Network USA Conference was co-hosted by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking and the Break The Chain Campaign.

Twenty-seven workshops and roundtables and seventy-five speakers over three days helped bring together a movement that includes advocates for trafficking victims, law enforcement, and legal services. The keynote was delivered by John R. Miller, head of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the U.S. State Department. Other speakers came from the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, FBI and Los Angeles Police Department.

TRAINING LAW ENFORCEMENT

A significant aspect of our trafficking work has been working with prosecuting agencies and law enforcement to change their mindset about trafficking victims. Previously the police would arrest trafficked victims for violation of immigration laws and other crimes; now law enforcement and prosecutors understand the complexity of the situation.

LAFLA is part of the L.A. Metropolitan Task Force on Human Trafficking. Attorney Sheila Neville and other members of LAFLA's staff are writing the script for a training videotape to be shown to patrol officers at roll call. They will also work on a training curriculum for the LAPD Academy. We're also working with the L.A. Sheriff's Regional Community Policy Institute, and conducting monthly trainings on human trafficking for deputies.

TRAFFICKING CASES

An example of trafficking cases handled by our Immigration and Asian Pacific Islander (API) units is a 65-year-old Thai woman brought here ostensibly to work in 1989. She worked 12 to 15 hours a day cleaning, cooking, and serving at a restaurant. Then for no pay, she also had to be the personal servant manicuring and massaging the women who brought her from Thailand, and cleaning and cooking in her home, while suffering humiliation and abuse. Her "employer" was eventually prosecuted and imprisoned for her crimes. LAFLA assisted the victim by applying for her T visa.

Another example is a pending case on behalf of a 27-year-old man from Tonga. Brought to Hawaii using fake documents, he was forced to work on a pig farm and sleep on the floor of a crowded, filthy hut with six other men. After several months he escaped and later testified against the man who had kept him in slavery. LAFLA filed for a T Visa for him which is pending.

LAFLA's work on behalf of human trafficking victims demonstrates our leadership in cutting edge issues, the forging of new alliances, and effective use of funding sources.

LAFLA MATTERS SUMMER 2005	EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: <i>David Ackerly</i> <i>Nona Liegeois</i> <i>Linda Samels</i> <i>Mary Ann Heimann</i> <i>Susan Millmann</i> <i>Carolina Sheinfeld</i> <i>Millie Heur</i> <i>Ludmila Montoya</i> <i>Kathleen Sheldon</i> <i>Bruce Iwasaki</i> <i>Gary Phillips</i> <i>Marjorie Shelvy</i> <i>Joann Lee</i> <i>Susan Rosenberg</i>	<i>The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) is the frontline law firm for low-income people in Los Angeles. LAFLA is committed to promoting access to justice, strengthening communities, combating discrimination and effecting systemic change through representation, advocacy and community education.</i> <i>For more information, to be added to the mailing list, or to inquire about volunteer opportunities or making a contribution, please call LAFLA's Development Office at (323) 801-7915.</i>
	DESIGN: <i>Shin Chen</i> PHOTOS: <i>Mary Ann Heimann Berliner Studios</i>	
www.lafla.org		

WORKING FOR *Justice In Our Community*



HOSPITAL CARE FOR INDIGENTS PRESERVED

Two years ago LAFLA teamed with Neighborhood Legal Services of L.A. County and the ACLU of Southern California to preliminarily enjoin the closure of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and the elimination of 100 beds at L.A. County USC Medical Center. The injunction was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. During the past year, with the pro bono assistance of Alschuler Grossman Stein & Kahan, counsel have been negotiating with the County.

The parties recently reached an agreement. The County will continue to operate Rancho as a 162-bed facility while they seek an entity interested in taking over operations. Any proposed takeover agreement must ensure continued access to Rancho's inpatient and outpatient services by County indigents and Medi-Cal patients. The County also cannot reduce the beds at County USC Medical Center unless it meets certain minimum standards regarding the average length of stay for patients and the median time that emergency room patients wait for a bed.

Silvia Argueta, Yolanda Arias, and Elena Ackel, attorneys in LAFLA's Government Benefits Unit deserve congratulations, and we are grateful to Mark Neubauer and Meredith Moss of Alschuler Grossman Stein & Kahan LLP.

