



THE YEAR OF THE MEMBERSHIP

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS,

Wasn't 2011 inspiring?

At Causa Justa :: Just Cause, we entered 2011 raring to go, feeling the foundation of our merger solidly supporting us, and the vision of Black and Brown unity pushing us forward.

We focused on our core commitment of developing leadership from our base, declaring 2011 to be "The Year of the Membership," and dedicating ourselves to having real impact on policies that affect everyday people's lives.

We supported and challenged members to lead our program work, forming our first Steering Committee and recruiting hundreds of Black, Latino, and other low-income people into our organization. We served our community with know-your-rights information and advocacy to solve their daily problems in their homes. We connected leaky faucets to bank accountability, lacking budgets to progressive taxation, and deeds of sale to executive bonuses, building pathways from individual crisis to collective action.

The second half of the year, our hearts and hands were dedicated to the budding Occupy Wall Street movement, joining thousands in a timely critique and in new opportunities for social change. We led the way in developing models of collaboration between community organizing groups like ours and occupy activists, working alongside dozens of organizations and thousands of activists towards a movement too big to fail.

We enjoyed the most satisfying year-end evaluation to date, checking off everything on our list, and watching our campaign work take on a life of its own. Wells Fargo bank, long time target of our work, was shut down by civil disobedience, sued by taxpayers, and exposed as a foreclosure factory and immigrant detention profiteer. Fannie Mae, now government owned, was put on the spot by an occupation of one of the thousands of vacant properties they own, and challenged to return the deed to the home of CJC member Margarita Hernandez. And this is just the beginning.

2012 is ripe with opportunities for even more creative convergence, for leadership from affected communities of color in a broader movement of the 99%, and for policy impact in response to grassroots people's power.

WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE! ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE!

In Solidarity,
María Poblet
Executive Director, Causa Justa :: Just Cause



2 YEAR OF THE MEMBERSHIP



Carlos Lola, member leader, said of the experience, “Members are able to deepen and solidify our skills and understanding so we can go into our communities and share what we have learned and do the work more effectively, and at the end of the day that is the goal.”

Members are the heart of our organization. In 2011, we focused on that core work of building participation and leadership in the community: The Year of the Membership. We increased the numbers of community members engaged in our work, and developed member-friendly structures so they could be more deeply and consistently involved in all aspects of the organization.

It was a powerful year. We recruited hundreds of new members and engaged hundreds of lapsed members, growing our numbers from 1500 to 2100. Our membership participated in major mobilizations, joined committees, helped with phone-banking, represented in coalitions, spoke at the Board of Supervisors and City Council meetings on both sides of the bay, and staffed our tent at Occupy Oakland. They were tireless, dedicated, and inspiring.

At the beginning of 2011 we introduced a leadership development training, enrolling more than 30 members in a fully bilingual six-week course called Universidad. As a merged organization with a much larger and growing membership in two different cities, these trainings are more important than ever, as they make space for members to connect with each other consistently and profoundly, reaching across race, language, and neighborhoods to exchange ideas and experiences, and build a shared agenda.

“Being able to get to know and come together with the San Francisco members and understand and work towards a common goal is such an important part of the Universidad training, that helps strengthen our leadership as members in the organization,” shared Ms. Hiba Sherry, an Oakland member.

Our Universidad reviewed concepts of community organizing, and delved into our core issues: housing, immigrants rights, and civic engagement, allowing members to choose the course of work they wanted to learn most about. We talked about S-Comm, foreclosures and evictions, the lopsided power structure, and even the importance of grassroots fundraising in sustaining our organization. Members walked away with a sense of energy, empowerment and community and were ready to do the hard work of organizing! We formed member committees for each area of our work. Members inform the strategy, lead the practice, and deepen their grasp of the issue area they are involved in.

As our Year of the Membership came to a close, our members elected a new Steering Committee, a group of six leaders whose job it is to make strategic decisions for the organization’s work, such as the long-term direction of our campaigns. Their first task in 2012 will be to represent the broader membership in the organization’s first Strategic Planning process, serving as decision-makers regarding the organization’s future growth.

We expanded our reach in our neighborhoods by engaging in major voter mobilization and education drives over the past several years. This year our teams spent six weeks going door-to-door and having one-on-one conversations with their neighbors, answering questions and providing information. Our goal was to promote voter education, civil rights and a stronger democracy for our communities – and we succeeded!

