



AILF Announces Annual Writing Contest Winner: Olivia Chiu from Pasadena, California

Cite as "AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 09050866 (posted May. 14, 2009)"

The [American Immigration Law Foundation](#) is pleased to announce that the winner of the national 5th Grade "*Why I Am Glad America Is a Nation of Immigrants*" creative writing contest is **Olivia Chiu**. Olivia is in the fifth grade class at [Monterey Hills Elementary School](#) in Pasadena, California. The second place winner is **Elise Wang** (San Francisco, CA) for "The Way to America" and third place was awarded to **Chloe Ding** (San Diego, CA) for "A Better Way of Life". Honorable mentions were awarded to **Nigel Castelino** (Chicago, IL) for "Why I'm Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants" and **Elizabeth Palmer** (Queensbury, NY) for "One Heart, One Mind".

Miss Chiu's essay - "The American Punch" is a delightful fable about a United Nations event, where America (the country) is the star of the evening and the envy of all the other countries because of her welcoming and prosperous history as a nation of immigrants. Olivia's essay beat out thousands of entrants from across the nation to win.

Olivia's essay will be printed in the *Congressional Record*, a flag will be flown over the U.S. Capitol in her honor, and she will receive an all-expenses-paid trip for four to Las Vegas, where she'll recite her essay at the American Immigration Law Foundation's [Annual Benefit](#) on Friday evening, June 5. Her teacher Ms. Nan Freitas will also be recognized and honored in Las Vegas.

Olivia's essay was judged the winner by Pulitzer prize winning author [Junot Diaz](#), critically acclaimed author [Firoozeh Dumas](#), children's authors [Velani Mynhardt Witthoft](#) and [Keely Alexander McCammon](#) and U.S. Senators [Ted Kennedy \(D-MA\)](#) and [Charles E. Schumer \(D-NY\)](#).

Each year, the [American Immigration Law Foundation \(AILF\)](#) hosts its Annual Benefit to recognize the contributions and impact immigrants have on America. This year's gala takes place Friday evening, June 5, during the [2009 AILA Annual Conference](#) in Las Vegas.

The evening's award ceremony will recognize the contributions of the following immigrants: [Carlos Santana](#), internationally acclaimed recording artist and founder of the Milagro Foundation and acclaimed performance artists [Cirque du Soleil](#). 2008 ALMA Award Winner [Alex Reymundo](#) will host the evening as master of ceremonies. Finally, prepare to be dazzled by a special dynamic performance courtesy of [Jean Francois Detaille](#).

The Annual Benefit is a ticketed event and seats are limited. We encourage you to [purchase your tickets early!](#) Sponsorships and group table sales are available. Please contact Elizabeth Stinebaugh at estinebaugh@ailf.org for complete details. A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible as allowable by law.

All proceeds from the event directly support the foundation's ongoing mission of increasing public understanding of the value of immigration to American society and toward advancing fundamental fairness and due process under the law for immigrants. The foundation's programs include: [The Legal Action Center](#), which works through the courts to correct unfair immigration rules; [The Immigration Policy Center](#), which conducts research and analyses on the effects of immigration on the nation; [The Curriculum Center](#), which develops tools for educators to teach schoolchildren about America's heritage as a nation of immigrants; and [The Exchange Visitor Program](#), which creates educational resources and opportunities that recognize this nation's immigrant heritage.

Your Donation Makes a Difference!

The important work of the foundation is funded through [generous donations](#) from individuals, firms, and corporations. We thank you for your continued support of AILF's increasingly vital mission and its programs that communicate a pro-immigration and pro-immigrant message to elected officials, the media, and the general public. Your donation is tax deductible.

Copyright © 1993–2009, American Immigration Lawyers Association.
Suite 300, 1331 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
[Copyright & Reprint Policy](#)