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Fall 2002
Update

a newsletter of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

This information was provided by the Department of Justice's former Office of Redress Administration officials, Joanne Chiedi and Tink Cooper, and Angela Gantt on Nov. 1, 2002.

Historical Documentation utilized in the ORA program

The United States Congress directed the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) to conduct extensive research using government documents held by the National Archives and Records Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the collection on Japanese American evacuation and resettlement at the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley. It also commissioned a study of the economic impact of the exclusion and internment of Japanese American citizens and permanent resident aliens.

The Office of Redress Administration (ORA) utilized the same historical documentation studied by the CWRIC to identify and locate affected individuals. Initial congressional data indicated that 120,000 people were evacuated, relocated, or interned and actuarial studies presumed that only 60,000 people were living at the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. However, it was clear to ORA as early as August 1989 that the number of potentially eligible individuals would exceed the 60,000 figure.

Summary of Cases Processed

During ORA's operation, although 82,220 payments of \$20,000 payments were made, a total of 85,685 cases were processed. In 3,531 cases of deceased eligible individuals with statutory heirs, the cases were processed in multiple parts, depending on the number of heirs.

Total names on the Master List:	140,694
Not processed: These cases were generally of those who died before the Act was passed on 8/10/88 or were among the 1472 missing potential eligible individuals.	55,009
Processed to completion:	84,762
Paid	82,220
Ineligible	1,581
Deceased, no heirs	390
Japanese Latin Americans	541
Refusals	30

Cases processed but not completed: 0.6% of the total potentially eligible 923 individuals are in this category which includes cases such as those who withdrew without completing the process; initially contacted ORA but could not be located later; and those on whom ORA was awaiting documentation at the end of the Redress Program.

Japanese Latin Americans who were found ineligible under the CLA, and JLA's who applied during the Supplemental Funding period, were offered \$5000 under the Mochizuki settlement. 145 received payment of \$20,000 under the CLA; 1 received partial payment before funds were exhausted.

Category of Eligibility Summary under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988

Category of Eligibility	Number of Payments
WRA Internees	71,946
Institutionalized persons under WRA control	239
Interned in INS camps	308
"Voluntary" Evacuees	4,390
Hawaii residents including internees, evacuees, and others	1,017
Military	2,028
Born outside of camp and born after voluntary evacuation (Ishida babies)	863
Latin American Japanese eligible under the Act	152
Other cases (Railroad, Mine workers, Naval Lang. School, etc.)	1,277
<u>Total payments</u>	<u>82,220</u>

The categories of eligibility were established from the historical records and set forth in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and its governing regulations.

Cases Processed under Summer 1999 Supplemental Funding

February 5, 1999, marked the official closing of ORA. However, there were still a number of cases that had been received prior to the program's sunset and required processing. The summary of these cases is listed below:

<u>JA Pending Cases</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>JLA Mochizuki Settlement Class Members</u>	<u>713*</u>
Paid Cases	44	Total Paid Cases	645
Cases found ineligible	18	Cases found ineligible	42
Cases withdrawn	13	Unknown addresses/undeliverable mail	9
Claimants did not respond	4	Eligible deceased without heirs	6
		Cases withdrawn	3
		Claimants did not respond	8

* The total class number was revised a few years ago from 730 to 713 as a result of the 17 claimants who "opted out" of the settlement. Also, 145 JLA cases were paid from funding under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 but are included here to show the entire class. 645 received \$5000; 152 received \$20,000.

Total Redress and Class Settlement claims paid

Total JA Paid:	82,264	(82,220 JA cases were paid under the Civil Liberties Act)
Total JLA Paid:	645	**Should be 645 + 152 = <u>797 total</u> JLA (added by K.Ochi)

Requesting verification of Redress Payment

Individuals may request verification of their redress payment by writing to the Civil Rights Divisions at the following address:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Ms. Angela N. Gantt
c/o NALC Bldg., Rm. 411
Washington, DC 20530

Requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act -To solicit information under the Freedom of Information Act, interested parties should send their requests to the address listed below:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Mr. Nelson Hermilla, Chief
FOI/PA Branch
c/o NALC Bldg., Rm. 311
Washington, DC 20530

For information regarding an individual redress application, please be sure to include the recipient's full name and date of birth.