In Oakland, we continued to build a massive database of residents that support progressive taxation with Oakland Rising, as part of collective efforts statewide under the umbrella of California Calls. These efforts have helped to build momentum for statewide revenue measures, including the Millionaires Tax, a measure that could change the stalled California budgeting process in 2012.

As part of our efforts to spread the skills of grassroots electoral work and develop ourselves as an anchor organization, we led a training program for 35 people, including our members and members of allied organizations. The EVO (Engaged Voter Organizing) series built relationships between members of different organizations, and empowered participants with curriculum that covered the mechanics of electoral outreach, electoral power mapping and how to recruit new members through outreach.



"We have to create a new system & build momentum for civic participation through our collective fight for civil rights & justice. Our communities do need more education about how government functions. That's why CJJC uses outreach & direct services to empower our communities with information about our rights & how everyday people can impact decisions that affect our lives." – Sanyika Bryant, CJJC Civic Engagement Organizer



We helped grow San Francisco Rising in 2011, joining with other grassroots groups to build political power from the bottom up. SF Rising is roughly modeled after sister organization Oakland Rising, which we have been a part of building for the past four years.

We voiced our priorities, buoyed by SF Rising, and had an impact on SF's Mayoral race. The top candidates actively responded to community demands. Sup. John Avalos initiated an effort to divest SF from big banks, and explore a municipal bank. And Interim Mayor Ed Lee, upon winning the race, moved to dramatically augment funding for homeless family services.





Our rights-based services give people tools to improve their situation, support to know their own power, and the opportunity to take collective action. Repairs, rent increases, evictions and harassment are problems we tackle every day. On top of that, in 2011, the foreclosure crisis hit the Bay Area hard, affecting both tenants and homeowners. We saw a spike in clients, serving almost 500 people in our West & East Oakland clinics, and over 1,000 in San Francisco.

Wielding our knowledge of tenant protections, we worked with residents to challenge big banks and keep people in their homes. Foreclosure is NOT a just cause for eviction and we tell tenants: stay in your home!

OAKLAND TENANTS RIGHTS & HOMEOWNER CLINICS

Our Oakland Tenant's Rights Clinic grew this year, launching services in the East Oakland office, alongside our Homeowner Clinic. The clinic also organized in East Oakland, preventing the illegal eviction of a group of tenants living in a foreclosed apartment building owned by Wells Fargo. Not surprisingly, the trouble started when the financial giant took over, and that's also when we stepped in. Thanks to direct pressure on the bank, the tenants kept their homes. Said one of the tenants: "A foreclosure is not a means of eviction. We had to teach Wells Fargo about tenants' rights."

In our Oakland Homeowner Clinic, the message is the same. Banks and the real estate industry conned many into poisonous loans and, despite their role in the crisis, continue to foreclose on homeowners at a breakneck pace. The Clinic worked with clients to win modifications and other concessions from the big banks. From writing letters to picketing banks, our clinic clients utilize creative tactics to defend their homes. One of our victories was stopping the sale of a member's home, by putting direct pressure on potential bidders at the County Courthouse. This gave her family valuable time to negotiate a lasting and fair loan modification.

SAN FRANCISCO TENANTS RIGHTS CLINIC

We saw many great victories in San Francisco as well. Maria de Pilar and her children defeated a shameless move by their landlord to try to evict her after her husband died. Maria remembers that as soon as she walked into the office, "I knew I was in the right place, I already felt cared for and right away I was given the help I needed." This help turned into a five-month legal battle that highlighted the unique housing struggles that women face. Thanks to the help of CJJC and volunteer lawyers from the Eviction Defense Collaborative, Maria and her family won their fight.

On gentrified Valencia St, long-time tenants in a foreclosed building rallied community support, staging a call-in to their landlord to demand he address the basic repair issues and cease the double standard of ignoring them while pandering to the new high-end restaurant that he moved in underneath their units.

SERVICES LINKED TO ORGANIZING

Our clinics successfully recruited a third of new clients to get involved as members. We gained more than 300 new members in 2011, from our service work alone!

Community organizing to expand the rights of immigrants is a key priority for Causa Justa :: Just Cause. In 2011 we advocated and organized for protections against policies that target the immigrant community and break up families.

