



**Asian Task Force  
Against Domestic Violence**

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**Atsuko Fish of ATASK awarded with 2008 Woman of Justice Honoree  
Chairman Fish's humanitarian legacy**

DECEMBER 8, 2008—Boston, MA: Atsuko Fish, the Chairman of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence was awarded with the title: 2008 Woman of Justice Honoree in the annual feature of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. Fish and 39 other women were celebrated for their accomplishments in their specific field of law, justice, and advocacy.

In her fourth year as ATASK's Chairman, and being an active member of various community activities, Fish's involvement with social advocacy is an extension of her extraordinary personality. She continues to dedicate her life to serving her "fellow Asian women," taking the initiative to eliminate domestic violence. She refers to the US as a "land of dreams fulfilled," explaining that "many immigrants, myself included, come to this country with hopes and dreams, to experience freedoms and opportunities that are inaccessible in their countries of origin." Being born in post war Japan, Fish explains that "in those days, women were not encouraged to demonstrate their abilities." Now being in the states for 25 years, she reflects on her initial transition of moving to the states as her biggest challenge: "Coming to America as a 43 year-old adult, and adjusting to the customs and culture was very difficult. I had to overcome insecurities of being an outsider, speaking a second language, and maintaining aspects of my heritage, while still embracing aspects of American culture."

Though Fish has lived most of her adult life in the United States, it is only recently that she made the biggest decision of her life: Giving up her Japanese citizenship to become a U.S. citizen. "I had to give up a 400-year-old 'samurai' family tree because the Japanese government does not allow dual citizenship." She spoke of her decision with confidence and determination: "[but] I wanted to vote in this historic presidential election... Now I feel I am a part of changing this country." Fish has followed her instincts to pave her own unique path in all her accomplishments: her additional efforts include founding HANDS (Health and Development Service) in Japan and Japanese Woman's Leadership Initiative; serving on the board for the Boston Foundation; active trustee member for Simmons's College; Commissioner of the Asian American Commission; and her involvement in overseeing the MFA. Fish's legacy and dedication knows no borders or boundaries, and her charisma has inspired many women to get involved in advocacy. "Atsuko is a dear friend and an extremely valid member of the team," commented Linda Chin, the president of ATASK. "She is the driving force behind ATASK's involvement. Her

commitment and philanthropy transcends through all of us to make a difference everyday.”