



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## ***ASIAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS ANNOUNCE INTENT TO JOIN NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS IN CHALLENGE TO ANTI-IMMIGRANT ARIZONA LAW***

LOS ANGELES—Leaders of the **Asian American Justice Center** (AAJC), **Asian Law Caucus** (ALC) and **Asian Pacific American Legal Center** (APALC) announced today that their organizations will jointly challenge SB 1070, a sweeping and profoundly anti-immigrant piece of state legislation that was signed into law by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer on April 23, 2010.

“By requiring Arizona law enforcement, with limited exceptions, to determine the immigration status of anyone who law enforcement officers ‘reasonably suspect’ is an undocumented immigrant and expanding their authority to make warrantless arrests, this divisive and oppressive law will encourage overbroad and indiscriminate targeting of entire immigrant communities,” said **Julie A. Su**, Litigation Director of APALC.

“We stand in solidarity with the Latino community, which has long felt the full force of Arizona’s anti-immigrant laws,” Su, who will lead the litigation effort for the Asian American community, added.

The Arizona law, which imposes a state and local immigration enforcement regime that is preempted by and in conflict with federal law, is yet another manifestation of Arizona’s history of anti-immigrant sentiment and continues a pattern of reckless immigration enforcement actions that ignores basic notions of fairness and decency.

“Arizona’s action is unconstitutional because it impermissibly expands Arizona’s authority to enforce federal civil and criminal immigration law,” said AAJC senior staff attorney **Ronald Lee**. “Arizona’s recent—and telling—attempts to circumscribe the scope of SB 1070 through passage of HB 2162 will do nothing to save this fundamentally flawed legislation from being struck down.”

AAJC, ALC and APALC will be filing their legal challenge along with other civil rights organizations including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, American Civil Liberties Union, the National Immigration Law Center, National Day Labor Organizing Network, and with leaders of the Arizona Asian American community.

“Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are vulnerable to misguided immigration enforcement efforts, especially those that implicitly condone racial profiling, as our communities continue to face difficulties achieving acceptance in mainstream American society,” said **Sin Yen Ling**, senior staff attorney at ALC.

AAJC, ALC and APALC along with Asian American Institute (AAI) are affiliate organizations who are advancing their work to protect and expand the civil rights of Asian Americans under the new name, Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.

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*The Asian American Justice Center ([www.advancingequality.org](http://www.advancingequality.org)), Asian Law Caucus ([www.asianlawcaucus.org](http://www.asianlawcaucus.org)), Asian Pacific American Legal Center ([www.apalc.org](http://www.apalc.org)) and Asian American Institute ([www.aaichicago.org](http://www.aaichicago.org)) are dedicated to defending and advancing the civil and human rights of Asian Americans both nationally and in local communities. Their strengthened affiliation under the name, Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, will be formally announced on June 24, 2010 at the Advancing Justice Conference ([advancingjustice.org](http://advancingjustice.org)) in Washington, D.C.*