

# API | JUSTICE COALITION of Silicon Valley

## APIJC Internship Description

### COALITION OVERVIEW

**Mission |** The Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition (APIJC) is a network of Asian Pacific Islander (API) focused organizations in Silicon Valley that work together to empower and advocate for the API community. Their mission is to advocate for social justice and to unite and empower the API community. With a united voice, positive change has occurred on issues that affect the API community, including but not limited to: immigrant rights, social and human services, race relations, anti-Asian violence prevention and awareness, API-focused legislation, voting rights, and language access.

**History |** In the summer of 2006, Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) joined with Asian Law Alliance, the Asian Pacific Bar Association, and the Japanese American Citizens League of San Jose to address the need of connecting API-focused organizations into a unified voice of advocacy in the Silicon Valley. In response, they formed the Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition of Silicon Valley (APIJC). APIJC is not a 501(c)3 organization; rather, it is a network of organizations united in a shared effort to ensure the well-being and uphold the rights of Asian Pacific Islander Americans.

**Strategy |** To address critical API issues, APIJC uses the Rapid Response Network to advocate in a timely manner. When an issue arises, the Rapid Response Network Committee will email a proposed Plan of Action to all members. A designated Point of Contact at each member organization has a specified period of time after receiving the email to respond to the Coalitions Plan of Action. The Coalition mobilizes action through public statements, press releases, press conferences, letter writing, petitioning, and email blasts. Another method used to collaborate on issues affecting the API community is through the monthly dinner meetings. The meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at a designated location.

**Membership |** To date, APIJC is comprised of over 25 API focused organizations. Member organizations are responsible for the following in order to participate in the Coalition:

- 1) Member Organizations must designate at least one Point of Contact within their organization.
- 2) Member Organizations must establish internal protocol that effectively supports the Rapid Response Network.

3) Member Organizations must attend as many monthly dinner meetings as possible.

## **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

An internship with APIJC provides individuals with an opportunity to gain exposure to important issues faced by the API community, community advocacy, civic participation, and networking and organizing on issues that affect the API community. Interns will have opportunities to research, discuss, and organize around issues such as voting rights, immigration rights, API-focused legislation, race relations, and anti-Asian awareness.

The expectations of APIJC interns are as follows:

- To help staff the coalition and attend coalition meetings.
- Positive attitude and an ability to work as a team with other members.
- Prepare for and attend monthly dinner meetings.
- Willingness to be flexible and work on a variety of tasks.
- Fulfill duties, time commitments and schedule.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced by friendly environment.
- Strong communication with supervisor about questions, concerns, etc.
- Professionalism in working with other members of the community.
- Dress code (business casual).

## **INTERNSHIP BENEFITS**

An internship with APIJC provides individuals with an opportunity to gain exposure to important issues faced by the API community, in terms of community advocacy and legislative actions and research. Interns are given significant and meaningful responsibilities by the Coalition and some of the benefits include opportunities to:

- Build professional skills such as oral and written communications, computer skills, networking with over 25 API organizations, interviewing, and research.
- Learn about issues affecting the Asian Pacific Islander community.
- Learn from members working in the API community, specifically the barriers and strategies used to advocate on a community's behalf.
- Gain a better send of the interaction between nonprofit organizations, government agencies, the private sector, and the community.
- Network with other nonprofit organizations and government entities.
- Mentoring and shadowing.
- Be a part of a professional work environment and have opportunities to participate in community events and activities, including by not limited to the APIJC retreat and annual end of the year dinner.
- Make a difference in serving the community.

## INTERNSHIP HOURS & LOCATION

The internship will require an estimated 10 hours a week (or two days a week) and will be based out of Asian Americans for Community Involvement's (AACI)'s main building. APIJC monthly dinner locations will be designated a month prior to the meeting date. The final hours and schedule will be negotiated between the intern and the supervisor.

AACI's office is located at 2400 Moorpark Avenue, Suite 300, San Jose, CA 95128. For more information, please email Van Dinh at [Van.Dinh@aaci.org](mailto:Van.Dinh@aaci.org) or call (408) 975-2730 ext. 114 for an internship application.