

Monday, February 8th, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR NEW REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
EXTENDED TO 5:00 PM ON FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

Asian American and Pacific Islander applicants still needed

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the California State Auditor announced that it has extended the deadline to apply for the new Citizens Redistricting Commission to 5:00 pm on February 16, 2010. In the past two weeks, there has been a tremendous surge in the number of individuals applying for the commission – the number of applicants has doubled from 10,000 individuals on January 27 to over 20,000 individuals today. State Auditor Elaine M. Howle explained, “The recent surge in applications leads me to believe that many more Californians who may want to take advantage of the opportunity are just now tuning into the opportunity.”

Eugene Lee, voting rights project director at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), commented, “We hope that more diverse individuals will take advantage of the deadline extension – this is important to ensuring that diverse communities have a voice on this new, powerful commission. While over 1,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have applied for the commission, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up less than 5.5% of the total applicant pool.” Lee also noted that persons of color as a whole make up less than 30% of all applicants, and women make up only 32% of applicants.

Every ten years, the voting lines in California are redrawn to evenly divide the voting districts based on the latest census data – this is the process of redistricting. How the lines are drawn can determine who will run for office and who will win, and whether communities are kept together or split unfairly. In the past, the State Legislature has drawn the district maps for the State Assembly, State Senate, and Board of Equalization (an elected tax agency). Because of Proposition 11, a 14-person citizens commission will be in charge of redistricting in 2011.

In 2011, the commission will hold public hearings throughout California, evaluate relevant materials, and eventually draw the new district maps. From January 2011 until the commission adopts new maps in September 2011, the commissioners may spend 10-40 hours a week or more on their responsibilities. The commissioners are paid \$300 per day plus expenses when doing commission business.

To apply for the commission, individuals must fill out an online form. The form can be found at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov and is due by 5:00 pm on February 16, 2010. The Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting (CAPAFR) is conducting application workshops to assist individuals with the application. A schedule of CAPAFR’s remaining workshops appears at the bottom of this press release.

The 14 commissioners will be selected in a multi-step process that will end on December 31, 2010. The commission will be made up of five registered Democrats, five registered Republicans, and four individuals who are either decline-to-state or registered with a third party. To serve on the commission, an individual must be a registered voter and meet other eligibility requirements. Individuals who are appointed to the commission face restrictions on future political activities. For more information about these provisions, please visit http://www.apalc.org/pdf/files/2010/CAPAFR_commission_brochure_final.pdf.

For more information about the commission or the workshops, please contact APALC at redistricting@apalc.org or visit www.facebook.com/capaf2011. A list of materials translated in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/notes/capaf2011/translated-materials-about-redistricting-commission-available/255332506365>.

Santa Clara County Application Workshop

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Host: Asian Law Alliance

Location: Asian Law Alliance
184 E. Jackson St.
San Jose, CA 95112

To RSVP: Jacquelyn Maruhashi, alacensus@aol.com or (408) 287-9710

San Francisco 1-on-1 Application Orientations

February 8-11th, 2010 9:00am to 5:00pm

Host: Asian Law Caucus

Location: Asian Law Caucus
55 Columbus Avenue
San Francisco CA 94111

To Schedule: Carlo De La Cruz carlod@asianlawcaucus.org or (415) 848-7721

For more information about the commission or the workshops, call: Asian Law Caucus at (415) 896-1701 ext. 121, Asian Law Alliance (408) 287-9710, East Bay Asian Voter Education Consortium (925) 933-6778 or visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/capaf2011>.

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ASIAN LAW CAUCUS (ALC) - The mission of the Asian Law Caucus is to promote, advance, and represent the legal and civil rights of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Recognizing that social, economic, political and racial inequalities continue to exist in the United States, the Asian Law Caucus is committed to the pursuit of equality and justice for all sectors of our society with a specific focus directed toward addressing the needs of low-income and Asian and Pacific Islanders. Visit: asianlawcaucus.org.

ASIAN LAW ALLIANCE (ALA) - Over the past 32 years as a nonprofit corporation, the Asian Law Alliance has helped tens of thousands of people in obtaining decent housing, justice in the immigration process, and access to basic human and legal rights. Today, Asian/Pacific Islanders continue to be denied fundamental rights. ALA continues to keep its doors open for those individuals who are limited in English, who do not understand the legal system, who cannot afford legal fees and who face the reality of discrimination.

THE EAST BAY ASIAN VOTER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (EBAVEC) was organized to collaborate and coordinate the voter education activities of API organizations in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. EBAVEC was formed in the early 1990s for the purpose of educating Asian Americans regarding (i) the election process, (ii) voter registration procedures, (iii) qualifications for American citizenship and voting, and (iv) equal and full participation of all citizens in the electoral process and (v) community issues of concern within the Oakland and East Bay community.