

EPOCH TIMES

November 13, 2015

Free Chinese Legal Clinic



Left to Right: Thomas Wang '14, Aaron Li (USD Alum), Amy Hsiao '12, John Kang '97, 1L Wing Lu, 3L Julia Yu at the Chinese Community Legal Clinic

This past Saturday, on November 09, 2015, the SDCAA partnered up with the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALSD) to provide the first ever San Diego Free Chinese Legal Clinic. The Free Chinese Legal Clinic, held at the Chinese Bilingual Preschool located at 5075 Ruffin Rd, San Diego, CA 92123, was to provide the Chinese community with the legal information they need. Owners and principals of the school, Sally Wong-Avery and Natasha Wong, have been strong supporters of the Chinese legal community.

Attorneys, Eric Ching, Amy Hsiao, Esther Hyun, John Kang, Aaron Li, David Seto, and Thomas Wang volunteered their afternoon to help community members with their legal problems. Law students volunteers included Jonathan Chikamoto, 2L; Christie Liu, 2L; Wing Lu, 2L; and Julia Yu 3L from California Western School of Law, Xiao "Shao" Jin, 1L and Junqiao Xiao from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and Mengke Xing, 1L from USD School of Law. While

the attorneys consulted clients, the students were able to assist with tabling, sign in/sign ups, and translations.

Clients were able make an appointment to speak to an attorney about their legal issues. Walk-in clients were also welcomed. The attorneys were able to provide consultation and information on a variety of legal questions including divorces, immigration, personal injury, tax, and wills and trusts. The nine clients who sought legal help were able to receive assistance in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Taiwanese.

This clinic was able to bring Chinese lawyers together with the Chinese community and law students. The attorneys offered legal help and access to other local legal resources without the language barrier. The debut of the clinic was a success and has proven its potential to future events.

The San Diego Chinese Attorney's Association (SDCAA) was formed in December of 2008. The SDCAA is a non-political and not-for-profit legal education and support organization formed to promote justice and legal education among attorneys of Chinese descent and others with like minds and interests. The SDCAA works closely with the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) and its subchapters. Since its inauguration, the association has grown in both its member size and community outreach. The current 2015 officers include Amy Hsiao, president; Manqi Han, vice president; Paul Chen vice president/secretary; and Aaron Li, treasurer. The SDCAA has hosted various Continuing Legal Education (CLE) events, mixers, and receptions to bring Chinese legal community with both other legal communities and the public. If you are interested in learning more about the San Diego Chinese Attorneys Association upcoming events, please email SDCAA at sdcaa.info@gmail.com.