

March 9, 2011

Mr. Jonathan Kaji  
Asian Americans for Justice  
18527 South Western Avenue  
Number 15  
Gardena, California 90248

**Office of the Provost**

**Elizabeth Garrett**  
Provost and  
Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Frances R. and  
John J. Duggan  
Professor of Law,  
Political Science  
and Public Policy

Dear Mr. Kaji:

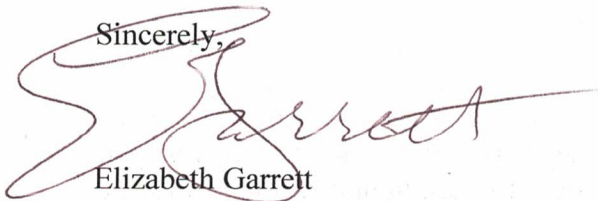
President Nikias has asked me to reply to your request that USC reconsider the matter of issuing honorary degrees to the former Japanese-American Nisei students who were unable to complete their studies due to the violation of Japanese-American civil rights by the Federal Government during World War II.

I have looked into this matter and found that long before the State Legislature mandated that public universities award honorary degrees to former Japanese-American Nisei students, the USC Board of Trustees, acting on a recommendation from the Alumni Affairs Committee of the Board, voted to award Honorary Alumni Status to former students who were unable to complete their studies because of Executive Order 9066. My understanding is that this status was conferred in a public ceremony before the Asian Pacific Alumni Association and later at half-time in the Coliseum before 90,000 fans.

As a private university, USC has a very rigorous process for awarding honorary degrees, in which faculty and trustees use strict criteria to examine the accomplishments of a small number of individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to society. President Nikias and I agree, therefore, that awarding Honorary Alumni Status to our former Japanese-American Nisei students was an appropriate and significant way for USC to acknowledge the injustice they sustained.

Mr. Kaji, thank you for taking the time to write to us about this matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Garrett  
Provost and Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs