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**AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE PROVIDES FREE CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP  
FOR ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS**

American Citizens for Justice (ACJ), a community partner of Asian American Justice Center along with Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) organizations, is providing a free citizenship workshop. This event is part of the national AAPI Naturalization Network's (AAPINN) aim to help APIA's take the first step of applying for U.S. citizenship throughout six regions in California, Houston, Detroit, Charlotte and New York City. This workshop will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 from 10 am -3 pm at 17356 Northland Park Ct, Philippine American Community Center of Michigan (PACCM), Southfield, MI 48075.

ACJ is partnering with Association of Chinese Americans (ACA), APIAVote MI, Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA), Cooley Law School, Filipino American Community Council (Filammco), Michigan Asian Pacific Americans Affairs Commission (MAPAAC), Philippine American Community Center of Michigan (PACCM), Philippine Chamber of Commerce of Michigan (PCCM), and the Sikh Foundation.

Citizenship is a cherished status that many APIAs strive for. But the process of becoming a U.S. citizen can be a complicated and confusing process for immigrants. The workshops will help green card holders in determining their citizenship eligibility. ACJ staff, pro bono attorneys and trained volunteers also will help individuals complete the Application for Naturalization (Form N-400) and assess their eligibility for various waivers. Free workbooks and DVDs in 7 AAPI languages will be distributed to applicants who complete the N-400 at the workshop, entitled "*Citizenship 101: Your Guide to Citizenship*," a comprehensive guide on steps needed to become a U.S. citizen.

Generally, in order to naturalize, an individual must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a permanent resident ("green card holder")
  - Have continuously resided in the U.S. for at least 5 years as a permanent resident
  - Have been physically present in the U.S. for at least 2 ½ years
  - Demonstrate good moral character
  - Have a basic understanding of U.S. government and history,
  - Be able to understand, speak, read and write basic English.

The American Citizens for Justice (ACJ) is a non-profit organization founded in 1983 as an Asian Pacific American (APA) civil rights advocacy organization to fight for justice in the aftermath of the baseball bat beating death of Vincent Chin and the ensuing state criminal case

and federal civil rights case. ACJ is also a community partner of the Asian American Justice Center.