

The Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality

Advancing Justice through Knowledge and Advocacy



December 31, 2009

Dear Friends,

A little over a year ago, in Oakland, California, we met with Kathryn and Karen Korematsu, Fred Korematsu's wife and daughter. Because of their confidence that the Center would further Fred's work in seeking equality for all and because of Fred's lifelong belief in the power of education, they entrusted the Center to work in his name. With that trust and legacy providing our inspiration, we launched the Center's inaugural year. It has been a year of exciting new projects and a coming together of bright, talented individuals committed to advancing justice. We share this annual report with you so that you will know what has been accomplished in this short time and to invite you to be a continuing part of the Center's work.

Mission

The Center's mission is to advance justice and equality through a unified vision that combines research, advocacy, and education. Its research work is focused on understanding the relationship between law and categories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and disability, especially with regard to their intersections. Its advocacy work seeks to combat discrimination and to support communities in advocating for themselves. Its education efforts will help students become agents for social change, help diversify the legal academy, and train the next generation of scholar/teacher/activists through post-graduate teaching and advocacy fellowships.

The Year in Review

On April 18, 2009, the law school formally launched the Center with an all-day conference, "**Looking Back, Reaching Forward**," to engage scholars, practitioners, and a diverse audience in the Center's work of advancing justice. The morning session looked back on the historic struggle for equality, beginning with outstanding panels on the World War II Japanese American incarceration cases and how the lessons of the past inform the present-day struggle for civil rights. The afternoon brought together academics, practitioners, and front-line advocacy organizations to discuss ways that the academy can support the work of the public interest bar. Among the distinguished speakers were noted historians Peter Irons and Roger Daniels; civil rights attorney Dale Minami; Eric Yamamoto, Professor of Law & Social Justice at the University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law; Margaret Chon, Donald and Lynda Horowitz Professor for the Pursuit of Justice, Seattle University School of Law; Karen Narasaki, Director of the Asian American Justice Center; Sarah Dunne, Legal Director of the ACLU – Washington; Jenny Pizer, Senior Counsel and Marriage Project Director Lambda Legal; Professor Kimberly West-Faulcon,

FRED T. KOREMATSU CENTER FOR LAW & EQUALITY

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Loyola Law School, Los Angeles; Professor Greg Robinson, Université du Québec Á Montréal; and Nelson Dong, Partner, Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.

The **Defender Initiative**, which became part of the Korematsu Center this year, seeks to provide better representation for individuals accused of crimes and facing loss of their liberty in juvenile and other court proceedings. The Initiative is led by its Director, Robert C. Boruchowitz, who served as director of the Defender Association in Seattle for 28 years and president of the Washington Defender Association for 20 years. On November 6, 2009, the Initiative hosted the conference, "Why there should be lawyers in misdemeanor first appearances: What they should do for their clients and how to get resources to hire them?" In addition, the Initiative recently filed two amicus briefs, one in a Snohomish County truancy case on issues relating to whether the child was competent to stand trial and whether the petition was sufficient. The school district dismissed the case on the day of the hearing. The Initiative will continue to work with local counsel and with TeamChild to address systemic issues in the truancy proceedings in Snohomish County. Professor Boruchowitz also filed an amicus brief in Kirkland Municipal Court urging that the court provide reasonable compensation for attorneys appointed on appeals to superior court.

The Center announced the founding of the **National Voting Rights Advocacy Initiative**, which will serve as a national resource center for voting rights practitioners and advocates who are involved in litigation, legislative, and advocacy efforts to eliminate methods of election that have a discriminatory effect on minority voting strength. Joaquin Avila, nationally renowned voting rights expert and former President and General Counsel of MALDEF, has been named the Initiative's Director. Under his leadership, the initiative has begun work on several important projects. As part of its effort to develop a website of resources for voting rights advocates and aided by several teams of students, it will soon be ready to provide online access to administrative determinations by the United States Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act. The initiative is also working with students on legislative reform to permit challenges to at-large methods of election that dilute minority voting strength; on advocacy on issues related to redistricting; and on the distribution of information regarding the restoration of voting rights for persons exiting the prison system.

On June 25-28, 2009, the Center co-sponsored the **Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Faculty Writing Workshop**, an annual workshop for current and aspiring black women law faculty and black women law students considering going into law teaching. Korematsu Center Faculty Fellow Natasha Martin coordinated the successful weekend, and the Center has made a five-year commitment to co-sponsor this workshop.

Through its **Amicus Brief Project**, the Center has signed on to several amicus briefs and has worked on authoring others. In September, 2009, the Center, joined by the Asian Bar of Washington, the Southeast Asian Bar of Washington, and Washington Women Lawyers, submitted an amicus brief in *Turner v. Stime*, a case involving racially biased comments about counsel during juror deliberations. For the Center's work on this brief, it received the 2009 Community Service Award from the South Asian Bar Association of Washington.

The Center hired its first **Korematsu Advocacy Fellow**, Taki Flevaris, in the Fall of 2009, to work on its amicus briefs and to support the work of the Defender Initiative. It also hired three

Korematsu Student Fellows, who have been engaged in community outreach for the Center and in assisting in the research and preparation of the Center's amicus briefs.

