



OAPABA
OREGON ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

OREGON LAW CENTER
Providing Access To Justice For Low Income Oregonians

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OREGON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION AND OREGON LAW
CENTER ANNOUNCE LAUNCH OF PRO BONO LEGAL CLINIC PROGRAM**

The Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Oregon Law Center are pleased to announce the opening of a pro bono legal clinic that will provide free civil legal services to low-income clients at the Immigration & Refugee Community Organization's Asian Family Center in Northeast Portland. Private attorneys, who are members of OAPABA, will volunteer their time to interview and assist low-income people through this clinic.

OLC's clinic was launched earlier this year through a partnership with IRCO. The clinic caters to Portland's growing Asian Pacific Islander communities. The clinic is held between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every other month, at the Asian Family Center, 8040 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR 97213. The clinic is open to any low-income person who would like a consultation about a general civil legal issue. To sign up for an appointment, email your name, contact information, description of the legal issue, name of the adverse party (the person you are having a problem with), and whether you need an interpreter to RSVP@irco.org or call (503) 235-9396.

OLC attorney and OAPABA Board Member Hong Dao was the clinic's first staffer. The clinic started as a project through the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute, of which Dao is a Leadership Fellow. Under the leadership of former OAPABA President Elisa Dozono, OAPABA Advocacy Committee members Chin See Ming and Julia Markley, former Steering Committee member of the Institute, worked with Dao and the staff at OLC to put this pro bono partnership together.

OAPABA President Kim Sugawa-Fujinaga said, "OAPABA is pleased to partner with the Oregon Law Center to launch such an important project as part of our mission to increase access to justice for all individuals and especially for our API communities." Monica Goracke, the managing attorney of the Portland Office of OLC, added, "Oregon is fortunate to have attorneys, and attorney organizations like OAPABA, who are willing to volunteer their time to give back to the community and increase access to justice for the low-income communities of Oregon." Asian Family Center Director Lee Po Cha said, "We deeply appreciate that OAPABA and OLC are providing this free legal clinic at IRCO/Asian Family Center.

Our diverse Asian and Pacific Islander community members feel more comfortable seeking assistance when the clinic is at a location that is familiar to them."

About the Oregon Law Center: The mission of the Oregon Law Center is to achieve justice for the low income communities of Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services. OLC has eight offices in Oregon and conducts outreach to clients at clinics in additional locations.

About the Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association: OAPABA's mission is:

Advancement: To promote the professional development and advancement of APA attorneys through education, research and programs.

Advocacy: To act as a vehicle and forum for expressing opinions on matters of concern to APA attorneys and our communities.

Communication: To encourage and foster communication among APA attorneys on issues affecting our work, communities and government.

About the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization: The mission of IRCO is to promote the integration of refugees, immigrants, and the community at large into a self-sufficient, healthy, and inclusive multiethnic society.