HARRY H. DOW MEMORIAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND

SEVENTEENTH YEAR ANNUAL REPORT
2001-2002

AN AFFILIATE OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund

The Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund was established to create a permanent endowment to support work that improves the access of Asian Americans to our legal system. The Dow Fund is named in memory of Harry H. Dow (1904-1985), the first Asian American lawyer admitted to the Massachusetts Bar, who provided legal assistance to the poor and to many community-based agencies in the South End and Chinatown. Over the past seventeen years, the Dow Fund created several projects to respond to emerging legal needs in the Asian American community. It launched the Anti-Asian Violence Project, the Asian Battered Women Project, the Asian Immigrant Rights Initiative and the Cambodian Outreach Project. It has also supported many bilingual and bicultural attorneys and interns placed at the Asian Outreach Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. Together, they have served thousands of low income individuals in the areas of domestic violence, family, housing, immigration, benefits, and employment law. In 2000, the Dow Fund partnered with the Asian American Resource Workshop and the Chinese Progressive Association to implement the Campaign to Protect Chinatown that advocates for environmental justice in communities of color, and for equitable planning and development that protects the long-term viability of Chinatown. The Dow Fund is committed to increasing the resources for serving communities often deprived of justice because of the barriers of language, culture, race and immigration status.

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December 6, 2001

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FREDERICK H. DOW

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Trustees of the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund, I am honored to have this opportunity to welcome you to our Seventeenth Annual Dinner Celebration. The annual gathering is a time for us to reflect on the work and efforts of those who make legal services possible for so many individuals in need. The collective support of the community, shown here, especially in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, when so many fundamental rights of individuals are being undermined, strengthens our collective resolve to work for equal justice for all our communities.

Since 1985, the mission of the Dow Fund has been the creation of a permanent endowment "to further the access of Asian Americans to our legal system." As many of you are aware, through community fundraising, at events like the Annual Dinner Celebration, we are able to add to the permanent endowment and use income from these permanent funds to do programming. Presently, much of our programming is supported through the generous grants we receive during the year from foundation sources. Our vision is to create a permanent resource generated from the community to serve the community. We believe that creating opportunities and positions for attorneys and students to explore public service as a career is a means towards which we build our capacity to further access to our legal system.

The Dow Fund supports essential programs such as the Dow Fellowships and Legal Internships. This past year, the Dow Fund also continues efforts to educate and provide legal services to the Cambodian community–of which Massachusetts has the second largest population in the United States–through the Cambodian Outreach Project at Merrimack Valley Legal Services. Support continues to be critical as more individuals and communities come to depend on services provided through the Asian Battered Women Project and the Cambodian Outreach Project. The Asian Outreach Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services coordinates and delivers much of the legal services provided to the Asian American community in the region. With the Asian Outreach Unit and the Cambodian Outreach Project, we continue to build the capacity of the Asian American community's legal services through these organizational partnerships and collaborations.

I urge you to closely review the contents of this year's Annual Report. We are grateful that you have chosen to be a part of this effort to enhance legal services to the Asian American community. As in other years, on behalf of the Trustees of the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund, let me extend a most warm and heartfelt thank you for your contributions and many years of support.

With warm regards,

Frederick H. Dow
President

As a former student law clerk in the summer of 2000 at GBLS's Asian Outreach Unit, I was a beneficiary of the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund. Coming from North Carolina, where I attended law school, I found myself in a program that immersed me in the Asian American community of Boston. With little prior experience in public interest work especially in regard to the Asian community, I was challenged daily by the responsibilities given to me including participating in client intake as well as developing bylaws for the Chinatown Residents Association. Frankly, I had never used my Mandarin skills as much as I did that summer. At the end of my clerkship, I was appreciative of the opportunity to interact with clients from differing cultures, ages, and backgrounds as well as the chance to work with an eclectic and memorable group of people at AOU. The Dow Fund helped me to discover my interest in immigration and family/domestic violence issues as well as uncovering a desire to discover more about my own Asian background.

~ Grace Lee, Dow Intern, '00
University of North Carolina School of Law, Class of 2002,
now a short-term attorney
at GBLS's Asian Outreach Unit

PROJECT REPORT
ASIAN BATTERED WOMEN PROJECT

The Asian Battered Women Project has been generously supported by:

Massachusetts Bar Foundation and Greater Boston Legal Services

Languages spoken by clients:

Khmer: 19%
Mandarin: 15%
Japanese: 5%
Korean: 5%
Indian/Hindi: 3%
Burmese: 3%
Tagalog: 2%
Thai: 2%

Age groups of clients:

Aged 18-29: 29%
Aged 30-39: 39%
Aged 40-49: 27%
Aged 50 and over: 5%

Geographical distribution of clients:

Suffolk County: 62%
Middlesex County: 28%
Norfolk County: 5%
Essex County: 1%

The primary goal of the Asian Battered Women Project is to fill a critical gap in the legal delivery system by providing much needed legal assistance to Asian women who are in domestic violence situations. Recognizing that Asian battered women often face linguistic and cultural barriers in accessing the legal protections they need to escape abusive relationships, the Dow Fund in collaboration with Greater Boston Legal Services initiated this special project.

Founded almost a decade ago in light of the alarming increase in incidents of domestic violence and subsequent fatalities within the Asian American community, the Asian Battered Women Project continues to battle domestic violence in Asian American homes. In addition to the economic and emotional barriers that confront most battered women, Asian women face the additional hurdles of seeking to regularize, and in some cases, obtain, their legal status, and gain access to public assistance programs. In many cases, they also lack family or social support networks, in addition to having to confront language and cultural barriers. The Project strives to serve the legal needs of Asian battered women while at the same time connecting them with existing social services programs to assist these women rebuild their lives. The Asian Battered Women Project has solidly established itself as a reliable source of legal assistance and as a bridge to the new lives for these Asian women free of violence.

However, with limited resources and enormous needs, the Project cannot serve every need as promptly as it would like. The high demand for assistance with divorce means that it must place women seeking divorces on a waiting list, which has grown to more than 60 individuals and a waiting period of over two years. In the coming year, with heightened anti-immigrant sentiment and a changing political climate, we can only brace for more challenges facing our clients.

During the past year, the Asian Battered Women Project provided legal assistance to 59 women in 93 cases, with a breakdown as follows:

Family law (including abuse prevention, custody and support, divorce and post-divorce matters): 54%

Immigration issues (including removal of conditional status, self-petition under Violence Against Women Act, and other immigration matters): 31%

Public assistance and disability: 12%

Housing and Employment: 2%

~ Zenobia T. Lai
Dow Trustee

Simone Bui is a 2000 graduate from Vermont Law School, where she was Vice-President of its Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. Before attending law school, Simone was an officer of the Vietnamese Student Association and a member of the Asian Pacific Islander Student Association at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

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REFLECTIONS AND PROJECTIONS, by Simone Bui

I am supposed to write about changes I have observed this past year that have impacted the Asian Battered Women Project and the women it assists. The first thing that came to mind is the anti-immigrant backlash publicly embraced by the general public and the government. A backlash that inevitably makes it even more frightening than usual for immigrant abused women to escape their abuser if it means putting their immigration status at risk. Perhaps more than before, battered immigrant women who try to access public benefits to facilitate living independently without their abuser also suffer increasing bureaucratic barriers, particularly if the woman looks Arabic or dark skinned.

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Fiscal woes in the Commonwealth have only exacerbated existing problems. Funding for essential public programs–ranging from Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children cash benefits, food stamps, and even local battered women programs–have been cut, leaving abused women fewer means to rebuild their lives. The battered immigrant women who do have marketable skills have either fallen victim to layoffs or cannot find employment with decent wages, again leaving them with less mobility or power to leave their abusers. Immigrant women who cannot find shelter or decent employment cannot afford the skyrocketing rents, which again, give them less incentive or ability to actually leave their abusers.

It is nothing new that no money, no job and no shelter mean nowhere to go but to stay with their abuser. However, the effects of the anti-immigrant backlash and the poor economy have impacted hardest one of the most vulnerable segments of our community–battered immigrant women. Furthermore, with the 2000 census numbers released, we now know for certain what we have sensed all along–the Asian population of Massachusetts is one of the fastest growing in the nation.

Yet with all these challenges, there are some things that have not changed. While there will always be men who control, isolate, and abuse, resulting in women who are controlled, isolated, and abused, these women find a way to survive, and many find their way to help. Through outreach, involvement with advocacy groups, and collaboration with community based organizations, the Asian Battered Women Project continues to assist these strong and resilient women with their legal needs, treating them as whole persons and trying to understand how the current public, economic, and political climate impacts their private and personal struggles behind closed doors.

~ Simone Bui
ABWP Attorney

PROJECT REPORT
ASIAN BATTERED WOMEN PROJECT (Continued)

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With support from the VLS Environmental Law Society, Simone spearheaded an ongoing campaign to help raise awareness and funds for the indigenous U'wa people of northern Colombia, who have been battling a large U.S.-based transnational petroleum company over the rights to ancestral homeland. Simone was also a student clinician at the South Royalton Legal Clinic where she received honors for representing low-income women in permanent restraining order hearings and post-divorce custody cases. Simone has been with GBLS's Asian Outreach Unit since September of 2000, initially serving as the project attorney for the Cambodian Outreach Project, then the Southeast Asian Outreach Project, and now with the Asian Battered Women Project. Simone also staffs the weekly intake sessions in the Dorchester Vietnamese community.

It was more than five years ago when Heidi Ho and I showed up one Saturday morning in a conference room at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association to present a basic legal rights workshop. Nearly one hundred people preparing for their citizenship examinations packed the room. They were young adults, parents, and grandparents, all eager to have a glimpse of the plethora of rights promised by this land of the free, home of the brave. I still remember the night before the presentation, how I frantically pasted pictures alongside less than artistic drawings onto letter size cardboards, imagining how to reduce the terms "equal protection," "due process," and the "right to life, liberty and property" into pictures to transcend our language barriers. As we ran around the "stage" explaining the rights that refugees and permanent residents shared with citizens, it dawned on everyone in the room that only Heidi could run for the United States presidency, but not anyone else in the room. And, that was just about the only difference.

That workshop, coming on the heels of a summer of welfare reform workshops and clinics, laid the cornerstone for the Cambodian Outreach Project ("COP"). The mission of the Cambodian Outreach Project is to enable Cambodian Americans in Lowell to learn about their rights, to exercise those rights, to collectively wield their political power, and to protect their lives, liberty and property. It took many more phone calls, meetings and compromise before the Cambodian Outreach Project was born in the spring of 1999.

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PROJECT REPORT
CAMBODIAN OUTREACH PROJECT

The Cambodian Outreach Project has been generously supported by:

Massachusetts Bar Foundation
Merrimack Valley Legal Services
Theodore Edson Parker Foundation
and individual donors

Project Staff:

Paralegal:
Samnang Mam

Co-Project Attorneys:
Trang Nguyen
Mark Bramford

PROJECT REPORT

CAMBODIAN OUTREACH PROJECT

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Now entering its fourth year, the Cambodian Outreach Project is slowly establishing itself as the access point to legal services. Together with key social service agencies serving the Cambodian American community in Lowell, COP helped create a social service referral and legal services network to better serve the social and legal needs of this second-largest Cambodian American community in the United States.

Currently housed in Merrimack Valley Legal Services ("MVLS"), during the past year, the Cambodian Outreach Project handled 94 cases. The Project staff handles all matters involving public assistance and disability, and refers other cases to Merrimack Valley Legal Services or to the Asian Outreach Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services when they involve immigration matters. In collaboration with the MVLS staff, the Cambodian Outreach Project staff extends bilingual and bicultural legal assistance to help families preserve a roof above their heads and to traverse the complicated family law arena. Numbers alone can never adequately portray the impact of the Cambodian Outreach Project. Its impact is seen in one more Cambodian American coming through the doors of legal services, one more phone call protesting unfair treatment by government official, or one more eligible family securing public assistance that it is entitled to.

Samnang Mam grew up in war-torn Cambodia. His pursuit of education was cut short in 1975 when the Khmer Rouge came to power. Similar to many other Cambodians, Samnang was evacuated from Phnom Penh. He spent the next six years in his hometown in Kompong Thom before fleeing Cambodia in 1983 with his wife and son. He lived in the Displaced Person Camp along the Khmer-Thai border until 1993. During that period, he worked with voluntary agencies including ICRC and POW/MIA. In 1992, when the United Nations closed all the border camps and repatriated more than 350,000 Cambodians back to Cambodia, Samnang's family was given the opportunity to resettle in the United States. Once in the U.S., Samnang resumed his education that had been interrupted in 1975. He graduated from the Massachusetts School of Law in 2002.

To slowly change the psyche of a community whose members believe that they are merely invited guests in this country, and therefore have fewer rights and less entitled to the protection of the law, the Cambodian Outreach Project staff continues to conduct aggressive outreach in all available outlets. The Project staff appears in Cambodian language television and radio shows, translates brochure and pamphlets into Khmer, and conducts outreach and workshops on landlord-tenant rights, voter education and registration, and education matters. The Project staff continues to strengthen working relationships with community-based organizations that have been painstakingly developed over the years.

At the same time, while the Cambodian American community in Lowell still has unmet legal needs, the Cambodian Outreach Project cannot tackle every legal problem due to structural and resource limitations. For example, if it represents one party in a controversy, even if the other party is financially eligible for legal services, the Cambodian Outreach Project cannot represent that other party. In addition, the Cambodian American community has been victimized by "notarios" (notary publics), who engage in the unlicensed practice of law, charging exorbitant fees–demonstrating the community's need for legal services. We nonetheless believe that slowly and surely the Cambodian Outreach Project is making inroads into the Cambodian refugee and immigrant community and is transforming the power relationship between the Cambodian American community and the mainstream society. We believe that raindrops can form a stream, and many streams will make a river.

"Let's go to the Cambodian Outreach Project to see if they can help." This is what propelled us to form the Cambodian Outreach Project in 1999, and this continues to be a goal toward which we are striving.

~ Zenobia T. Lai, Dow Trustee
with contribution from Samnang Mam

PROJECT REPORT

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT CHINATOWN

written by Sherry Hao, CPC Director

The Campaign to Protect Chinatown ("CPC") is a coalition of community groups, residents and activists who fight to protect and preserve Chinatown as a cultural, social and political center. CPC originated from the Coalition to Protect Parcel C for Chinatown, which successfully organized Chinatown to fight institutional expansion to regain "Parcel C" for the community. As a collaborative made up of the Chinese Progressive Association ("CPA"), the Asian American Resource Workshop, the Dow Fund, and the newly-joined the Chinatown Residents Association ("CRA"), CPC incorporates democratic community participation to educate, organize and consult with the community to advance the interests of Chinatown in the areas of land use, physical development, transportation, and the environment. CPC spent much of the past year focused on the campaign against Liberty Place, proposed as a 31-story high rise luxury complex in central Chinatown, where the Chinatown Masterplan and the zoning code set a maximum height of 8-10 stories.

• Fight Liberty Place Campaign–CPC reviewed and provided comments to the Boston Redevelopment Authority on technical documents submitted by the developers. Working with CPA and CRA, CPC distributed literature on the Liberty Place project to increase resident awareness of the development as well as assist residents in writing comment letters to the BRA. CPC also organized several protests, which drew extensive media coverage. As a result of some of these protests, the BRA held weekly working sessions in the spring, which CPC attended. The culmination of the protests was the reduction by the developers and the BRA of the height of the building by two stories and the floor to area ratio by 5%, as well as an addition of ten Section 8 subsidized housing units. During the summer, CPC, CPA and CRA organized a Chinatown Resident Referendum, which was monitored by the American Friends Service Committee and the League of Women Voters. Over 900 residents came out to vote. By a 3 to 1 margin, residents voted to reject the Liberty Place project. Over 95% voted to remove the Combat Zone as well as implement resident decision-making within the city's development process in Chinatown. As a result of the referendum, the City pressured the Liberty Place developers to add a 22 more units of affordable housing. But the fight against Liberty Place is not over–a lawsuit has been filed challenging the City of Boston's Zoning Board of Appeals' granting of a variance from the 8-10 story height limitation. Irrespective of the ultimate conclusion for the Liberty Place development, CPC accomplished much within the past year, since Chinatown residents have become more aware and are more engaged in the development process.

