



**SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC INTEREST FOUNDATION**

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NEWS RELEASE

**SABA PUBLIC INTEREST FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS TOTALLING
\$15,000 TO DESERVING PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS**

Los Angeles, California – August 11, 2005 – The South Asian Bar Association of Southern California Public Interest Foundation (“Foundation”), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to organizing, supporting and promoting public interest activities and projects for the benefit of the South Asian community and the Southern California community at large, today announced that it has awarded \$15,000 in critically-needed grant money to the following organizations to pursue projects that serve public interest objectives:

- **The Asian Pacific Women’s Center (APWC)** received a grant to conduct a training session titled “A Comprehensive Approach to Servicing Battered Immigrant Families”
- **The Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund** received a grant to support its South Asian American Anti-Discrimination Project, an information outreach project regarding immigration-related employment discrimination
- **The Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC)** received multiple grants to support the following projects:
 - Welfare and Healthcare for Immigrants Project, wherein educational materials regarding welfare and healthcare rights will be translated into multiple South Asian languages
 - Immigration and Citizenship Project, an outreach effort to assist the South Asian community in applying for U.S. citizenship
 - APALC Defenders League, wherein the grant funds will be used toward hate crime prevention
- **The Immigration Center for Women and Children** received a grant to benefit its Domestic Violence Project, an organized effort to provide legal assistance for low-income women and children immigrants that have been victims of domestic violence
- **The Islamic Shura Council of Southern California** received funding to conduct “Know Your Rights” workshops and town hall meetings to prevent unjust government persecution
- **South Asian Network** received a grant to support its efforts in organizing Los Angeles taxi workers through workshops, town hall meetings and legal advocacy.

“It is exciting to see SABA taking an active role in Southern California’s public interest community,” said Suma Mathai, the President of SABA, the Foundation’s parent organization, and attorney with the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice. “We envision the Foundation developing partnerships with some of these organizations to give them access to SABA’s legal resources.” In fact, Ms. Mathai is already working with the Islamic Shura Council to make a presentation to Southern California’s Muslim community on domestic violence.

APALC was particularly impressed by the Foundation’s efforts. “We’re grateful for the Foundation’s support, interest and participation in the work that we do,” said Audrey Lee-Sung, APALC’s Director of Development. Veronika Geronimo, Project Director of APALC’s Welfare and Healthcare for Immigrants Project stated that “through the Foundation’s support, APALC is able to provide information to diverse

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South Asian communities about their healthcare rights...For South Asians who cannot communicate in English, this information is critical to receiving timely and quality health care.” Similarly, Mark Yoshida, Program Director of APALC’s Immigration & Citizenship Project appreciated the Foundation’s assistance. “The Foundation’s generous support will enable APALC to bring vital information and assistance to South Asian immigrants who seek to fulfil their immigration destiny and become American citizens,” Mr. Yoshida said.

Thanks to the Foundation’s sponsorship, APWC was able to conduct a valuable and significant training session in Downtown Los Angeles. According to Chun-Yen Chen, APWC’s Executive Director, this training session served to “empower over 100 public interest professionals with knowledge of legal issues, public benefits, and culture competency to better serve battered immigrant families.”

“Our grant program represents the culmination of an extremely successful first full year for the Foundation,” said Karun Naga, the Foundation’s President. “We are delighted that the Foundation could support such valuable projects and provide much-needed encouragement to deserving public interest organizations.”

About the Foundation

Founded in 2003, the Foundation is the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California, an organization dedicated to the advancement and development of South Asian attorneys as well as attorneys interested in issues affecting the South Asian community. Since its inception, the Foundation has held numerous events which have united the South Asian community, acknowledged the value of public interest work, heightened the awareness of legal issues unique to immigrant communities, and served a fundraising function. In addition to providing grants to deserving public interest organizations, the Foundation has awarded Public Interest Fellowships to several distinguished law students to provide them resources so that they may spend their summers working for public interest legal organizations in Southern California. These fellowships have been successful in encouraging law students to serve underprivileged individuals and communities and in promoting awareness of public interest issues that impact the South Asian community. In its short existence, the Foundation has raised and disbursed over \$30,000 in funds to deserving public interest causes. For more information on the Foundation, or to make a donation, please visit www.sabasc.org/foundation or email Foundation@sabasc.org.