FAKE LEGAL AID SHUT DOWN

Superior Court Judge James Dunn issued a judgment against the California Law Clinic, operated by Jerry Bloom. The Clinic defrauded its clients by posing as LAFLA, charging them money, and doing nothing for them.

Bloom and the California Law Clinic were ordered by the court to cease using the name Legal Aid (Legal Aid Broadway, Legal Aid Crenshaw, et al.) and to stop providing legal or paralegal services. Additionally, Bloom was ordered to pay LAFLA \$1 million in damages, another \$500,000 to permit LAFLA to notify the public about this matter via ads, and Bloom has to turn over all the phone numbers he operated under.

LAFLA was represented in this case by the international law firm of **Jones Day LLP**, who expended countless hours on a pro bono basis to protect LAFLA's name and reputation, and to prevent harm to the public.

TENANTS RECEIVE \$300,000 IN DAMAGES

Eleven families living in a dilapidated building had been forced to move out with only three hours notice due to horrendous conditions. Walls and floors had been removed by the landlord and sewage was flowing in their units ankle-deep. The landlord paid relocation fees, which the tenants used for rent intending to move back into their units once the rehabbing was completed. But once the work was done, the landlord re-rented the completed units at higher rents.

LAFLA, with the pro bono contribution of **O'Melveny & Myers LLP**, sued on causes of action including forcible detainer and wrongful eviction and sought to have the tenants returned to their units at their affordable rents. The case was tried by LAFLA board member and O'Melveny partner Paul Salvaty, and Housing Unit directing attorney Tai Glenn. The judgment included almost \$300,000 in damages, including the reasonable rental value of the property and emotional distress.

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Harriet S. Posner with one of her sons, Harry.

HARRIET S. POSNER

Skadden Arps partner juggles career and family to support LAFLA.

Harriet S. Posner's wide-ranging practice in complex commercial litigation at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom LLP covers areas of law such as securities, employee retirement, corporate governance and restructuring for clients in diverse sectors, including sports and entertainment, health care, financial services and real estate. Ms. Posner has conducted arbitrations, mediations, trials, and arguments before both federal and state appellate for such high-profile entities as Kmart Corporation, Revlon, Tenet Healthcare Corporation, Activision, Inc., the Armand Hammer Museum, Castle Rock Entertainment, and International Creative Management. The Daily Journal in June 2004 named her one of the "Top 50 Women Litigators in California" for the second year in a row. Yet it is her firm's longstanding commitment of

Harriet likened the devotion of LAFLA's advocates, who forgo lucrative private sector careers to pursue the Foundation's mission, to the public-spiritedness of the talented young lawyers her firm sponsors with its two-year Skadden fellowships that underwrite public interest work. "The firm's goal in sponsoring the Skadden Fellowship is to provide young lawyers with the opportunity to gain public interest work for a few years and have them go on to do great things," Harriet said. "That makes me proud to walk in here every day."

She fondly remembers when, as a junior lawyer at Skadden, she took on her first asylum case "Because it was the right thing to do," Harriet said. Although she has had little time to personally take on pro bono cases since becoming the hiring partner of Skadden's Los Angeles office in 1995, she currently is working with *O*, the Oprah magazine, to take action against sexual harassment in the workplace. Ms. Posner is heading a team of legal experts who will review submissions to the magazine of true life stories of sexual harassment, and arrange pro bono representation for a few select cases. The magazine will report on what happens as the cases progress.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, Harriet received her B.A. from Harvard University and her J.D. from UCLA School of Law. She is the devoted mother of 11-year-old Harry and 9-year-old Jack, whose photos abound in her 34th-floor office, and shares with her sons a love of skiing, tennis, basketball and other sports.

Reflecting on the future of LAFLA, Harriet noted, "We have to distinguish ourselves from other public interest providers. There's a need to better highlight our signature programs and market them better...to create a clearer sense of what we as LAFLA do."

She continued, "In an era of decreasing resources, fundraising is more and more what board members do. Board members have to be prepared to ask for money."

To that end, Harriet spearheads fundraising for the silent auction at LAFLA's annual Access to Justice Dinner. She laughed when recounting how fellow board member and dinner co-chair Rita Tuzon recruited her to take over the silent auction. "I've known Rita many years. She was the one who brought me on to LAFLA's board. I can't say no to Rita!" **LM**

"I leave every board meeting blown away by what the advocates are doing to defend the rights of the poor in Los Angeles."

resources and time to public service and pro bono that makes Harriet most gratified to be a lawyer.