• City Development Reform–CPC continued to actively participate in city-wide organizations to improve the development process. For example, CPC became or continued to be a member of the Park Plaza Civic Advisory Committee (giving CPC a more active role and a vote over many of the large-scale developments moving into and adjacent to Chinatown), On The Move, a greater Boston transportation justice coalition (an umbrella group working on tackling transportation issues in low-income communities), and the Alliance for Boston Neighborhoods. CPC organized a cross-community meeting with other neighborhoods (including Roxbury, Egleston Square, Leather District, and Dorchester) concerned with master plan violations and a lack of city accountability.

• Environmental Education Curriculum–CPC completed its environmental education curriculum project with the development of bilingual (English and Chinese) workshops covering nine environmental health issues: motor vehicle exhaust, asthma and air pollution, construction waste and dust, environmental justice, role of government agencies, noise pollution, lead poisoning, integrated pest management, and indoor air pollution.

• CPC Bulletin–CPC was able to publish and distribute only two issues of its bilingual bulletin, not four as planned, because the Liberty Place campaign grew in scope greater than expected, which itself provided public education about development issues.

Before becoming the CPC Director in July 2001, Sherry Hao assisted CPC as a consultant on various projects, including the construction of the Chinatown Model, a 1": 40' scale wooden model of Chinatown. Sherry made her transition into community advocacy from a mechanical design engineer background. Sherry was born in Fairfax, Virginia and graduated from Cornell University in 1998 with a B.S. in Mechanical Systems Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. Sherry worked for two years at Product Genesis, a product development/design firm. Sherry has been involved in a political theater group, planning and participating in performances, making puppets/costumes, and working with and organizing other volunteers. In addition, she has helped organize and run the Urban Earth Festival, an annual environmental festival featuring local environmental groups, community groups, music, and political theater.

INTERNSHIP REPORT

The Community Internship has been generously supported by:

Boston Bar Foundation
Georgiana Goddard Eaton Memorial Fund and Greater Boston Legal Services

These past year's interns were:

- *Sarah Chu, University of Massachusetts of Boston, B.A,, Class of 2002*
- *Sasima Chuaprasert, Northeastern University School of Law, Class of 2004 (funding provided by Northeastern University School of Law)*
- *Jade Joan Hon, New York University School of Law, Class of 2004 (funding provided by New York University School of Law)*
- *Juliana Lee, Harvard University, M.A., Class of 2002*
- *Bethany Li, Amherst College, B.A., Class of 2003*
- *Jeongseon Park, University of Massachusetts of Boston, B.A., Class of 2002*
- *Roland Pham, Northeastern University School of Law, Class of 2002*
- *Maria Yam, Boston University, B.A., Class of 2002*
- *Emily Yu, Boston College Law School, Class of 2004*

As the longest-running project of the Dow Fund, the Community Internship Program was established to create opportunities for bilingual and bicultural Asian American law students and undergraduates to work in legal services through the Asian Outreach Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. Today, as it has been for seventeen years, the Community Internship Program serves a dual function: one, to enhance the limited-English-proficient Asian immigrant community's access to legal services by expanding the language and service capacity of legal services; and two, to enlarge the body of public-interest-minded lawyers and activists by introducing the world of legal services and the practice of community lawyering to a new generation of students.

Seventeen years of the Community Internship Program have produced nearly ninety alumni to this flagship project of the Dow Fund. Working on a shoestring budget and leveraging funds from the federal Work Study program and public interest grants of colleges and law schools, the Dow Fund has repeated this experiential program year after year. These former Dow interns are now influential lawyers, law school professors, directors of their agencies, managers in legal services programs, worker and tenant organizers, administrators, scientists, and parents. Spread across the United States and in other countries, they carry with them the memories of the Dow Fund's Community Internship Program and a desire to change the world.

During this past year, nine interns were placed at the Asian Outreach Unit. Together, they provided legal assistance in 117 cases that span the substantive areas of public assistance, employment, immigration, family, housing, and health & disability. Whether they worked part-time during the school year or full time during the summer months, the interns participated in weekly community intakes, expanded the Asian Outreach Unit's language capacity, offered invaluable service in conducting investigation, research and the leg work needed to prepare a case. They invariably infused the Asian Outreach Unit with fresh energy and reinvigorated their supervisors with their versions of "whys" and "why nots." Although they often had to struggle to communicate with their clients in rudimentary writing and rusty speech of their clients' native dialects, the interns always remained undeterred, taking on tasks big and small, in order to ensure that their low-income, non- or limited-English-speaking clients have a fair shot in our legal system. Over time, they transformed their initial cynicism and reservation into activism. They brandished picket signs, shouted in community demonstrations, and distributed flyers in the community. Twelve weeks may not seem to be a long time, but we hope that it would be an experience that lasts a lifetime.

