

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**UCLA Releases First High School Textbook on Asian Americans:  
'Untold Civil Rights Stories'**

Online Bookstore: [www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comerus/](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comerus/)

Price: \$20 with educational discounts of 25-100 copies

**Praise for Untold Civil Rights Stories:**

*"Untold Civil Rights Stories is a social milestone and is a must-have for educators and students alike." - Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa*

*"Untold Civil Rights Stories is an important contribution to a broader understanding of the contemporary struggle for democratic rights." - County of Los Angeles Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas*

LOS ANGELES - Representing more than 15 million Asian Americans in the United States, "Untold Civil Rights Stories" is the first book created for high school and freshmen college students to learn and discuss the social struggles Asian Americans have faced both before and after Sept. 11, 2001. "Untold Civil Rights Stories" is co-edited by UCLA Asian American Studies adjunct professor Russell C. Leong, and Asian Pacific American Legal Center President & Executive Director Stewart Kwoh.

According to editors Leong and Kwoh: "Asian Americans are part of the untold story of America's continuing civil rights, labor and human rights struggles. For decades, Asian Americans, together with African Americans and others, have fought discriminatory laws around segregation, citizenship and marriage; have helped organize farm workers with Cesar Chavez; and spoken out for the rights of American veterans and other groups.

"Their stories are powerful and we have gathered them here in one book. We created 'Civil Rights Stories' for all Americans because this is part of America's untold story."

Ten fully illustrated chapters of "Untold Civil Rights Stories" each come with an extensive lesson plan and historical timeline, together with rare newspaper and personal photos. Long-time multicultural curriculum consultant for Los Angeles Unified Schools Esther R. Taira provided lesson plans and a timeline for the book.

The chapters include:

- o oral history accounts by Thai and Latino sweatshop garment workers
- o Philip Vera Cruz and the United Farm Workers Movement
- o American families (Joseph Iletto family, and Lily Chin) organizing against hate crimes
- o breaking the color line in the movies and in the media (actor Beulah Ong Kwoh, and journalist K.W. Lee);
- o fighting for constitutional rights (Fred Korematsu, and Faustino Peping Baclig)

- o Americans after 9/11: unpopular immigrants; citizen rights and Amric Singh Rathour
- o Student viewpoints, lesson plans, and timeline

Among the surprising stories and photos you'll find within the book are: Korean American journalist K.W. Lee living and reporting on poor whites in Appalachia, Filipino American Philip Vera Cruz working hand-in-hand with Cesar Chavez to organize farmworkers, a born-in-New York Sikh policeman organizing for his rights, and the late veteran actress Beulah Kwoh organizing actors across racial lines.

"Untold Civil Rights Stories" gathered nationally known writers, civil rights attorneys, and distinguished journalists to write each chapter and they include: May Lee Heye, Bill Ong Hing, Irene Lee, Dale Minami, Karen Narasaki, Angela Oh, Mary Ellen Kwoh Shu, Julie Su, Stewart Kwoh, Casimiro Tolentino, Kent Wong, Eric Yamamoto BS Helen Zia. UCLA student Irene Lee provides a student's perspective on the issues.

**Orders:**

"Untold Civil Rights Stories" can be ordered from the UCLA online bookstore at [www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comerus/](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comerus/) or by phone from UCLA Asian American Studies at (310) 825-2968 from Tu Ying Ming, book manager. Price: \$20, educational discounts 25-100 copies

**Book Publishers and Editorial:**

Russell Leong, UCLA Asian American Studies Center: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu>  
Stewart Kwoh, Asian Pacific American Legal Center: <http://www.apalc.org>

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