Throughout the five decades of Skadden's existence, the firm's lawyers have been active in many types of civic, community, cultural, governmental, educational and medical organizations. Harriet, who has served as her firm's representative on LAFLA's Board of Directors since 2002, also serves on the boards of NOW Legal Defense, CityLife and the Center for Early Education.

"To hear from the advocates doing the work, that's what inspires me as a board member," Harriet observed about the advocacy reports that culminate LAFLA's monthly board meetings. "I leave every board meeting blown away by what the advocates are doing to defend the rights of the poor in Los Angeles."

STAFF PROFILE

Malcolm Carson

TRANSACTIONAL LAWYER WORKS TO INSURE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS



*LAFLA's community economic development lawyer,
Malcolm Carson*

Born in Los Angeles and raised in the Bay Area communities of Menlo Park and Palo Alto, LAFLA staff attorney Malcolm Carson knew early on that he wanted to work for social justice. His father is Clayborne Carson, a history professor and editor-publisher of the Martin Luther King Papers Project at Stanford, and his mother, Susan Carson, is an editor-archivist of the Project. The discussions he heard growing up among his parents and their like-minded colleagues and friend instilled in him the importance of involvement in civil rights issues.

After concurrently completing a masters degree in city and regional planning from UC Berkeley, and a law degree from Boalt Hall, Malcolm went to work for Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe as bond counsel handling the public financing of such entities as school, parks and housing. After that he worked at the City Attorney's office in San Francisco before deciding to move to Southern California. Aware of the good reputation of LAFLA's Community Economic Development (CED) Unit, Malcolm was interested when the CED Unit sought an attorney specializing in transportation

and community planning issues. It was the ideal position Malcolm had envisioned for himself. He applied and was hired.

As the lead attorney for transportation/community planning, Malcolm works as an advocate for low-income people who seek to have a voice in the decisions made by government and industry that impact their lives, health and communities. He and LAFLA staff attorney Ben Beach have developed a workshop for community-based organizations and non-profit corporations that teaches them to maximize their participation in the public planning processes. Malcolm and Ben are among only a few legal services attorneys in the country doing this kind of work.

The major project Malcolm has recently focused on is the expansion of the 710 Freeway. This is the major congested artery that cuts a path through 17 mostly low-income communities from Long Beach to East Los Angeles. Issues of environmental justice in these communities are a key concern as studies show that 70% of the pollution in the area is the result of the diesel emissions from trucks traveling on the

• *Staff Profile: Malcolm Carson* continues on 9



Car wash workers.

More than 50 foreign-language newspapers are published in Los Angeles County, and over fifty percent of County residents speak a language other than English at home. The majority of immigrants ultimately assimilate into society and the longer they live in the U.S., the greater their incomes and tax contributions grow. Most U.S. citizens today are themselves descendants of immigrants who came here during the past 150 years, motivated by job opportunities and political freedoms.

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According to a study by the Urban Institute, by the second generation, immigrants overall end up doing as well as, or in some instances better than, third generation non-Hispanic white native born citizens in terms of their educational attainment, labor force participation, wages and household income. While there are substantial variations across ethnic groups and populations, when education levels are standardized, there is no difference in wage outcomes.

However, the demographic shift brought about by unprecedented numbers of recent immigrants, many of whom are poorer, less educated and less skilled than previous gener-

ations, is raising difficult questions about how to integrate these latest newcomers. Individuals face daunting challenges: learning a new language; getting a job and housing; adapting to a new society; and bringing their families together. Policymakers and institutions grapple with providing safety net services, employment and education to different classes of immigrants — refugees, asylees and other legal noncitizens as well as undocumented immigrants and mixed families with citizen children — to promote their well-being and economic and social mobility, while at the same time discouraging their becoming “public charges,” draining community and government resources.

LAFLA helps eligible immigrants overcome challenges to their social and economic mobility and integrate into stable and productive lives in the U.S. We provide assistance to legal entrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented battered women enabling them to escape exploitation, torture and domestic violence.

Our firm works closely with law enforcement and provides training to help these agencies assist immigrant victims. In this way, LAFLA helps them become lawful permanent residents — and eventually naturalized citizens — and reunify with their families. At the same time when necessary, LAFLA brings legal challenges to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) abuses, and ensures that immigrants and their citizen children have access to mandated programs and services.

