

# **UCLA**

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## Volume 28 Foreword

We began our tenure as editors-in-chief of the Asian Pacific American Law Journal's (APALJ) Volume 28 in the journal's tiny office in the back corner of the law school sitting among stacks of publications from the past three decades. Since its founding, APALJ has stood apart in its mission of elevating authentic perspectives on issues at the heart of the Asian American community. It is this mission that shapes our volume; the articles published within draw on stories often overlooked in critiquing established ways of thinking and engaging in a radical imagination of what Asian America could be.

Volume 28 begins with Caroline Lester's article discussing the evacuation and internment of Alaskan Natives from the Aleutian Island chain—an undiscussed history deeply intertwined with the history of Japanese internment during World War II. The story of Han Say Naim, a Chinese immigrant whose marriage to a white woman was voided under Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws is then explored in 2023 Robert T. Matsui Annual Writing Competition winner, Benjamin Lew's article. Finally, Sawyer Nash presents Vietnamese American narratives in providing a critical perspective on the foundations of Asian American identity.

Volume 28 then ends with our Affirmative Action Series, a special project we embarked on as a response to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Students for Fair Admissions ("SFFA") v Harvard* abolishing diversity as a proper rationale for race-based affirmative action in college admissions. Beyond the bare question of the doctrine's legal legitimacy, affirmative action has become an issue reflective of what it means to be Asian American on a college application, in an educational setting, and beyond.

Affirmative action is a hot-button issue fervently debated throughout the country, generating diverse perspectives and arguments within the Asian American movement. The Affirmative Action Series seeks to present perspectives from different voices in the movement and features the writings of Distinguished Professor of Law and Asian American Studies, Jerry Kang, Former President of OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, San Diego Chapter, Leah Tsao, Director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland, Professor Janelle Wong, PhD, and Pulitzer Prize Winner and Professor Viet Thanh Nguyen.

APALJ is, by no means, a large-scale operation. We operate in one tiny corner at UCLA School of Law on a small budget with less than thirty members and one faculty advisor. Many of us are the children of immigrants and refugees and first generation students, so we recognize the privilege of being able to access the opportunities and resources of a higher education. With that privilege is also an understanding of the responsibility to uplift our communities in our academic and professional journeys.

Volume 28 was a project of love, passion, and respect to the communities that raised and supported us. Though we are a small publication, we had a big vision. And, with the help of UCLA's Assistant Director of Student Publications Iman Jafri, our faculty advisor Professor Sung Hui Kim, our incredible chief editors, and our hardworking staff, we were able to bring this vision to life.

Now, we are so excited and proud to bring Volume 28 to you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Deng and Irene Quach  
Editors-in-Chief, Volume 28