



Asian Law Alliance

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Phyllis Osaki and Marsha Baird
Boutique Co-Chairs
Midori Kai Inc.
5674 Sonoma Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Dear Ms. Osaki and Ms. Baird:

Thank you very much for the continuing support of the Asian Law Alliance Domestic violence Program with the contribution of \$1,000. Each year ALA staff and volunteers assist many victims of domestic violence through both our legal services and community education activities. A client that we assisted through the project is Ayako (name changed to preserve confidentiality)

Ayako met Howard (name changed to preserve confidentiality) in Japan while he was on a business trip. After Howard returned to San Diego, they continued to correspond and talk on the phone. Howard convinced her that she should come to the U.S. to visit. She arrived in San Diego and planned to spend some time getting to know Howard. One month after her arrival in the United States they went to Las Vegas and got married.

Ayako was concerned about her immigration status, since she had entered on a tourist visa. Howard told her that he would file the necessary papers with immigration and that he needed money from her parents in Japan. Her parents wired \$10,000 to her immediately. A few weeks later when she asked him when he planned to file the papers with immigration he told her to, "shut up and cook dinner!" That same night, he raped her and told her that he was going to send her back to Japan.

When Howard went to work the next day, Ayako gathered her belongings and caught a bus to San Jose to stay with her cousin. Howard called her on her cell phone and told her that he was sorry. Ayako told him that she needed time to think. Two weeks later, she returned to San Diego. When Howard met her at the bus station, he immediately began yelling at her and screaming obscenities. After he slapped her, a bystander called the police. Howard was arrested and Ayako returned to San Jose.



United Way Silicon Valley
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Ayako found a family law attorney in San Jose, who helped her file her divorce papers as well as a restraining order against Howard. She told the attorney about her immigration concerns and the attorney referred her to Asian Law Alliance for assistance. We helped her to gather the documents to file a self petition application under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and an application to work in the United States. Months later, we accompanied her to her interview for permanent resident status at the San Jose immigration office. Ayako obtained her permanent resident status and was able to begin a new life free from violence.

Ayako is an example of a client who was able to stabilize her immigration status, obtain permission to work in the United States and restart her life free of violence.

Thanks again for supporting the Asian Law Alliance domestic violence prevention program.

You have received no goods or services in exchange for this contribution.

Sincerely,

Richard Konda
Executive Director