



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE/JACL

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JACL ANNOUNCES THE 2011 JACL MIKE M. MASAOKA FELLOW

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, is pleased to announce Mackenzie Kiyomi Walker as the 2011 JACL Mike M. Masaoka Fellow. Mackenzie is a recent graduate of the University of Washington where she majored in Sociology and minored in Human Rights, International Studies, and Diversity. Starting this fall, Mackenzie will begin her assignment in the office of Congresswoman Judy Chu. Serving as Congresswoman for California's 32nd district, Chu is also Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), an assembly that has become a key element in advocacy work in the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

Mackenzie attended the 2011 JACL/OCA Washington D.C. Leadership Summit; where she networked with fellow JACL members and others, and made a presentation to a hill staffer to encourage the advancement of an anti-bullying and anti-racial profiling bill. She has served as an intern for the JACL Bridging Communities-Seattle Program. She attended the 2010 National JACL Convention where she was a finalist in the JACL Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition. She is a chapter board member of the JACL Seattle Chapter. She also attended the 2004 National JACL Convention where she watched her brother, Brigham Walker, in the oratorical competition. She has followed his example by becoming a member of the JACL National Youth/Student Council.

Upon being named as the newest JACL Masaoka Fellow, Mackenzie stated: "Being selected as the 2011 Mike M. Masaoka Fellow is an incredible honor. It's no secret that Mr. Masaoka was a political and social force to be reckoned with, and his efforts to advance civil rights and his dedication to public service are inspiring for young AAPI youth, like myself, looking to advance the same initiatives today. The knowledge that an individual gains while working on the Hill is invaluable, and I'm extremely grateful to the JACL for giving me the opportunity to experience and develop this first hand. I am eager and excited to be working with Congresswoman Judy Chu, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to coalesce and advance my passions for Human Rights, AAPI leadership, and public policy directly and at the national level."

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund was established in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka (1915-1991) for a lifetime of public service to the nation and the JACL. Masaoka was the JACL's national secretary, field executive, national legislative director of the JACL's Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the JACL Washington, D.C. Representative. Mike and his wife Etsu Mineta Masaoka gave a lifetime of service to the JACL. Masaoka Fellows are placed in the Washington D.C. Congressional offices of members of the United States Senate or the House of Representatives. Dr. H. Tom Tamaki administered the program for the JACL for twenty years after its inception. The fellowship is now handled by the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, stated: "We are very pleased to have Mackenzie Walker serve as the next JACL Masaoka Fellow. This is a great opportunity for young people to get a taste and feel for service in the nation's capital. Mackenzie's achievements and service

to the community thusfar have been outstanding, and we expect that she will be a strong future leader within the JACL. We are grateful to all the applicants who are clearly interested in service.”

National JACL President, David Kawamoto, added: “The JACL Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship is one of the flagship programs of the JACL. We are happy that Mackenzie Walker will be able to have this wonderful experience in Washington, D.C.”

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