Here’s what LAFLA does in this area:

IMMIGRATION

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles is a national leader in immigration advocacy. “We have been helping immigrants for many years and in many ways,” reflected Immigration Law Directing Attorney, Michael J. Ortiz.

The Immigration Law Unit conducts naturalization clinics at venues such as high schools, adult education classes and senior citizens centers. Our advocates also assist and represent clients who need extra help with medical disability waivers and other complex issues, challenging DHS denials of naturalization, and contesting deportation proceedings.

Our outreach efforts also include newly emerging immigrant communities. Last April we organized AFRICA, the African Forum on Immigrants and Refugees in California. This project brings together immigrants from various African countries with organizations such as LAFLA providing services to these communities. Our goal is to help them develop effective organizations within the African community.

BATTERED IMMIGRANT WOMEN

LAFLA is the leading law firm addressing the special needs of immigrant victims of domestic violence. In 1994 Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which included a provision expanding the relief available to

battered immigrant women to help them break the cycle of violence in their lives. Prior to VAWA, an undocumented woman's immigration status was entirely in the hands of her abuser. He controlled whether or not she became a legal resident. VAWA helps the battered immigrant woman by taking the power and control away from her abuser and placing it in her hands where it belongs. LAFLA has assisted hundreds of women in this process and has recruited pro bono attorneys to expand our capacity.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. The U.S. government estimates that 18,000-20,000 men, women and children are trafficked into this country every year and lists Los Angeles, along with New York and Miami, as one of the three major ports of entry for traffickers. Many trafficking victims are forced to work in the sex trade, while others are forced to toil in sweatshops, the fields and private homes. The pay is meager or non-existent and the work and living conditions are exploitative. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) increases the criminal penalties for traffickers and provides benefits and protections for survivors of human trafficking. The TVPA also allows legal services agencies such as LAFLA to represent trafficking victims.

LAFLA has initiated two special projects relating to human trafficking. Our Legal Assistance to Trafficking Victims Project helps trafficking victims access the protections and benefits afforded to them by the TVPA.

Secondly, our STOP the Traffic: Slavery Training and Outreach Project provides free training on human trafficking throughout the United States. The project has taught hundreds of legal advocates, social service providers and law enforcement personnel to effectively identify and assist victims of trafficking. STOP the Traffic also provides free legal resource materials and responds to requests for technical assistance regarding all dimensions of human trafficking.

TORTURE SURVIVORS

Torture survivors — who often arrive with no possessions or money and very little knowledge of the ways of the U.S. — require a comprehensive and long-term approach to achieve local integration. LAFLA's Torture Survivors Project attends to the needs of immigrants who were victims of torture in their countries of origin, through outreach and legal assistance to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

One of LAFLA's most important services is assisting torture survivors to bring their families to the U.S. through the process of family reunification. While family reunification is one of key factors in overcoming the debilitating effects of torture, changes in federal immigration policy in the aftermath of 9/11 have made it more difficult for immigrants to gain admittance to the U.S. Family members of torture survivors from the Middle East, for example, come under more scrutiny and require more complex advocacy to allow them to

immigrate. Ultimately, many survivors from many countries seek our help to become naturalized citizens.

POLITICAL REPRESSION

LAFLA's immigrant work also helps those fleeing undemocratic institutions. For example, our client, Meti Birabiro fled her native Ethiopia due to political persecution. She was stopped in the United States on her way to relatives in Canada, and put in detention. An immigration judge granted her asylum in 1996.

After studying comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley, she recently published her first book, *Blue Daughter of the Red Sea*, in which Meti narrates her story. Meti has been touring to promote her book, and is already working on the next one. LAFLA's Torture Survivors Project assisted her first in applying for lawful permanent residency and five years later with her naturalization. Last May, Meti became a United States citizen.

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EMPLOYMENT

LAFLA's Employment Law Unit enforces wage, hour, health, safety, and other social regulations in low-wage industries where immigrant workers provide the vast majority of labor.

Immigrants are now California's primary source of new, low-wage labor: garment workers, food service employees, car washers, security guards, temporary workers, domestic helpers and in-home care providers, gardeners, day laborers and many others.

