



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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JACL NAMES 2009 MASAOKA FELLOW

Washington, D.C. -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) has awarded the 2009 JACL Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship to Scott Sakakihara, who has started work in the Washington, D.C. office of Congresswoman Mazie Hirono (D-HI) where he will serve for approximately four months. He was previously an intern in the office of Congressman Pete Stark, his own Congressman from the Bay Area in California. He has also been an intern with the California Governor's Office of Constituent Affairs, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), and the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

After graduation from Harvard Law School in 2008, Scott was an Associate at Simpson, Thatcher & Bartlett LLP in Palo Alto, California. Before attending Harvard Law School where he graduated cum laude with his J.D., Scott received a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Law and Society at the University of California, San Diego. He completed his degree in two years and was Valedictorian. He wanted the experience of working on the Hill before further pursuing his career as an attorney.

Scott grew up in Union City, California, and is the son of Dean and Tracie Sakakihara. He was involved in the youth sports program of the Eden Athletic Club sponsored by the Eden Japanese Community Center. He has volunteered at events with Eden such as the bazaar and the mochitzuki. Since moving to the Washington, D.C. area, he has become a board member of the D.C. JACL Chapter.

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.

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, stated: "We are pleased to have Scott Sakakihara serve as the JACL Masaoka Fellow. This is a great opportunity for young people to get a taste and feel for service in the nation's capital. Scott's achievements so far are commendable, and we expect big things from him in the future."

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