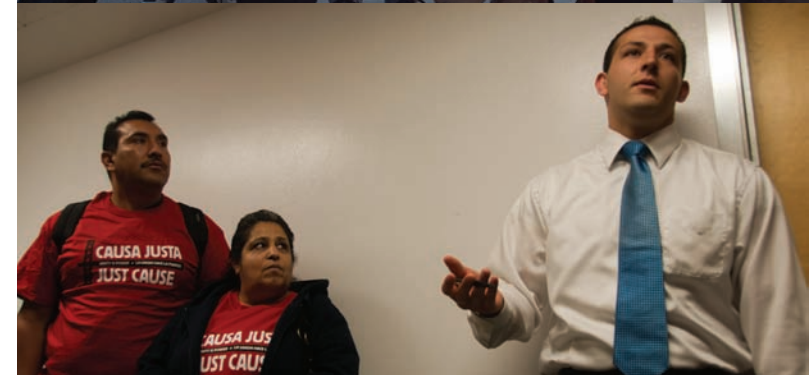
We had some heartening victories. In May, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in support of the Trust Act, which would give cities the right to opt-out of S-Comm, the controversial fingerprint-sharing program that targets immigrants. CJJC, along with other allies, was part of a coalition that headed local efforts that resulted in the passing of similar resolutions in San Francisco and Oakland.

Members of our statewide coalition carpooled to Sacramento, shared stories at hearings, educated and persuaded elected officials, filled up city halls around the state, testified at county hearings and spoke with neighbors, friends and family about the terrible impacts of the ironically named “Secure Communities” act.

Sensitive to the importance of building unity between African American and Latino communities regarding immigrant rights, we collaborated with ACUDIR to host community forums in Oakland’s Fruitvale district. The bilingual forums provided community participants space for discussion of their experiences with law enforcement and immigration enforcement, offered ways to respond to racial profiling, and drew connections and built relationships between Black and Latino neighbors.

We also connected immigrant rights to the upsurge of mobilizations challenging corporate power. We went to the banks to demand that major shareholders, including Wells Fargo, divest their holdings from the Corrections Corp. of America and GEO Group — private prison companies that run immigrant detention centers and prisons for the U.S. government, turning a profit from the criminalization of communities of color.

Finally, in December, the San Francisco supervisors passed a resolution limiting the use of local funds to honor ICE detainers. The resolution was strongly backed by scores of immigrant rights advocates and policy organizations, including Causa Justa:: Just Cause.



HOUSING RIGHTS CAMPAIGN



“Our homes and neighborhoods are not for sale and it will take neighbors like us to make sure that housing remains a right for everyone.”

—Sheon Slaughter, CJJC member



Our housing campaigns organize the community for better living conditions for tenants and homeowners, creating systemic change and building people power. In San Francisco, we helped improve the rules & regulations regarding remediation of bed bugs. We took part in a citywide committee to analyze impediments to Fair Housing Law. And, we went to Rent Board hearings in support of amending the rent ordinance to account for new state legislation that could potentially evict many tenants who smoke. The amendment was passed in September 2011 and gives us the tools to defend low-income tenants that would be disproportionately affected by the law. At the CA state level, we organized hundreds of calls to our state senators urging them not to cut \$100 billion from Section 8 housing where half a million tenants live.

We worked with homeowners facing foreclosure and eviction. For instance, the Ramirez family has owned their East Oakland home for 14 years. They lost it after Bank of America sold their home to an investor and have been trying to get it back for more than a year. Thanks to help from a wide network of CJJC supporters who took part in our pickets, protests and write-in campaigns to the bank and investor, the investor is now willing to wait for the family as they work with Bank of America on getting a loan modification. The ball then fell into Fannie Mae’s court, the original holder of the house note. The financial giant ignored the Ramirez family’s repeated request to negotiate, leaving them in an all-too-familiar state of permanent instability that so many people in foreclosure experience.

The theme of challenging unchecked corporate power and its impact on everyday people only got stronger as the Occupy Wall Street movement emerged towards the end of the year. The SF Bay Area saw some of the largest protests in decades. We were deeply involved, connecting the housing crisis to corporate power, and contributing our ongoing campaign work, including the campaign pushing for Wells Fargo Bank to halt foreclosures and evictions, pay taxes, or be dumped by our cities, and the campaign to get the Ramirez family back the deed to their home.

