PRESS RELEASE
June 17, 2009

Book Release Announcement: Untold Civil Rights Stories
Asian Americans Speak Out for Justice

LOS ANGELES, CA – June 17, 2009, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) celebrates the release of Untold Civil Rights Stories: Asian Americans Speak Out for Justice.

Untold Civil Rights Stories: Asian Americans Speak Out for Justice is the first educational textbook describing the role of Asian Americans in United States civil rights history and is co-published by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC). Although there are more than 13 million Asian Americans in the United States, Untold Civil Rights Stories is the first book created for students to learn and discuss the social struggles Asian Americans have faced for over a century in this country. Untold Civil Rights Stories is edited by APALC’s President & Executive Director, Stewart Kwoh, and UCLA Asian American Studies adjunct professor, Russell C. Leong.

The stories of Amric Singh Rathour, Beulah Ong Kwoh, Fred Korematsu, Joseph Ileto, K.W. Lee, Lily Chin, Peping Baclig, Philip Vera Cruz, and the enslaved Thai garment workers are stories that are often forgotten in United States history. Many students do not know and are not taught the history of hate crimes against Asian Americans, the crossing of racial boundaries in Hollywood, and Asian Americans’ fight for constitutional rights during World War II. With its included lesson plans and teacher resources, Untold Civil Rights Stories seeks to fill this educational void and to do away with the “invisibility” of Asian Americans in United States history.

“Untold Civil Rights Stories is a social milestone…a must-have for educators and students alike,” said Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, City of Los Angeles.

 Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, County of Los Angeles, said, “Untold Civil Rights Stories is an important contribution to a broader understanding of the contemporary struggle for democratic rights.”

Untold Civil Rights Stories features the works of noted authors and scholars, including May Lee Heye, Bill Ong Hing, Dale Minami, Karen Narasaki, Angela Oh, Mary Ellen Kwoh Shu, Julie Su, Casimiro Urbano Tolentino, Kent Wong, Eric Yamamoto, Helen Zia, Esther Taira, and Irene Lee. It also includes timelines, student commentary and lesson plans geared especially for K-12th grade students learning about United States history, economics, and government. To order Untold Civil Rights Stories, please contact Ryan Khamkongsay of APALC at (213) 241-0235. $20 plus shipping and tax. Special price for bulk orders of 20 copies or more and educational/nonprofit orders.

## ##