In September 2009, the Center, in conjunction with the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT), sponsored the **Second Biennial Workshop on Promoting Diversity in Law School Leadership** to encourage and assist members of underrepresented groups to pursue deanships and other university and law school leadership positions.

The **Civil Right to Counsel Initiative** is a joint project of The Fred T. Korematsu Center and the Committee for Indigent Representation and Civil Legal Equality (CIRCLE) at the Northwest Justice Project. To inaugurate the initiative's work, Korematsu Faculty Fellows Lisa Brodoff and Raven Lidman and CIRCLE are presenting a Civil Right to Counsel Symposium to be held at Seattle University School of Law in February, 2010.

The Center looks forward to hiring its first **Korematsu Teaching Fellow** to start in Fall 2010. The two-year fellowship will support scholar/activists seeking to enter the legal academy by giving them teaching experience and mentoring them as they develop their scholarship.

The Center is developing a **Civil Rights Amicus Clinic** for the fall of 2010. The clinic will offer students the opportunity to learn about civil rights advocacy and community empowerment by participating in the preparation of amicus briefs in key civil rights cases.

To inaugurate its work in fostering cutting-edge interdisciplinary scholarship on issues of law and equality, the Korematsu Center has convened a group of scholars to be part of its "**After Race**" **Book Project**. These scholars will engage with each other for a three-year period through a series of workshops and conferences, culminating in publication of a book to be edited by Center Director Robert Chang. A second book project, and new three-year book cycle, will begin in the Spring 2010. This **Group Conflict and Cooperation Book Project** will involve a guest editor, Greg Robinson, a historian based in Canada.

The Law Firm Advisory Council of the Korematsu Center seeks to involve members of the practicing bar in supporting the work of the Center. This effort is just beginning, but under the leadership of Nelson Dong, the Center received its first foundation grant in November 2009, a donation of \$ 10,000 from the Dorsey & Whitney Foundation.

In addition to the Dorsey & Whitney Foundation Grant, we've received a three- year pledge totaling \$10,000 from the Center Director and his partner, Catheryne N. Nguyen, as well as several smaller gifts.

Staff and Leadership of the Center

The Center's work is driven by the vision, commitment, and talent of its participating faculty and staff, as well as the support of the university, law school administrative personnel, and outside friends.

Robert S. Chang, Director
Lorraine Bannai, Associate Director
Bob Boruchowitz, Director, Defender Initiative
Joaquin Avila, Director, National Voting Rights Advocacy Initiative
Taki Flevaris, Advocacy Fellow
Adrienne Wat, Evangeline Simmons, and Melinda Shelton, Korematsu Center Student Fellows
Junsen Ohno, Administrator

National Advisory Board

Derrick A. Bell, Jr., *Visiting Professor of Law, New York University Law School*
Angela Harris, *Professor of Law, UC Berkeley Law School*
Honorable Donald J. Horowitz (Ret.), *Former King County Superior Court Judge*
Kevin Johnson, *Dean and Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest and Chicana/o Studies, UC Davis School of Law*
Joe Knight, *Professor of Law, University of Washington School of Law, Visiting Professor of Law, Seattle University School of Law*
Karen Korematsu, Representative of the Korematsu family and community activist
Henry W. McGee, Jr., *Professor of Law, Seattle University School of Law*
Dale Minami, *Partner, Minami Tamaki LLP*
Eric Yamamoto, *Professor of Law, University of Hawai'i School of Law*

Faculty fellows are faculty of the law school engaged in research and advocacy efforts consistent with the mission of the center and committed to supporting its activities. They include Bryan Adamson, Deborah Ahrens, Lori Bannai, Marilyn Berger, David Boerner, Lisa Brodoff, Deirdre Bowen, Robert Chang, Mark Chinen, Maggie Chon, Richard Delgado, Anne Enquist, Christian Halliburton, Paul Holland, Won Kidane, Joe Knight, Raven Lidman, Tayyab Mahmud, Natasha Martin, Hank McGee, John Mitchell, Russ Powell, Norm Printer, Julie Shapiro, Andrew Siegel, David Skover, Ron Slye, Dean Spade, Jean Stefancic, and John Strait.

We are thrilled at what has been built thus far with the commitment, energy, and talent of all involved in the Center's work. And we hope that you will be part of our work as we move forward. Goals for our second year include identifying more ways for We are thrilled at what has been built thus far with the commitment, energy, and talent of all involved in the Center's work. And we hope that you will be part of our work as we move forward. Goals for our second year include identifying more ways for students, faculty, and alumni to be involved, as well as developing financial resources to enable us to sustain our activities.

For more information about the Center, see our website at www.law.seattleu.edu or contact Junsen Ohno, Korematsu Center Administrator, at 206-398-4283 or ohnoj@seattleu.edu. And please feel free to contact us with your ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Chang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert S. Chang
Director
changro@seattleu.edu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorraine K. Bannai". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lorraine K. Bannai
Associate Director
bannail@seattleu.edu