~ Zenobia T. Lai
Dow Trustee and Manager Attorney of the Asian Outreach Unit

THIRTY YEARS OF THE ASIAN OUTREACH UNIT

It was thirty years ago that a small group of Asian American law students got together and initiated the Chinatown Outreach Project. What began as a part-time student-run clinical program in borrowed space at a community health center in Boston Chinatown has over time become a base for the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund to launch new projects and initiatives. During the past thirty years, roughly seven "generations" of young Asian American lawyers have passed through the Asian Outreach Unit. Many of them have moved onto new endeavors: becoming government officials, opening their own practice, teaching, starting a community development corporation, and surrendering to full-time parenthood. The Asian American community of Greater Boston has changed tremendously over the past three decades. In turn, the Chinatown Outreach

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Project also transformed itself, by adopting its present name and by bringing in interns and fellows that reflect the diversity of its evolving client population.

Many of the Dow Fund projects that you have read about in these annual reports could not have taken place without the Greater Boston Legal Services' Asian Outreach Unit ("AOU") as a crucial partner and operating base. The Asian Outreach Unit staff have always served as Dow Fund trustees, mentors to Dow Fund's interns and fellows, and grant-writers of new, innovative projects. This symbiotic relationship between AOU and the Dow Fund has expanded our collective capacity to serve the needs of the Asian American community and to speedily respond to changing times and demands.

As we look around the country, there is still nothing quite like the Asian Outreach Unit in other legal services programs. When asked about innovative projects in legal services, I proudly mention the Asian Outreach Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services and its intimate partnership with the Dow Fund–for seventeen years, as long as the Dow Fund has been in existence! When the Dow Fund Trustees discussed and planned for the Cambodian Outreach Project, now housed in Merrimack Valley Legal Services, we had the Asian Outreach Unit in mind. We wanted to develop a project that would some day become an integral part of an existing legal services program, to serve the Cambodian American community in Lowell. We wanted the Project to utilize, nurture, develop and support the talents and skills within that community so that when we say we have a Cambodian Outreach Project serving that community, we mean a project of the Cambodian people, by the Cambodian people and for the Cambodian people in Lowell.

When my predecessors established the Chinatown Outreach Project in 1972, the goal was to make legal services and in turn, the legal system, accessible to the growing Chinese immigrant population. We have stayed true to that mission and expanded it to encompass the newer segments of the Asian American community. We have fulfilled the mission by developing and fine-tuning the practice of community lawyering, taking on cases big and small, and playing a role in major community struggles. AOU was there when the Tai Tung Village tenants organized its first rent strike in the mid-1970s. AOU was there when the 200-unit Mass Pike Towers were in danger of losing its affordability in 1999. AOU was there to help steer the community through the 1986 immigration amnesty. AOU was there to help the community cope with the federal welfare and immigration reform in 1996. AOU was there when Boston Chinatown fought to have a say in land use and development decisions. AOU was there to support immigrant workers fight for equitable retraining benefits and severance packages. At the same time, we continue to provide the much-needed individual counseling and representation day after day, to make legal services accessible, and to strive to make real the promise of equal justice and democracy.

It has never been easy to do what we do with limited financial and human resources. More often than we would like, we have to turn away individual cases to make time for major advocacy or community initiatives. To properly practice community lawyering, we must immerse our lives in the community that we serve. We partake in community events big and small, not just to show our faces, but to earn full membership and trust in the different segments of the community that we serve, so that together we can advance the community's collective goals.

For thirty years, the Asian Outreach Unit has heeded the calls from our community. In the years to come, we pledge our service whenever our community needs us.

