



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **APALC, AAJC & Other Civil Rights Groups Ask Court To Block Implementation Of Arizona's Racial Profiling Law During Legal Battle**

PHOENIX – The Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) and the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), members of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, and a coalition of civil rights groups asked a federal court today to block Arizona from implementing its controversial new law, known as SB 1070, pending a final court ruling on its constitutionality. The law requires police to demand "papers" from people they stop who they suspect are "unlawfully present" in the U.S. According to the coalition, the law would subject massive numbers of people – both citizens and non-citizens – to racial profiling, improper investigations and detention.

Besides APALC, the civil rights coalition includes the ACLU, MALDEF, National Immigration Law Center (NILC), ACLU of Arizona, National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Last month the coalition filed a lawsuit challenging the extreme law and charging that it invites the racial profiling of people of color, violates the First Amendment and interferes with federal law. Today's filing seeks to halt implementation of the law while the case is litigated. The coalition expects that the court will rule on its request before SB 1070's effective date, July 29, 2010.

*Julie Su, Litigation Director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center:*

"We seek a preliminary injunction to head off numerous harms that are imminent if SB 1070 goes into effect. As law enforcement officials from around the country, including Arizona, have stated, SB 1070 will

lead to racial profiling of communities of color and unwarranted, prolonged detention of individuals. This will strain law enforcement resources in a way that compromises public safety for all."

*Omar Jadwat, staff attorney with the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project:*

"SB 1070 is a disastrous law that would endanger public safety, increase racial profiling and create an un-American 'show me your papers' regime if allowed to go into effect. Every day this law would be in effect would be a day too long, and we're confident that the court will understand the importance of preventing its implementation, even while our lawsuit is pending."

*Nina Perales, MALDEF Southwest Regional Counsel:*

"SB 1070 is an unacceptable and short-sighted attempt to take over the federal immigration system within Arizona's borders. Instead of helping to fix our fundamentally broken immigration system, SB 1070 will decrease the safety and security of all Arizonans by draining the resources of state, local and federal law enforcement."

*Karen Tumlin, managing attorney with the National Immigration Law Center:*

"Arizona's thinly veiled attempt to institutionalize discrimination puts a target on the back of every immigrant and person of color within their borders. We cannot allow the basic rights and liberties of these members of our society to be undermined simply because an unconstitutional law is now on Arizona's books."

*Pablo Alvarado, Executive Director of National Day Laborer Organizing Network:*

"Arizona can't pick and choose which portions of the United States Constitution to uphold. Federal law is very clear: Arizona can't subordinate the rights of Mexican-Americans or those with Latino appearance and it certainly cannot rewrite federal immigration laws. Throughout history, when states have gone rogue and when they have unjustly and unlawfully scapegoated their residents, the court has had to intervene to be the ultimate defender of bedrock constitutional protections."

*Alessandra Soler Meetze, Executive Director of the ACLU of Arizona:*

"Latino communities and families in Maricopa County are already terrorized by the abusive and discriminatory practices of Sheriff Arpaio, who has blatantly used racial profiling to target them in his so-called 'crime suppression' sweeps. With SB 1070, the state is seeking to mandate such unconstitutional practices by all local law enforcement agencies throughout the state, and immediate court intervention is necessary to prevent that from occurring."

*Benjamin Todd Jealous, President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP:*

"African-Americans know all too well the insidious effects of racial profiling. The government should aspire to ensure equality for all and eliminate racial hatred and discrimination, rather than require police to investigate and detain people based on color and accent. Laws that encourage discrimination have no place in this country anywhere for anyone. SB 1070 has no place on the books, not now or ever."

Organizations and attorneys on the case, *Friendly House et al. v. Halliday et al.*, include:

- ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project: Jadwat, Lucas Guttentag, Cecillia Wang, Tanaz Moghadam and Harini P. Raghupathi;
- MALDEF: Thomas A. Saenz, Perales, Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, Victor Viramontes, Gladys Limón, Nicolás Espiritu and Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal;
- NILC: Tumlin, Linton Joaquin, Nora A. Preciado, Melissa S. Keaney, Vivek Mittal and Ghazal Tajmiri;
- ACLU Foundation of Arizona: Dan Pochoda and Annie Lai;
- APALC: Julie Su, Ronald Lee, Yungsohn Park, Connie Choi and Carmina Ocampo
- NDLO: Chris Newman;
- NAACP: Laura Blackburne;

- Munger Tolles & Olson LLP: Bradley S. Phillips, Paul J. Watford, Joseph J. Ybarra,
- Susan T. Boyd, Yuval Miller, and Elisabeth J. Neubauer;
- Roush, McCracken, Guerrero, Miller & Ortega: Daniel R. Ortega, Jr.

Today's motion for leave to file a motion for a preliminary injunction can be found at: [www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights-racial-justice/friendly-house-et-al-v-halliday-et-al-motion-leave-file-motion-prel](http://www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights-racial-justice/friendly-house-et-al-v-halliday-et-al-motion-leave-file-motion-prel)

The proposed brief in support of a preliminary injunction, can be found at: [www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights-racial-justice/friendly-house-et-al-v-halliday-et-al-proposed-brief-support-prelim](http://www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights-racial-justice/friendly-house-et-al-v-halliday-et-al-proposed-brief-support-prelim)

More information about the Arizona law, including an ACLU video and slide show, can be found at: [www.aclu.org/what-happens-arizona-stops-arizona](http://www.aclu.org/what-happens-arizona-stops-arizona)

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*The Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC) is the nation's largest legal organization serving the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities. Founded in 1983, APALC is a unique organization that combines traditional legal services with civil rights advocacy and leadership development. The mission of APALC is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education and build coalitions to positively influence and impact Asian Pacific Americans and to create a more equitable and harmonious society.*