



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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JACL PRESS RELEASE

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FEDERAL JUDGE BLOCKS KEY PARTS OF ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW SB 1070

Washington, D.C.—The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the nation, is pleased to announce that a federal court has blocked the most controversial parts of the Arizona Immigration legislation, SB 1070. The law would have given local law enforcement the authorization to detain those who may be suspected to be in this country without legal authorization. This ruling was issued in a Department of Justice lawsuit against Arizona, which was heard by the Court on the same day as a lawsuit brought by 24 organizations and individuals, including JACL, who are represented by a coalition of civil rights organizations including the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, a member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.

Judge Susan Bolton of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona blocked key provisions in the Arizona law, including

- the mandatory determination of immigration status after a stop or arrest,
- the provision that makes it a state crime for failing to register or carry registration documents,
- the provision that makes it a state crime to seek work as an undocumented worker,
- the mandatory detention of persons who are arrested, even for minor offenses, if they cannot prove that they are authorized to be in the U.S.
- and the provision that allowed the arrest of individuals that local and state law enforcement deemed "removable" from the U.S.

JACL has been strongly opposed to this law, and joined the federal civil rights legal challenge to SB 1070 in court, because it would have given local law enforcement officials the authority to target people of color, especially the Hispanic population. Asian Americans, who have experienced a long history of anti-immigration legislation, are often mistaken as foreigners and thus face the threat of detention as well.

Floyd Mori, JACL's National Executive Director, expressed JACL's enthusiasm for the ruling, stating, "While this action does not completely block the law, the ruling by Judge Bolton is a major success for protecting all Americans' civil rights. The JACL, along with its coalition of other national civil rights groups, welcomes this decision and will continue to monitor the situation in Arizona regarding immigration carefully."

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