



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate Release  
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## JACL ACCEPTS MASAOKA FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

Washington, D.C. -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is currently accepting applications from candidates who are interested in the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship, which is a JACL program where a student learns first hand about public policy. The Masaoka fellow serves in the Washington, D.C. office of a U.S. Senator or a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Masaoka fellow will receive a stipend to cover living expenses plus roundtrip airfare from the fellow's home to Washington, D.C. The fellowship period will be for six to eight months. The exact dates will be worked out with the schedule of the selected fellow, the Congressional office, and the Washington, D.C. office of the JACL.

Any students who are college seniors or currently in a graduate or professional program who are also United States citizens are encouraged to apply for the Masaoka Fellowship. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated a commitment to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community. Membership in the JACL is required. Past JACL participation and leadership are considered in the judging. Student/youth memberships in the JACL may be obtained for \$25 a year.

The JACL established the Masaoka Fellowship Fund in 1988 to honor Mike M. Masaoka (1915-1991) for a lifetime of outstanding public service in promoting justice, civil rights, and human dignity. The purpose of the fund is to develop leaders for public service by providing opportunities for the Fellows to work for a member of Congress. The program was administered by Dr. Tom Tamaki for twenty years and is now handled by the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

The fellow's assignments include a variety of tasks where he/she will be exposed to all facets of the work of the Representative or Senator and his/her staff. The fellow should also maintain close contact with the Washington, D.C. JACL office and become involved with the DC JACL Chapter while serving the fellowship in Washington, D.C.

As noted on the JACL website, the deadline for applications to be received by the JACL for the 2010 JACL Masaoka Fellowship is April 15, 2010. The chosen applicant will be announced by June 1, 2010. Interested persons should visit the JACL website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) for more information, details, and an application form. Completed application materials may be sent via email to [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org) or by fax to the JACL Washington, D.C. office at 202-296-8082.

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