



JUDGE SANDRA R. OTAKA LEGAL FELLOW (1-2 POSITIONS)

Full-Time Pro Bono Legal Fellowship Posting: May 18, 2010

The Asian American Institute (AAI) was established in 1992 as a pan-Asian, not-for-profit organization. Our mission is to empower the Asian American community through advocacy, by utilizing research, education and coalition building. AAI is affiliated with the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C., the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles, and the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco. AAI's programs include legal advocacy, community organizing, and leadership development.

AAI is pleased to host the Judge Sandra R. Otaka Legal Fellowship, which is dedicated to projects relating to voting rights and the Asian American community. The fellowship is established in honor of the late Judge Sandra R. Otaka, a founding member of AAI, who was the first Asian American to be appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court and the first Asian American to be elected a judge in Cook County. Judge Otaka's leadership and contributions in the areas of civil rights, law, and politics have had a profound impact on the Asian American community.

AAI is seeking **1-2 Legal Fellows** to support its Legal Advocacy program, with a primary focus in the areas of voting rights and redistricting. This is an exciting time to work on such issues, as there will be several key elections and redistricting activities taking place in the Chicago area in 2010 and 2011. The fellowship will be an excellent opportunity to improve skills in legal analysis and advocacy.

REPORTS TO: Legal Director

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Help lead AAI's redistricting efforts by:
 - analyzing various novel issues in voting rights law
 - creating legal and practical guidelines for drawing districts that empower historically disenfranchised communities.
- Assist AAI's Legal Director with researching and implementing civil rights initiatives in the areas including: affirmative action, hate crimes; and language access.

REQUIREMENTS:

- **The Legal Fellow position is open to attorneys and law school graduates who are funded by law firms.**
- Proficiency in using standard legal databases, Microsoft Office programs including Outlook, Word, and Excel, and the internet.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

The ideal candidate:

- Is a self-starter with the ability to work independently, think creatively and prioritize multiple tasks;
- Has experience working with Asian American communities;
- Has flexible working hours including some evenings and weekends; and
- Bilingual skills in English and an Asian language are an asset.

DATES: Ideally from August 2010 through August 2011, but we are willing to consider other dates.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, as soon as they are received. To apply for the position, please send your resume and cover letter to Ami Gandhi, Legal Director, at ami@aaichicago.org. For additional information, please visit <http://www.aaichicago.org> or contact Ami Gandhi at 773 271 0899 x 103 or ami@aaichicago.org.

AAI is an equal opportunity employer.