



Nationalities Service Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nationalities Service Center Announces Chinatown Immigration Law Project

NSC receives Independence Foundation Public Interest Law Fellowship for launch of Chinatown Immigration Law Project, an initiative that provides free immigration legal services to low-income residents of Philadelphia's Chinese community

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 20, 2009 – Nationalities Service Center (NSC) was awarded a Public Interest Law Fellowship from the Independence Foundation to establish the Chinatown Immigration Law Project. This project will provide free immigration legal services to low-income residents of Philadelphia's Chinese community. The project is headed by Brian Wang, who graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law in May 2008. Brian recently passed the bar examination and will be admitted as an attorney in February 2009.

Brian was an intern with NSC during the summer of 2006 and the 2006-2007 school year. As an intern, Brian performed case-work for various Chinese clients, including doing legal research and providing much-needed Chinese language support, a crucial skill that NSC had been lacking. Brian is a fluent speaker of Mandarin Chinese, and he will be maintaining a visible presence in Chinatown to bring immigration legal services directly to residents and workers in the neighborhood. Brian will also provide assistance to any other immigrants in the region who come to Chinatown seeking assistance.

Philadelphia's Chinatown is home to nearly 5000 residents, over 110 businesses, 3 churches and 2 Buddhist temples. US Census data from 2005 showed 72,898 people of Asian descent living in Philadelphia. Of this total, 50,692 are foreign-born, 85% speak a language other than English at home, and 50% report their ability to speak English as "less than very well."

Through this project, NSC will establish a close relationship with Philadelphia's Chinese community to become trusted as a reliable service provider. Community partnerships will allow NSC to address the inadequacy of services and barriers to accessing services many individuals within the Chinese community experience. Through the kinds of immigration legal services we provide and outreach programs within the Chinese community, NSC will be better equipped to address the substantial, unmet needs, thereby

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addressing the cultural barriers that have prevented local Chinese immigrants from seeking our vital services.

About Nationalities Service Center:

Nationalities Service Center (NSC) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, that provides social, educational, senior center, translation/interpretation, and legal services to immigrants and refugees in the Greater Philadelphia area. Each year, we help approximately 4,000 individuals from over 90 countries become self-sufficient members of American society.

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For more information about the Nationalities Service Center, please contact Kathrin P. Ivanovic at (215) 893.8400.