~ Zenobia T. Lai
Managing Attorney, Asian Outreach Unit

THIRTY YEARS OF THE ASIAN OUTREACH UNIT
(Continued)

I appreciated the time I spent interning at AOU this summer because it combined experience in the legal field with Asian American activism. In the past few years, I have become much more interested in problems that face Asian Pacific Americans and I've wondered how I could incorporate that into my future career. It was inspiring to see how involved everyone at AOU is with issues, such as Liberty Place, that affect the community. This summer also gave me a chance to experience the Chinatown community in a new way. When I was younger, I never thought about Chinatown as a place where people live. I just thought it was where people went for dim sum! Helping with intake and working with various clients who live in Chinatown and surrounding areas gave me a better sense of the strength of the Chinese community in Boston–something that I had never really thought about before. And after a whole summer of working at AOU, I still plan on applying to law school!

~ Bethany Li, Dow Intern, '02
Amherst College, Class of 2003

HARRY H. DOW, ESQ.
1904-1985

Harry Hom Dow was born in Hudson, Massachusetts on March 13, 1904, the son of Chinese immigrants. In 1905, the family moved to Boston's South End where they would reside for over half a century. Graduated from English High School, Harry later earned his law degree as a night student at Suffolk University Law School while helping his mother raise his five younger siblings. In 1929, he became the first Asian American to be admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. After twenty years with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Services, Harry opened private law offices in Boston and New York, specializing in immigration law.

Harry's first community involvement came when he volunteered as a pro bono lawyer for the Emergency Tenants Council and Villa Victoria during the early 1960's. He subsequently was elected a board member of the South End Neighborhood Action Program as well as Tent City. Harry was a leading force in conceptualizing and creating the South End Community Health Center. He remained an activist in the South End, donating his time and legal skills to serve the poor, people of color and elder communities. Harry's commitment became focused in his later years in his work on the boards of Greater Boston Legal Services, the South Cove Community Health Center in Chinatown, the South End Community Health Center, United South End Settlements, the Emergency Tenants Council, the South End Project Area Committee, Casa Myrna Vasquez Shelter for Women, Central Boston Elder Services, and the Boston Council for Elders.

For all his contribution, Harry's spirit is best eulogized by his longtime friend, Martin Gopen, who stated:

> Harry made things happen. He did not accept, or find acceptable inadequate health services, unsatisfactory housing, injustice for the poor, lack of respect and dignity for people, especially senior citizens. He wore that traditional mask of stoicism to hide his anger at the greedy, the racists, and the insensitive. His advocacy went beyond "what could be" to "what should be." His modesty, wise counsel, and that infinite wellspring of patience did not find its roots in fatalism nor in accepting given ordinations. Harry started with that which was already ordained and said, "how do we improve or change what is, to make it responsive to people." He would build from that point and build he did.
>
> ... We have celebrated his life and now we mourn his loss as we realize the depth of the void that exists. We can never fill his shoes but we can try to walk in his footprints.

Harry was recognized by the Boston Bar Association and Greater Boston Legal Services on numerous occasions for his commitment and contributions. On the occasion of Harry's death, the Boston City Council, Governor Michael Dukakis, Mayor Raymond Flynn, and Mel King paid tributes to his life and work. Harry Hom Dow's legacy will not be forgotten.

Financial Status Report for 2001

	Income	*Principal/ Endowment*	*Total*
Balance as of December 31, 2000	*$181,730*	*$222,040*	*$403,770*
Receipts			
Contributions (Including Net Revenue from 2001 Annual Dinner)		*20,950*	
Boston Bar Foundation (Community Internship)	*6,250*		
Massachusetts Bar Foundation (Cambodian Outreach Project)	*20,000*		
Massachusetts Bar Foundation (Asian Battered Women Project)	*15,000*		
Georgiana Goddard Eaton Memorial Fund (Community Internship)	*10,000*		
Theodore Edson Parker Foundation (Cambodian Outreach Project)	*35,000*		
Interest & Dividends	*9,588*		
Capital Gains		*4,036*	
Disbursements			
Fellow & Interns	*(60,476)*		
Attorneys & Paralegals (Merrimack Valley Legal Services, Mar. - Oct. 2001)	*(13)*		
Balance as of December 31, 2001	*$185,456*	*$247,026*	*$432,482*

HARRY H. DOW MEMORIAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND
P.O. BOX 5655
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114