

REDRESS

Workshop to Help Attorneys in Cases for Redress

Civil rights lawyer Gerald Sato will hold a *pro bono* strategy session on July 26.

The National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR) and the Japanese American Bar Assn. (JABA) will cosponsor a *pro bono* workshop and strategy session, with noted civil rights lawyer Gerald Sato, on Saturday, July 26, from 10 a.m., at Little Tokyo Towers, 455 E. Third St., Los Angeles.

Sato will present a workshop for lawyers interested in filing lawsuits on behalf of claimants who suffered

deprivation of their civil and constitutional rights during World War II solely because of their Japanese ancestry.

These Japanese Americans were denied redress because, according to Office of Redress Administration (ORA) interpretations, they did not meet the strict eligibility requirements of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (CLA88).

Although more than 80,000 Japanese Americans have won their redress, efforts continue on behalf of the remaining 4,000 or 5,000 individuals who also suffered the loss of their homes, their possessions and their civil and human rights

during World War II.

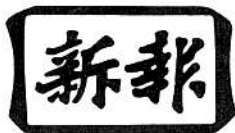
Among those seeking redress are:

- 1) Japanese American railroad and mine workers who were fired from their jobs in 1942;
- 2) Japanese nationals who were in the U.S. legally on visa and were incarcerated but now are declared ineligible because of the permanent residency requirement of the CLA88;
- 3) Japanese Latin Americans who were abducted from their homes in Central and South America to be incarcerated in U.S. internment camps and used in prisoner-of-war exchanges; and
- 4) Japanese Americans born af-

ter the CLA88's cut-off birthdate for eligibility, Jan. 20, 1945 (*Ishida/Consolo*).

Sato, past president of the Japanese American Bar Assn. and one of the recipients of the Fighting Spirit Awards at the 1997 Day of Remembrance, is a pioneer in the effort to win redress for individuals who did not qualify under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

According to the landmark *Ishida/Consolo* decision (argued successfully by Sato at the U.S. Federal Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit), several hundred Japanese Americans who were born outside of the military exclusion



Remaining Claimants

zones on or before Jan. 20, 1945, have now been found eligible and will receive a presidential apology and redress of \$20,000 at the end of this summer.

Sato is continuing his involvement in redress cases by appealing the case of *Kaneko v. U.S.*, a lawsuit brought against the U.S. government by Emily Kaneko, widow of a Union Pacific railroad worker who was fired from his job just one year prior to the date he would have been eligible to retire on a railroad pension.

The workshop and strategy session, sponsored by NCRR and JABA's Pro Bono Committee, will take place on July 26, from 10 a.m.,

at the Little Tokyo Towers, 455 E. Third St., Los Angeles. NCRR has established a redress fund to give modest stipends to lawyers who offer their services to claimants.

Involvement by lawyers is urgent in this last year of redress payments, event organizers said. The Office of Redress Administration closes its doors in August of 1998. Potential claimants, those who have been unjustly denied their redress despite the loss of civil rights, are also encouraged to contact NCRR.

For more information, call Janice Yen of NCRR at (213) 268-1898 or Derrick Li of JABA at (213) 894-4454.