One of the most common problems facing immigrant workers is nonpayment of wages. Staff attorney Anel Flores of the Employment Law Unit notes that "Often day laborers are promised a certain wage before they're taken to the job site, but after the work has been done, they're given a myriad of excuses of why they won't be paid." Car wash workers are often expected to work only for tips and receive nothing when it rains, though they are expected to show up for work and remain on the job.

All workers in California, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to receive minimum wage, overtime and safe working conditions. For instance, the U.S. Department of Labor found that even among the legitimate garment manufacturers in Southern California, 48 percent violated the minimum wage law and 54 percent failed to pay overtime. Last year, LAFLA helped workers win an aggregate \$782,000 in back wages.

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Pro Bono Matters

CLINICS FOR BUSY ATTORNEYS

For attorneys unable to commit to full representation of a client, LAFLA offers a wide variety of clinics. The commitment is just for the two or three hours of the clinic, with no continuing representation or follow up expected.

LAFLA's Asian Pacific Islander (API) Community Outreach Unit conducts clinics in Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Japanese using bilingual attorneys.

The third Tuesday evening of each month we hold a Debt Crisis Clinic, using staff and volunteers familiar with bankruptcy and debt counseling.

The Santa Monica Courthouse Domestic Violence Clinic uses pro bono attorneys and volunteer law students every weekday morning to assist victims of domestic violence obtain restraining orders and with other family law issues.

REMOVING EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

For job seekers in Los Angeles the lack of a driver's license is an often insurmountable obstacle to employment. Individuals may have had their driving privilege suspended or revoked for a wide range of problems, from moving violations, no auto insurance, and failures to appear to failure to pay court-ordered child support.

LAFLA's Community Economic Development (CED) Unit holds clinics each month in different non-profit job training and placement sites in South Los Angeles. Pro bono attorneys work individually with clients to help them plan ways to recover their licenses and return to the work force. We have seen a huge increase in demand for assistance this year; we are averaging more than 45 clients per each morning clinic.

The CED unit follows up with clients after each clinic. The

unit was able to contact 88 of the 112 people who attended a clinic during 2004. Of those, 78% had either had their driver's license reinstated or had made significant progress towards reinstatement. This percentage is 20% higher than the comparable figures for 2003.

Driver's License Reinstatement Clinic Trainings are held four times a year in the evening at our Crenshaw Blvd. office. No prior experience is required. The next training date is on Monday, September 19th.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Jason Mills of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP will represent a non-profit in a contract dispute over costs incurred during startup.

Felix Woo of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP is representing a woman whose landlord attempted to sell the house she was living in during the term of her lease-purchase agreement.

Shonna Owen of White & Case LLP will file for state and federal tax exemptions for a non-profit which will build an affordable housing project for senior citizens in East Los Angeles. **Maria Harrington** and **Sayema Hameed**, also of **White & Case** are representing a woman whose husband's cousin defrauded her out of a half-interest in her home by tricking both her and her ex-husband into signing grant deeds.

Pro bono attorneys **Melany Friedlander, Nora Tu-Willis, Heather O'Keefe**, and **Noemi Tan Diaz** attended a recent Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) training and retained clients. LAFLA also conducted its first VAWA training at **Bowman & Brooke LLP** in Gardena, with nine attorneys and three support staff in attendance. Associates **Joseph Kaufman, Nevin C. Brownfield**, and **Ronald G. Akasaka** retained VAWA cases.

TRAININGS FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS AT LAFLA

Upcoming trainings for new LAFLA volunteers. Volunteers must be pre-approved and a minimum volunteer commitment is required.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005—6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Training**

Pro bono attorneys assist battered immigrant women petition for immigration status. 2 hours of MCLE is available.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2005—6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M. **Driver's License Reinstatement Clinic**

Pro bono attorneys and law students counsel individuals at job training centers once a month on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings on the steps necessary to reinstate a suspended or revoked driver's license. 2 hours of MCLE credit is available.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005—6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. **Santa Monica Courthouse Domestic Violence Prevention Clinic**

Pro bono attorneys and law students help victims of domestic violence gain Temporary Restraining Orders against their abusers. 3 hours of MCLE is available.

For more information and future training dates, please go to www.lafla.org/support/volunteer/ or contact David Ackerly, Director of Private Attorney Involvement at dackerly@lafla.org or (323) 801-7908. 

