



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115  
DC Office: 1850 M Street NW, Suite 1100 • Washington, DC • 20036  
Phone: (202) 223-1240 • Fax: (202) 296-8082 • E-mail: [natdir@jacl.org](mailto:natdir@jacl.org)

## JACL PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Floyd Mori, JACL National Executive Director**

**September 10, 2010**

[natdir@jacl.org](mailto:natdir@jacl.org)

### JACL WELCOMES NEW MASAOKA FELLOW

**Washington, D.C.** — The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is pleased to welcome Misha Tsukerman of San Francisco, California, to the Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship. He will serve as the new Masaoka Fellow, working in the office of the Honorable Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii for the next seven months.

Misha Tsukerman comes from the San Francisco Bay Area and is the son of two immigrant parents. It is from their stories and experience of emigrating that he draws his inspiration for addressing Asian American civil rights issues. Tsukerman attended UCLA, studying History and Asian American Studies. In college he served as the Director of the UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition, a coalition of two dozen Asian and Pacific Islander student organizations. During his tenure, APC primarily worked to promote the DREAM Act through teach-ins, workshops and art projects. The organization was able to raise awareness about the challenges faced by undocumented students, raise funds for a scholarship for undocumented students, and to re-frame the issue as one of great importance to Asian Americans.

After graduating from UCLA, Tsukerman moved to Washington, D.C. to work at the Asian American Justice Center in the Immigration and Immigrant Rights program where he focused on research, communications, and engaging and mobilizing members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in advocacy initiatives. In addition to his placement in Senator Inouye's office, he is also a part of the fall class of the Center for Progressive Leadership's New Leaders Fellowship. He looks forward to learning more about how our government is working to tackle the pressing issues of the modern world and the needs of the community.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund was established in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka 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. 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 of Philadelphia administered the program for the JACL for twenty years since its inception. The JACL Washington, D.C. office now administers the program.

The Japanese American Citizens League is delighted to have Tsukerman join our team and expect great things from him in the future.

###