

Amicus Brief Supporting Tao and Against Profiling Filed

Following the defense lawyers for Kansas University Feng "Franklin" Tao filing [a motion to dismiss](#) the case on August 14, 2020, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus filed [an amicus brief](#) in support of Dr. Tao and opposes the government's increased efforts to target and racially profile Asian American scientists and researchers.

Dr. Tao stands as one example, among many, of the United States Government's coordinated effort to target Chinese American scientists and researchers based on their ancestry rather than suspected criminal activity. Amici submit this brief to provide context on the Government's "China Initiative," under which it broadly investigates many Chinese American scientists without any indication of wrongdoing and to trace the history of the Government's scrutiny of Chinese and Asian Americans and immigrants from Asia. Amici hope this background illuminates the Government's past and current initiatives and leads the Court to conclude that dismissal of Dr. Tao's Second Superseding Indictment is warranted.

Read the [press statement in English and Chinese here](#). Read the [amicus brief here](#). For more background and context, visit [Feng "Franklin" Tao](#).

"Red Scare" Series Wins Award

Congratulations to **Peter Waldman**, reporter for Bloomberg Businessweek, for winning the prestigious [New York Press Club Award for Magazine](#) for his ground-breaking "New Red Scare" series last year about the rise of McCarthyism toward Chinese Americans:

- 2019/06/13 [The U.S. Is Purging Chinese Cancer Researchers From Top Institutions](#)
- 2019/07/18 [U.S. Targeting of Chinese Scientists Fuels a Brain Drain](#)
- 2019/12/10 [Mistrust and the Hunt for Spies Among Chinese Americans](#)
- 2019/12/31 [As China Anxiety Rises in U.S., Fears of New Red Scare Emerge](#)

Through his series, Waldman was one of the earliest journalists who warned about the nonsensical profiling of Chinese American scientists in basic and cancer research, how the U.S. ethnic targeting policies achieve the opposite result of driving talents away, and the danger of such policies and the Hoover report reinforces racial stereotypes and incite yet another "New Red Scare" toward Asian Americans.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3aJKimu>

APA Justice Briefing Statement to Senator Mark Warner

On August 5, 2020, The APA Justice Task Force submitted [a written briefing statement](#) to Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), Vice Chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, which included four major topics on the current state of racial profiling:

- **Houston Chinese American Community Appeals to Congress.** During the August 3 APA Justice meeting, local community leaders appealed to Congress to de-escalate the profiling situation in the aftermath of the closing of China's Consulate in Houston, rein in the rhetoric and irresponsible actions, and provide oversight to protect the civil rights of Chinese Americans.
- **“Criminalizing China” and Recommendations.** In the July 6 APA Justice meeting, Seton Hall University Law Professor Margaret Lewis discussed her upcoming paper titled [“Criminalizing China”](#) and made 5 wide-ranging recommendations that resonate well within the APA Justice network. They include dropping the overly broad label of "China" in the DOJ initiative, curtailing further criminalization of academic misconduct, turning a negative agenda into a Sputnik moment, push back on the ongoing prosecutions and those in the pipeline, and call for diversity, equity, and inclusiveness initiatives in DOJ.
- **China Initiative Statistics.** For an initiative that is supposed to target and protect the nation from economic espionage, it is a concern to the Asian American community that only one third of the reported "China Initiative" cases are based on actual economic espionage charges, some of which remain to be proven.
- **History of China’s Talent Programs and Policy Recommendations.** David Stephen Zweig is professor emeritus at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology from Canada. He is the invited speaker to talk about his paper [“America Challenges China’s National Talent Programs”](#) in the September APA Justice meeting.

Read more about the statement and related developments: <https://bit.ly/3aJKimu>

NYPD creates Asian Hate Crimes Task Force

On August 19, 2020, the New York Police Department (NYPD) announced it has created a task force specifically to deal with a rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3la4sey>

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