710. There are also documented elevated rates of cancer and asthma, and known public health hot spots throughout the region. It's predicted that port traffic will quadruple by 2025, with the potential of creating even higher levels of toxicity.

Low-income communities have historically been frozen out of in major planning and decision-making in the region. The 710 expansion project started off with more of the same as public officials didn't pursue community involvement. But various community organizations and individuals demanded to be included in the planning and decision-making process.

Malcolm worked for over a year and a half with community organizations to develop a set of recommendations and conditions in order for the residents to support the expansion. This work resulted in freeway planning and air quality issues being conjoined. This is the first time in history that a freeway expansion project has been tied to improving air quality, and represents a major accomplishment

of the cooperative work of the members of the committee.

Malcolm observed, "Coming to LAFLA has afforded me the opportunity to combine my interests and background in community economic development and environmental justice into a unique practice that focuses on some of the most important issues facing low-income people in Los Angeles."

To counterbalance the demands of his advocacy work, Malcolm has a rich and satisfying personal life. He and his wife Barbara, a professional volleyball player, own a Pilates studio, Pure Pilates, in Malibu. He's also an amateur DJ who is known to create an eclectic blend of music for private parties. Yet perhaps his fondest pursuit is surfing. The dedicated surfer spends a couple of hours every morning riding the waves of the Santa Monica Bay. The energy he derives from surfing and being in the ocean help provide him with the vitality and clarity that sustains him through his days working as an advocate representing the underserved of our community. *LM*

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Although welfare reforms enacted in 1996 limit access to a range of benefits for many categories of non-citizens, some of whom had formerly been eligible and receiving benefits, immigrants who aren't citizens can still get many kinds of help from the government. Everyone, regardless of immigration status, may qualify for some health and welfare services such as public education, prenatal and emergency medical care, immunizations for children, and help from food pantries and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Certain government programs like SSI, Food Stamps, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal are limited to low-income "qualified" immigrants including U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, and certain spouses and children who are victims of domestic violence.

LAFLA's Government Benefits Unit advocates on behalf of qualified immigrant families and enforces the law for those denied essential government services.

ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY OUTREACH UNIT

The Asian and Pacific Islander community in Los

Angeles County, which has grown to approximately 1.3 million, is one of the most challenging immigrant populations to serve, with Koreans, Chinese, Cambodians, Vietnamese, Japanese and others having diverse and complex languages, cultures and needs. High poverty rates, limited English proficiency and lack of understanding of the U.S. legal system have isolated API populations from accessing mainstream legal services.

LAFLA's Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Community Outreach Unit was created in the 1990s to better serve the rapidly growing API population isolated by linguistic and cultural barriers. LAFLA has shifted its traditional methods of intake and outreach, collaborating with well-established and trusted ethnic community based organizations to provide regular intake clinics on site in Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Koreatown and Long Beach's Cambodian community. LAFLA has also added dedicated language access lines in Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Khmer and Japanese. Many of the API Unit's clients are domestic violence survivors who have lived in abusive relationships for years for fear of being deported and separated from their U.S.-born-children.

With your help, LAFLA remains a national leader in meeting the complex and ever-changing needs of our diverse population. *LM*

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FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED TO LAFLA LAW CLERKS

Last year, J. Cacilia Kim, an associate at O'Melveny & Myers LLP, made a generous donation of \$5,000 to LAFLA to create the Paul Tsao Memorial Fellowship in honor of her late father-in-law. Judy Wong, who attends Whittier Law School, was selected to receive the first Tsao Fellowship. During the summer, Judy, who is fluent in Cantonese, assisted monolingual Chinese immigrants in numerous legal matters at LAFLA.

This year, Cacilia Kim continued to fund the fellowship by repeating her generous donation of \$5,000. LAFLA is proud to have selected Jackie Chiang, who is fluent in Mandarin and attends Pepperdine University School of Law, to receive this year's fellowship.

LAFLA law clerk Hikari Kimura received scholarships from the Japanese American Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association of Orange County and Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association.

And LAFLA law clerk Linda Van received a summer fellowship from the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, as well as a scholarship from the Asian American Bar Association of Orange County.