Fannie Mae came under pressure to negotiate with the Ramirez family early in December, on national Occupy Our Homes day, when activists from Occupy Oakland and the movement of the 99% occupied one of the bank’s many vacant properties in West Oakland with support from CJJC organizers, and the many CJJC members that live in the neighborhood.

OCCUPY WALL STREET WEST

7

Perhaps our most visible work this year was our contribution to Occupy Wall Street West, a vibrant and evolving movement linked to NY's Occupy Wall Street, with a local convergence including Occupy Oakland, Occupy San Francisco, community organizing groups, labor and progressive institutions.

We are honored to have helped create this convergence with a successful action on October 12th, joining "indignados" mobilizations internationally, and marking indigenous people's day, in collaboration with Occupy SF, AIM West, and dozens of long-time ally organizations and local activists. At that action and the dozens since then, we successfully raised the visibility of people of color in the 99%, by connecting the broader convergences to neighborhood-rooted community organizing.

Our existing campaigns against corporate targets grew in numbers, creativity, and impact thanks to this context, and thanks to the respectful and dynamic collaborations we co-created.

Wells Fargo bank has been exposed, as a virtual foreclosure and eviction factory, with outrageous investments in immigrant detention centers, a track record of racist predatory lending targeting Black and Latino families, and so little support for the communities they profit off of, that they paid no taxes at all last year. This tied in with our multi-year collaborative campaign that demands from Wells Fargo a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions, divestment from detention profiteering, and that they pay their fair share in taxes so our communities can have the basic services we need. And it's just the beginning.

We also joined tens of thousands in Oakland's historic "General Strike" on November 2nd, shutting down of every major bank in downtown Oakland all day, and the port at night.

We helped anchor San Francisco and Oakland actions as part of the National Occupy Our Homes initiative. The Oakland action was particularly bold, and is described on the Housing Rights Campaign page.

And there is much more to come in 2012, as the new relationships and new ways of working together will continue to evolve and bear fruit.





We had so much to communicate in 2011! Working with members and expert partners, we brought our stories to life creatively.

Famous for our bilingual culture, we crafted many new chants to share and motivate, among them our favorite, aimed at the banks “Que Paguen Los Que Deben! (“Those Who Owe Should Pay”) YOU OWE US!”

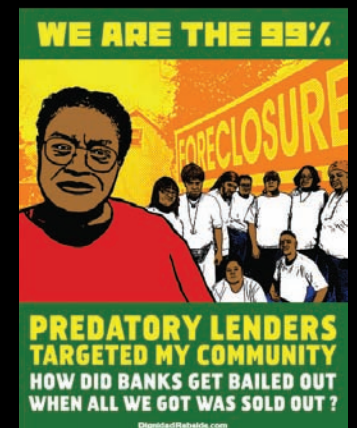
And chanting was just the beginning. Our very first Black & Brown Unity Drag Show was a fundraising innovation, showcasing local talent in a supportive environment, raising awareness about our work, and creating new bridges of solidarity. Our “Tax the Rich” flashmob at SF City Hall turned heads with its synchronized song and dance calling for progressive taxation.

As part of our work to help put the SF Bay Area on the map of the Occupy Wall Street movement, we worked with the Design Action Collective (DAC) to evolve a poster image we used in Boston at the Right to the City & Occupy Boston mobilization, creating our own rallying cry, “Occupy Wall Street West!” Generous print donations by Communication Workers of America and DAC’s design donations made it possible to run several versions of the posters that beautified our rallies, and declared our desire to “build an economy for people and the planet!” <http://www.foreclosewallst.org/en/past-actions>

Celebrating a truly momentous year, we closed it out with a member variety show featuring raucous lip syncing and dancing, heartfelt poems, acoustic guitar, and motivational speeches in both Spanish and English.

We posed for local artist Melanie Cervantes, showcasing our Black and African American staff and members in the fight against foreclosure. These posters followed up on an earlier one, featuring a Latino day laborer.

The posters provided a visual way to support our organizing, highlighting Black & Latino communities as a part of the 99%, and connecting to our ongoing campaign work for housing rights and immigrant rights.



