

Mark December 2 on Your Calendar

The second webinar in a series on the "China Initiative" has been scheduled for December 2, 2020. An expert panel will discuss how racial targeting under the "China Initiative" not only undermines the rights and welfare of many Americans, but also detrimentally impacts American research and enterprise. It will examine the policy reform needs and changes to ensure U.S. research security and to protect the U.S. scientists and the future of American science and innovation.

The inaugural webinar on The Human and Scientific Costs of the "China Initiative" was held on September 30, 2020. Watch the video (1:00:15) here: <https://bit.ly/3kFFOS2>.

The series of webinars tackles the harms created by the "China Initiative," which involves the systematic profiling of Asian American and Asian Immigrant scientists, particularly of Chinese descent. It is jointly produced by five organizing hosts:

- [Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Asian American Justice Center](#)
- [APA Justice Task Force](#)
- [Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs \(APAPA\)](#)
- [The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School](#)
- [United Chinese Americans \(UCA\)](#)

"China Initiative" Reports and Preliminary Statistics

On November 16, 2020, the Justice Department marked the second anniversary of its "China Initiative." The South China Morning Post reported the next day on [Outgoing US Justice Department officials call their 'China Initiative' to counter Beijing a success](#). Voice of America also reported on [US Reports 'Substantial Progress' in Countering Chinese Security Threat](#).

On November 19, 2020, AP reported on [Justice Dept.'s China focus likely to continue under Biden](#). Attorney Peter Zeidenberg said that though he expected a new Justice Department to continue to prioritize intellectual property theft, he believes the China Initiative had "gotten so far badly off course" by targeting academics without any allegation that they had stolen research or passed along secrets.

"The result is that a lot of really super-talented professors are having their lives wrecked unnecessarily. My hope is that they keep in mind the harm that it is that they're trying to prevent and then go after the people who are causing that harm," Zeidenberg said of federal prosecutors.

"Because right now what they're doing is entirely counterproductive to the United States' interests because they're decimating our science and technology, and alienating loyal

citizens and scientists," he said.

Preliminary tabulations based on the Department of Justice's report on the "China Initiative" show a total of 61 cases involving 130 defendants through November 12, 2020. Only 23% of these cases are based on Economic Espionage Act charges. About 91% of the defendants are individuals; the rest are businesses.

2020 Census

On November 17, 2020, Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued [a statement](#) after the House of Representatives filed an amicus brief in the case of President Donald J. Trump, et al. v. State of New York, et al., opposing President Trump's memorandum seeking to exclude undocumented immigrants from being included in the population count that will be used to apportion seats in Congress.

On the same day, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra — joined by the cities of Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland, as well as the Los Angeles Unified School District, County of Los Angeles, and California Citizens Redistricting Commission — filed [an amicus brief](#) in Trump v. New York in opposition to President Trump's last-ditch attempt to alter the census's long-standing process for determining Congressional representation.

For additional background on the 2020 Census since March 2018, visit: <http://bit.ly/2020-Census>.

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