PRO BONO PROFESSIONALS GIVE L.A. NONPROFITS A HELPING HAND

Marco Ferreira of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP represents major businesses and public employers in his everyday practice, but he recently shared his expertise with grassroots nonprofits. At two Community Economic Development (CED) Unit-sponsored workshops, he assisted small community-based groups sort through issues such as who is an independent contractor, which employees are exempt from wage and hour laws, and how to create an effective hiring process. Upcoming this fall he'll be involved in a workshop that will focus on employee benefits and leaves of absence for nonprofit employers.

Lance Bocarsly of Bingham McCutchen LLP is co-chair of the firm's Real Estate Practice Group, where he leads the affordable housing and community development practice. Lance is an expert in representing both nonprofit and for-profit developers of low-income housing. With Francisca Gonzalez Baxa, a local solo practitioner (and former head of the CED Unit) who represents nonprofit housing developers and small businesses, they held a well-received workshop for community-based affordable housing developers.

WASHINGTON MUTUAL SPONSORS LAFLA WORKSHOP

Washington Mutual sponsored a workshop this past May to introduce new nonprofit developers to the processes and financing involved in creating affordable housing. Washington Mutual also sent two staff people, Jonathan Macaranas and Rosanne Hawkins-Pinedo, to explain financing issues to prospective housing developers. In this way LAFLA helps community groups build low-cost housing.

CPAs AID LAFLA IN TRAINING NONPROFITS

Wendy Ren of the accounting firm Green Hasson & Janks, LLP provided guidance to small L.A. nonprofits on financial planning and management. Gayle Whittemore, CPA, a partner of the same firm, has also presented at past LAFLA workshops, and recently provided training for the CED Unit, whose attorneys introduce their clients to basic financial planning and management concepts.

Your Donation is Important

- *Make a cash gift.*
- *Make a gift of appreciated securities or real estate.*
- *Make a commemorative gift in honor or memory of a colleague or loved one.*
- *Designate LAFLA in a planned gift (will, trust, insurance policy).*
- *Make an in-kind gift of goods or services.*

Thank you for your interest in and support of our work.

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from the

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

The Board of Directors staged LAFLA's first Access to Justice Dinner in 1999 to mark our then 70-year history as the frontline public interest law firm in Los Angeles, and to pay tribute to those who have helped support our mission. The annual dinner has since lauded several extraordinary honorees for their commitment to access to justice and exemplary records of public and community service, and raised in excess of \$2 million from law firm, corporate, entertainment industry and individual supporters to sustain LAFLA's programs and services that level the playing field for people who cannot afford private attorneys and solve community problems on a larger scale.

Increasing our base of private support through the Dinner, the Long Beach Grand Cru, "Partners in Equal Justice" Law Firm Campaign and the Annual Fund Drive has enabled LAFLA to grow and meet the changing needs of the low-income communities we serve, which have burgeoned to over two million income-eligible persons. Although federal funding for legal services has been flat and interest on lawyer trust account revenue has plunged, LAFLA has twice as many lawyers assisting clients as it did in 1997, thanks in part to the extraordinary generosity of our donors.

This year, at our seventh annual Access to Justice Dinner on Tuesday, October 18th, we are pleased to honor legendary entertainment lawyer **Bert Fields** and **the Honorable Kim McLane Wardlaw**, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Fields, a partner at Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman Machtinger & Kinsella LLP and one of Hollywood's most influential lawyers, has earned a stellar reputation zealously representing both creative talent and major studios, famously never losing a trial in a career spanning five decades. Judge Wardlaw was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the U.S. District Court for Central District of California in 1995 and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1998. Throughout her illustrious career, first as a litigator with the Los Angeles-based international law firm O'Melveny & Myers LLP representing numerous major corporations as well as pro bono clients, and more recently on the bench, Judge Wardlaw has demonstrated a commitment to furthering justice and equality for all. She also is a dedicated mentor to law students, young lawyers and especially women lawyers.

We look forward to saluting Bert Fields, Judge Wardlaw and our many partners in equal justice at the **2005 Access to Justice Dinner on October 18th** at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Please check LAFLA's website at: www.lafla.org for more details on the Dinner and other ways you can become involved in our mission and help make a measurable difference in the lives of those less fortunate. We look forward to your partnership.

RITA TUZON
PRESIDENT, 2005-06

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Access, to Justice Dinner 2005

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2005 ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD

The Honorable Kim M. Wardlaw

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2005 PRO BONO ASSOCIATES AWARD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005

Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Beverly Hilton Hotel
9876 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills

Information:

Lauran Huff
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