We are humbled by the more than 500 individuals who donated to the organization in 2011. This does not include the many hundreds of members who paid dues, one hundred volunteers who donated time, or businesses that gave discounts and donated food to keep CJJC moving forward this past year. Our organization is built and thrives on grassroots support and we strive to increase it each year. Your support keeps us strong and free to fight for the rights of San Francisco and Oakland's working class communities.

Below is a partial list of individual donors, foundations and government agencies who supported us in 2011. For the complete list, visit the web version of our annual report at www.cjjc.org/annualreport.

Individuals

Reed Adam
Dana Aleshire
Mayra Alvaranga
Andrew Alvarez
Dunya Alwan
Duane Anderson
Charlie Arpe
Rose Arrieta
Joanna Arteaga
Harley Augustino
Rishi Awatramani
Yeashan Banks
Selvin Barrios
Alex Barrows
Daniel Barth
Lara Barth
Clare Bayard
Perry Bellow-Handelman
Ls Beltran
Skye Bender-Demoll
Ariel Berman
Kate Berrigan
Princess Beverly Williams
Jennifer Biehn
Henry Bird
Kat Black
Alma Blackwell
Rachel Blackwell
Alexandra Blogier
Angela Borkin
Michael Borucke
Jenny Boyden
Paper Buck
Tracy Burt
Bridget Buck
Charlotte Buck
Lb Brown
Donna Bransford
Janet Brown
Gl Buck Bagot Tr
N. Silver Burgess
Olivia Levins Holden
Mark Mallan
Toby Kramer
William H Carder

Elizabeth Caygill
Crosby & Kaneda CPA
Monique Doryland
Laura Farha
Alan Fisher
Margo George
Kathryn Gilje
Rebecca Gordon
Janet Harrison
Cynthia Bartlett Hunter
Chantel Cain
Katherine Caygill
Sheila Chung-Hagen
Mary Carl
Jc Chen
Ferdinand Cadelina
Lucila Canul
Kusum Crimmel
Kristin Campbell
Charlene Carl
Leah Cross
Nakia Canaza
Linda Canizales
Stephanie Chen
Riley Cockrell
Eli Conley
Dylan Cooke
Rebecca Crump
Leah Carnine
Vianey Castrejon
Gabriel Ceballas
Robert Clark
Josh Connor
Kimberly Chang
Center For Media Justice
Alice Chamberlain
Geoffrey And Nancy
Dalwin
Melody Dankemeyer
Elaine Dutton
Julia Daniel
Ariel Dekovic
Diana Dinh
Sendolo Diaminah
Amelia De Neergaard
Holly Domine
Nancy Dalwin

Rosanti Dian
Kai Drayton-Yee
East Bay La Raza Lawyers
Association
Monique El-Amin
Aslihan Emre
Ruben Estandian
Lares Feliciano
Danielle Feris
Wesley Flash
Felix Fuentes
Jenny Finkel
Sonja Fitz
Evan Fortin
Amie Fishman
R. Michael Flynn
Laurene Francois
Michelle Foy
Olivia Gonzalez
Juan Garcia
Juan Garica
Dulce Garcia
Malachi Garza
Dan Girellini
Elspeth Gilmore
Megan Gaydos
Tatiana Gomez
Dvora Gordon
Adam Gold
Sythnia Green
Daniel Hirsch
Gregory Hodge
Yolanda Hernandez
Becki Hom
Z! Haukeness
Margarita Hernandez
Jeff Hobson
Jaimee Hokansen
Vivian Huang
Archie Huff
Dabphne Hughes
Lori Hurlbaus
Ashe Harris
Kor Hill
Katie Hassemer
Gladys Henderson
Gilda Haas

Allan Heskin
Marcia Henry
Jed Horne
Berta Jimenez
Nora Jarmon
Tyrone Julian
Paige Kumm
Jean Kaiser
Willie Kerr
Sami Kitmitto
Michelle King
Nadia Khastagir
Cynthia Kaufman
Jeffrey L Kilbreth
Paul Kivel
Helen Kim
Paige Kruza
Chelsea Kirkland
Hilary Klein
Jay Kelekian
Anna Lee
Erin Lemkey
Jennifer Lewis
Harland Lee
Sara Landry
Hazel Lauer
Shawne Lopez
Debra Lumpkin
Joshua Lerner
Susan Lewis
M Lions
Graham Lierley
Eric Lifschitz
Ariel Luckey
Shaw San Liu
Cadelba Lomeli-Loibl
Millan Maturana-
Figueroa
Winston Mann
Chi Mae
Monroe Mapp
Deb Meisel
Jonah Minkoff-Zern
Mosbrucker & Foran
Alexa Matthai
Cynthia McMurrin
Denise Mewbourned

