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From: OCA National Office <oca@ocanatl.org>

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Subject: OCA Commends Wen Ho Lee Privacy Lawsuit Settlement



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OCA Commends Wen Ho Lee Privacy Lawsuit Settlement

Washington, DC – OCA commends the agreement between Dr. Wen Ho Lee and the government and 5 news organizations to settle Lee’s privacy lawsuit on June 2, 2006. Dr. Lee was fired from his job at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, under a cloud of suspicion for espionage, which had been leaked by government officials to various news agencies. Though Dr. Lee was never charged with espionage, he was held in solitary confinement for 9 months, allowed only limited contact with his family. The Asian Pacific American community rallied in support of due process and fair treatment for Dr. Wen Ho Lee during his incarceration. Dr. Lee was ultimately never charged with espionage and received a full apology from the judge presiding over the case.

Dr. Lee sued the Department of Energy and Department of Justice for violating his privacy by leaking information that he was under investigation as a spy for China and will receive \$895,000 from the government. He will also receive \$750,000 from the Associated Press, The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post and ABC, marking a landmark settlement with such media companies.

“This settlement sends a strong message that an individual’s right to privacy and due process are inherent rights, and ones that should be respected and protected,” said OCA National President Ginny Gong. “While justice was delayed, OCA is pleased to see that Dr. Lee and his family are finally vindicated and can find some closure.”

OCA Executive Director Dorothy Wong commented, “The payment to Wen Ho Lee by the five news organizations is unusual and unprecedented. OCA hopes this sends a strong message to news media and the government that the fervor around national security cannot justify racial profiling or the invasion of a person’s privacy rights.”

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â€œFounded in 1973, OCA, a national organization with over 80 chapters and affiliates across the country, is dedicated to advancing the social, economic, and political well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.â€

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