

Asian Pacific American Commission Testimonial:

My name is John Kim and I am third-year law student at the University of Connecticut School of Law. While I was born and raised in Boston Massachusetts, I have spent seven years in Connecticut spanning my undergraduate years at Wesleyan University and the last three years as a graduate student. One of the reasons I came to law school was to explore the ways that the law can protect the underprivileged and underrepresented. From my own experiences with the Korean-American community, I have seen firsthand how language and cultural barriers can prevent people from realizing even their most basic rights and consequently I view my legal career as an opportunity to not only empower myself to combat an unequal system, but also to serve others to understand their own rights.

At the law school there is a noticeable absence of Asian-American faces. As such, the organization that I have been most proud to be a part of is the Asian-Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA). In a field that historically has lacked Asian-American faces and on a campus that has accurately reflected this disparity, it has been one of our biggest goals and challenges to foster a community for Asian Americans to both feel comfortable and to actively advance our own distinct interests. While we have never been a large group, through our outreach programs and initiatives we have grown exponentially both in size and in activity since my first year. More importantly, we have worked hard to ensure that our interests and voices are no longer ignored.

Last year, our members were introduced to leaders from the Asian-Pacific American Coalition and community. We were excited, energized, and inspired to meet and hear from Asian-American leaders particularly those so actively involved in the advancement of Asian-Americans and aware of the issues that we face everyday. Since this meeting, we have been even more excited about what the future holds for APAC and possible collaborations with our own students to help realize our mutual goals for the Asian-American community in Connecticut.