Tev Monnin
Ana Luisa Moszkowicz
Nell Myhand
Edwin Maguire
Mickey Maxemin
Nora Mendis
Rachel Morrissey
Whitney Moses
Lynn Martin
Leah Morrison
Richard Mann
Gordon Mar
Sharon Martinas
Craig Merrilees
Ri Molnár
Kathleen Montgomery
Luke Newton
Innosanto Nagara
Genevieve Negron-
Gonzales
Felice Newman
Thomas Newman
Suzanne Nguyen
Phil O'Brien
Peter B. Olney
Brian Piediscalzi
Elizabeth Pierson
Susannah Prescott
Yosef Peretz
Janet Pierson
Christina Pu
Paugus Charitable Trust
Elaine Peterson
Marvin Paddock
Julie Pennington
D Reynolds
Nina Rizzo
Cheyenne Rosado
Carmen Rey
David Richardson
Rosa Rivas
Adrienne Skye Roberts
Eric Romann
Emma Rubin
Rori Rohlf
Michael Rawson
Collette Richardson

Daniel Ringer
Billi Romain
Roxanne Romell
Penny Rosenwasser
Kalima Rose
Frances Rachel
Daniel Sanchez
Luz Sanchez
P Smith
Jerome Smith
Krista Smith
Heidi St.Clair
Steph St.Clair
Allison Stelly
David Sunter
Sachs Samantha
Stephanie Schaudel
Katherine Schoellenbach
Eli Stark
Graciela Salinas
Donna Schiavo
Megan Selby
Megan Shaughnessy-
Mogill
Sebastian Shul
Cicely Sandmeyer
Marc Sapir
Regina Schaffer
Deborah J Schmall
Gary Stroud
Marco Salazar
Jerry Silbert
Aram Shaw
Sabian Shane
Heidi St Clair
Isaac Lev Szmonko
Megan Swoboda
Alicia Schwartz
Booker T
Rosa Cruz Tapia
Mari Rose Taruc
Tim Thomas
Sarah Treuhaft
Trent Thornley
Sheila R Tully
Nikki Thanos
Rebecca Tinsley

J. Tamar Schnepf
Kenneth Thames
Jamila Trindle
Rebecca Tumposky
Alia Trindle
Jean Tepperman
Edy Torres
Unite Here! Local 2
Diana Valentine
Randy Vonck
Mariana Viturro
Alicia Villarreal
E Velasquez
Antonio Venegas
Dyan Villarreal
Jorge Villarreal
Lynn Vidal
Bruce Wallace
Scott Weaver
Kate Walsham
L Whitehurst
Tyger Walsh
Ivania Woodmore
James Westfield
Ken Wang
Kara Wuest
Don Willenburg
Andrew Wolff
Patricia Zamora

Foundation Support

Akonadi Foundation
Common Counsel
Foundation
Evelyn and Walter Haas
Jr. Fund
French American
Charitable Trust
Friedman Family
Foundation
Left Tilt Foundation
Mitchell Kapur
Foundation
National Community

Reinvestment Coalition
New World Foundation
Open Society
Foundations
Progressive Technology
Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Sandler Family
Foundation
Solidago Foundation
The California
Endowment
Unitarian Universalist
Veatch Program
United Way of the Bay
Area

Government Agencies

Metropolitan
Transportation
Commission
Oakland Community
Economic Development
Agency
San Francisco Mayor's
Office on Housing
San Francisco
Department of Building
Inspections
San Francisco Rent Board
San Francisco
Department of Public
Health
San Francisco Human
Services Agency



Mailing: PO Box 3596, Oakland, CA 94609

West Oakland: 3268 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94608
510.763.5877 (p) / 510.763.5824 (f)

East Oakland: 9124 International Blvd. Oakland, CA 94603

SF: 2301 Mission Street, Suite 201, San Francisco, CA 94110
415.487.9203 (p) / 415.487.9022 (f)

www.cjjc.org / info@cjjc.org

