



Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
Educational Fund

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 24, 2009

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**AEF SELECTS DI ZHANG AS WINNER OF  
2009 ROBERT T. MATSUI WRITING COMPETITION**

Washington, D.C. – The Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (AEF) announces that Di Zhang, a recent graduate of the George Washington University Law School, has won the 2009 Robert T. Matsui Writing Competition. Di’s article, “Intercountry Adoption: Better Viewed in Black and White or Technicolor,” examines the unique struggles the adoptees face during intercountry adoptions. Di advocates that a mandatory post-adoptive counseling program be established for adoptive parents who adopt a child of a different race and from a country outside of the U.S. This program would help parents in identifying and dealing with unique issues stemming from the intercountry transracial adoptions and help better uphold the best interest of the child standard.

AEF President Christopher Y. Chan stated, “AEF congratulates Di on winning this year’s Matsui Writing Competition. Di raises a very unique issue with regard to race relations among intercountry adoptive parents, children and the immediate community. We had many insightful submissions this year. but the judges were most impressed with his submission.” As the winner of this year’s competition, Di will receive a monetary award of \$1,500 and his article will be published by UCLA School of Law’s *Asian Pacific American Law Journal*.

The Robert T. Matsui Annual Writing Competition was established by AEF in 2005 to honor the late Congressman Robert T. Matsui and his many accomplishments. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and the Hastings College of Law, Congressman Matsui was first elected to the United States Congress in 1978 from Sacramento, California. He won re-election to Congress 13 times. Congressman Matsui was a strong supporter of AEF, serving as the keynote speaker for its Annual Benefit Dinner in 1997 and again in 2003. Through this writing competition, AEF seeks to encourage legal scholarship on issues of importance to the Asian Pacific American legal community and, more generally, the publication of law review articles on topics of relevance to racial and ethnic minorities and the law. The competition is open to all law students in the United States.

AEF, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, is the charitable arm of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area. Since 1993, AEF has awarded fellowships and grants to law students and recent graduates who accept unpaid internships in the non-profit or public sector to provide critically needed services to the Asian Pacific American community and the Greater Washington, D.C. community-at-large. AEF funds these fellowships primarily through its Annual Benefit Dinner, which has become a marquee event in the community with over 300 attendees annually. For further information about AEF, visit [www.aefdc.org](http://www.aefdc.org).