

Editors' Note

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present Volume 31 of the *Asian American Law Journal*. During a year in which narratives about Asian American communities have been selectively used to hinder decades of racial justice work, we are calling attention to a broader range of lived experiences and stories. The three pieces selected for Volume 31 provide new, needed perspectives toward the histories of and legal issues impacting different Asian American communities.

First, in *Reparations Delayed: Japanese Latin Americans and the United States' WWII Human Rights Transgressions*, Professor Eric K. Yamamoto and Hanna Wong Taum highlight the United States' mass incarceration of Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs) during World War II and JLAs' decades-long (and as of yet, unsuccessful) pursuit of reparations. Professor Yamamoto and Taum describe two recent developments that have reignited JLA reparations advocacy: the 2020 decision of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights recommending reparations and President Biden's 2022 address on the Day of Remembrance acknowledging JLAs' wrongful exclusion from the 1988 Civil Liberties Act. Through the framework of Social Healing Through Justice, Professor Yamamoto and Taum argue that, despite the darkside realpolitik obstacles, the United States should act now upon the Commission's reparative recommendations to give JLAs redress and demonstrate its own leadership on the world stage.

Second, in *The Influence of Christianity in Shaping Conservative Asian America*, Vincent D. Kwan explores the prevalence of Christian conservatism in Asian American communities and the history of Christianity in the United States. Kwan describes how political values embedded in conservative Christian values in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries appealed to many Asian immigrants who sought to escape turmoil in their home countries. Kwan argues that this continuing Christian conservatism in Asian American communities preserves a status quo of white supremacy and racial subjugation and suggests paths forward for the next generation of Asian American Christianity.

Third, in *No Escape: How the Library of Congress Weaponized Internal Relocation Against Persecuted Sikhs and How to Fight Back*, Josh A. Roth highlights one institutional barrier unique to Sikh asylum applicants: the use of a non-periodical government-sponsored report as a de facto bar to asylum. Roth analyzes multiple deficiencies in the Library of Congress report and its

use in asylum cases like *Singh v. Garland* and proposes recommendations for overcoming this hurdle in future removal proceedings.

Additionally, we hosted two speaker events this year. During the October 2023 Neil Gotanda Lecture on Asian American Jurisprudence, Professor Gulika Reddy spoke on trauma, resilience, and well-being in human rights and social justice work. She emphasized the importance of developing individual and organizational tactics to enhance well-being and led students through interactive exercises to develop helpful tools as we prepare to enter the legal profession.

The March 2024 Spring Symposium addressed affirmative action and the “Asian penalty” argument in the United States. Leading up to and in the wake of *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*, the narrative collapsing Asian and white American positionalities and perspectives in discussions about affirmative action has come to the forefront of national conversations. Our speakers, Sunu P. Chandy, Sally Chen, Professor Vinay Harpalani, and Shalaka Phadnis, rejected this monolithic narrative and added nuance to the conversations surrounding Asian American communities and affirmative action in the face of the many being told about us.

We are deeply grateful to the authors, speakers, sponsors, and editors who have contributed their time, effort, and expertise to the *Asian American Law Journal*. It has been an honor and a pleasure working with such an incredible group of people. We could not have produced this volume without their dedication to advancing knowledge and justice for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. We know that *AALJ* will flourish under the leadership of our next Editors-in-Chief, Jin Young Cho and Brittany Zhang, and we wish next year’s editors the best of luck as they continue to promote inclusivity, diversity, and rigorous scholarship on Asian American jurisprudence.

Thank you for your continued support and readership.

In solidarity,
Heidi H. Kong, Julia Wang, and Linda Chang
Editors-in-Chief and Managing Editor
2023–2024, Volume 31
Asian American Law Journal