NORCROSS, GA, August 26, 2015 — NORCROSS, GA – Fulton, the state’s most populous county, admitted to illegally disenfranchising and misleading voters in the 2008 and 2012 elections, according to a recent settlement agreement.

In 2012, a week before the presidential election, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta informed the Georgia Secretary of State that hundreds of citizens it had helped to register in Fulton and other counties had not been added to the voter rolls. Advancing Justice – Atlanta demanded they be allowed to vote.

Advancing Justice - Atlanta believes voters in other counties were and continue to be similarly disenfranchised and will keep pushing for a resolution in all known cases.

In the settlement, the County admitted to approximately two dozen violations of state law including improperly rejecting eligible ballots and sending voters to the wrong precincts. The county agreed to pay a fine of $180,000 and spend an additional $200,000 in new training software for poll workers. The investigation was initiated by the Georgia Secretary of State.

“We applaud the Secretary of State’s investigation that led to this settlement, and Fulton County’s commitment to do a better job training their poll workers,” said Helen Ho AAAJ-Atlanta’s Executive Director. “Based on our experience and work on the ground, the problems identified in the settlement are not limited to one county or to a specific election, but are problems connected to a systematic de-prioritization of first-time (mostly immigrant) voters and other voters of color. Advancing Justice - Atlanta is continuing to push for greater transparency in the voting process and assisting individual citizens who believe they were robbed of their right to vote. We encourage the state to look at other counties and the state as a whole to ensure these problems aren’t repeated in 2016,” said Ho.

About Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.