



Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

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Winter
2012 - 2013

NYAWC STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lauren Burke, NYAWC Staff Attorney, Makes Forbes 30 Under 30 Law and Policy List



Lauren Burke, NYAWC's first in-house staff attorney, was named one of Forbes 30 Under 30 rising talents in the fields of law and policy. A former Skadden Fellow, Founding Executive Director of Atlas: DIY and frequently cited expert on matters of human trafficking, Lauren certainly deserves a place among this group of intrepid young adults. At NYAWC, Lauren spearheads our direct immigration legal services department. Her groundbreaking work empowers survivors to seek and receive the immigration relief services they need and deserve. Congratulations, Lauren!

Senior Assistant Director of Clients Services, Fran Gau, Wins the NASW Mid-Career Exemplary Leader

Senior Assistant Director of Client Services, Fran Gau, was awarded the Mid-Career Exemplary Leader Award from the National Association of Social Workers - NYC Chapter. Fran has over 15 years of experience boldly advocating on behalf of women and children survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, even starting her own anti-human trafficking organization in Taiwan, the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation.



"Fran is one of the most well-rounded leaders that I have had the honor to work with, and she truly deserves the recognition," said Julie Kim Richards, Director of Programs.

NYAWC RAISES \$291,000 AT 30TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT

Raising \$116,000 more than expected, NYAWC's 30th anniversary gala was hugely successful. Board members were especially effective at motivating many new and returning organizations to sponsor the event. Aimed at propelling NYAWC to new heights, the additional funds will hire a Director of Development.

Held on October 18, 2012, friends and supporters celebrated three decades of providing survivors with the critical resources to help them rebuild their lives, become self-sufficient and regain hope for the future. NYAWC honored New York State Supreme Court Justice Doris Ling-Cohan with the 2012 Phoenix Award at the event held at the Edison Ballroom, which was co-chaired by board members, Ankur Gandhi and Karen Elizaga, and emceed by Nina Pineda, 7 On Your Side, WABC-TV. Special guest CK Swett auctioneered the Live Ask and Auction.

The benefit, raising an impressive \$291,000, will allow NYAWC to continue providing the practical assistance our women and children most need.

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Fran Gau, Justice Doris Ling-Cohan, Larry Lee, Lauren Burke, and Aditi Bhattacharya at the 30th Anniversary Gala.

NYAWC RAISES \$291,000 AT 30TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT

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“In the future, we envision Asian American and other communities rejecting violence against women and children. We see communities coming to realize that non-violence is a more desirable way of living -- less stressful, economically sounder and in everyone’s best interest,” said Larry Lee, Executive Director. “We see NYAWC as the organization that provides the highest quality counseling and helps fulfill the survivor’s basic needs in a sustainable way. NYAWC’s services are great now, but we want to make them even better... We are looking forward to the next thirty years.”



Justice Doris Ling-Cohan thrilled and surprised to win the Phoenix Award— with husband, Marc Cohan and former NYAWC client.

NYAWC HONORS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH WITH LIGHTS AND SILENCE

Shine the Light on Domestic Violence in Times Square



Times Square shone purple, lighting up some of the largest and brightest screens, in one of the most visible spots in the world, shedding light on domestic violence. Chanting, “Take a stand, walk with us,” “Domestic violence has got to go,” “Love should not hurt,” and “Hands are not for hitting,” over 20 NYAWC staff and volunteers made their way to Shine the Light on Domestic Violence: Times Square to commemorate October, National Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness month. Shine the Light on Domestic Violence is a campaign initiated by the Governor’s Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence to raise awareness of domestic violence among New Yorkers.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Special thanks to our generous, recent* supporters: Consulate General of Japan, the Beautiful Foundation and the Taproot Foundation.

NYAWC would also like to thank the Ong Family Foundation and Yu Foundation for generously inviting our women and children to the circus; NYAWC Volunteer Council, Sigma Psi Zeta and Lambda Phi Epsilon for organizing a happy hour fundraiser on our behalf; Operation Backpack and the West Hempstead Rotary Foundation for generously donating Christmas presents to our children and bringing them some holiday joy, and the many other individuals and corporations who contributed to NYAWC.

Thank you to the generous sponsors who made our 30th anniversary gala possible:

15th Annual Silent March Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Marching in memory of murdered victims, and in honor of survivors and current sufferers of domestic violence and sexual assault, NYAWC participated in the 15th Annual Silent March Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault organized by the Korean American Family Service Center (KAFSC). Over 150 participants dressed in purple and teal, colors that symbolize an end to domestic violence and sexual assault.

“We were silent and let our signs and the fact that we were marching together speak for themselves,” said SoYeon Kang, NYAWC’s Project Speak Out Manager, “Since we were cutting into two of the main streets of Flushing, we stopped traffic. People took note that all these people were marching together for one purpose – to end domestic violence.”

At the end of the march, the silence was broken. Julie Kim Richards, NYAWC’s Director of Programs, spoke on behalf of NYAWC and Project Speak Out, emphasizing that collaborative efforts are needed to meet the specific needs of Asian survivors. “The speech was an invitation to anybody willing to stand against domestic violence and sexual assault,” said Kang, “It really allowed people to realize that we can be a resource to one another.”

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| <p>PHOENIX</p>  <p>ONG FAMILY FOUNDATION</p> | <p>GUARDIAN JAY PTASHEK & KAREN ELIZAGA</p> <p>BENEFACTOR</p> <p>ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES PAUL HASTINGS</p> <p>Goldman Sachs</p> <p>KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP PAULINE LEE & DANIEL J. ZUBKOFF JASON MA AND W. VIVIAN LAU</p> |
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* updated December 23, 2012

NYAWC CLIENT SUCCESSES

Jackie:

Former NYAWC Client Turned Domestic Violence Advocate

For years, Jackie endured abuse from her mentally ill husband -- all while raising a daughter with special needs. Because of certain Chinese cultural taboos and patriarchal values, Jackie felt trapped. She believed that her husband, as a man, was above her. She had no choice but to deal with the abuse. Divorce was not an option for fear of shaming her parents.

Jackie happened to cross paths with an NYAWC staff member passing out fliers on domestic violence. This was the first time Jackie realized that her husband's abuse was wrong. "I thought it was okay for my husband to beat me. I couldn't believe that I was in an abusive situation when I first read the NYAWC fliers." Jackie identifies NYAWC's role in educating her on domestic violence. Jackie was able to leave her abuser. NYAWC provided her and her daughter shelter, as well as, connected Jackie to several resources to meet her daughter's special needs. We helped empower Jackie to lead a safe, independent life and provide a better future for her daughter.

Today, she is determined to empower other survivors through her blog. Jackie's blog allows her to educate a large number of survivors on how to find safety in an abusive relationship and assault prevention. However, she does not forget about those women without the means to freely access the internet. In fact, Jackie still prefers face-to-face, personal contact with survivors. Often, people in the community who know Jackie's experience with domestic violence, will privately recommend other survivors contact her.

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Diana:

VAWA Petition Victory

Diana was a bright, university student when she met her ex-husband, an American English teacher in China. He pursued a relationship with Diana, eventually convincing her to move to the United States together and start a family. However, once she arrived, her then husband isolated Diana, and abused her both emotionally and financially. Diana was able to escape her abusive husband, but was caught in limbo, still reliant on him for immigration relief.

Fortunately, for Diana, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) exists. The VAWA self-petition is a powerful tool that empowers immigrant women in domestic violence situations to leave their abusive spouse without fear of deportation. At first, Diana believed that non-profit lawyers were of lesser quality. She paid a private attorney thousands of dollars, only to have her case be denied because her lawyer neglected to send required evidence to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Diana was fortunate to have come across the NYAWC by chance. Here, her counselor referred her to NYAWC's in-house legal services program. Lauren Burke, NYAWC Staff Attorney, took care of her case and immediately filed an emergency appeal. Diana won her case, earning her VAWA petition within one week!

For Diana, being awarded the VAWA petition is even more significant due to being subsequently granted a Green Card. The Green Card provides Diana with the leverage for negotiation of more equitable wages. Today, Diana has received a salary raise, and with her renewed self-esteem, has found the confidence to work on providing a happy and self-sufficient future for herself.



Empower survivors to thrive in 2013!

To volunteer - please contact Nicole Kubon at nkubon@nyawc.org or 212-732-0054 ext. 127.

Phoenix Newsletter

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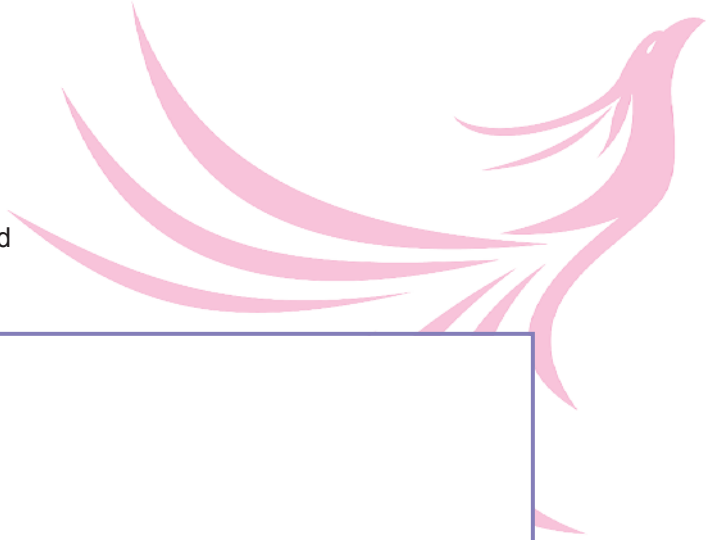
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What is the significance of the phoenix?
 The phoenix is a mythological bird reborn from fire and ashes. The New York Asian Women's Center chose the phoenix as its logo to symbolize the strength of the women who have overcome domestic violence.

Yes! I want to help women and children live a life free of abuse.
 Please add me to the **NYAWC** mailing list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ E-Mail: _____

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$ _____

I am including my credit card information to make a tax-deductible donation.

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Volunteer!
 Join our dedicated group of volunteers to enrich the lives of women and children. For more info visit www.nyawc.org.

Donate!
 Checks payable to NYAWC can be mailed to:
NYAWC
32 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Attn: Development Manager

Or donate online at www.nyawc.org

Join our mailing list:
 Fill out the form on the left and mail it to the above address.
Your contributions will help provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, and other crucial services to abused women and their children.