

Science Role Elevated and From APA Justice

Happy Martin Luther King Day!

On January 15, 2021, [President-elect Joe Biden announced](#) a plan to make the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) a Cabinet-level agency. Dr. Neal Lane, a former director of OSTP and the National Science Foundation, brought up the idea in the [Second Webinar](#) titled [Policy Needs for U.S. Science and Scientists](#). The move signals the importance of science to the incoming administration. Geneticist Dr. Eric Lander, who helped map the human genome, is nominated to lead OSTP. Kei Koizumi was named the OSTP's chief of staff. President-Elect Biden also named MIT Vice President for Research Maria Zuber, a planetary scientist, and Nobel chemistry laureate Frances Arnold to head the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Other nominees on Science are tracked here: <http://bit.ly/3sFUSnt>

Summary for the January 4, 2021 meeting is now available at <https://bit.ly/3kxkqxP>. The meeting covered legal data system development from an update to the empirical analysis of prosecutions under the Economic Espionage Act, background and mission of the Free Law Project, to the start-up of a data system on the "China Initiative" and beyond. Planning for the webinar series continues with two very successful panels to date. It also covered the latest on the legal defense of Kansas University Professor Franklin Tao and the Anti-Racial Profiling Project, including a letter to President-Elect Biden to end the "China Initiative" and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to federal agencies since March 2020. We thank speakers Andy Kim, Mike Lissner, Kathy Liu, Mike German, Haipei Shue, and Gisela Kusakawa for their contributions to the meeting.

In response to a popular request, a new webpage has now been created to access past APA Justice newsletters at http://bit.ly/APAJ_Newsletters. They include 36 issues since July 2020.

Anti-Racial Profiling

On January 25, 2021, The Department of Physics at Harvard University will host a colloquium: Xiaoxing Xi (Temple University) "Scientific espionage, pen exchange, and American competitiveness." Professor Xi will urge the audience to rally around the JASON Report commissioned and endorsed by the NSF and speak up to defend Chinese colleagues against injustice, safeguard open fundamental research on university campuses, and protect American leadership in science and technology. Zoom link is provided at <http://bit.ly/3bKkOlf>

On January 7, 2021, Seton Hall law Professor Margaret Lewis published [Time to](#)

[Reassess and Reframe the U.S. Government's "China Initiative"](#) in U.S.-Asia Law Institute. "President-elect Biden's nominee for attorney general, Merrick Garland, should lead by the power of his example by saying goodnight to bias-laden messages," Professor Lewis wrote.

On December 25, 2020, The Hill published an opinion: [Biden should make legal information free and accessible](#). It calls for developing the Legal Information Service in the Library of Congress to provide free access to all public legal information in a searchable database that would include the written decisions of every federal and state court as well as federal and state statutes, codes, regulations, opinions and other similar material. It would provide access to the type of documents critical for any democracy.

MIT Professor Gang Chen

According to [Reuters](#) on January 14, 2021, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Professor Gang Chen 陈刚 who specializes in nanotechnology research, was arrested on U.S. charges that he failed to disclose his ties to the Chinese government when seeking federal grant money. MIT President said in a statement it was "deeply distressed" by the arrest. Dr. Chen's attorney said his client "loves the United States and looks forward to vigorously defending these allegations." APA Justice will monitor this case closely.

Insurrection, Domestic Terrorists, and Consequences

According to [Science](#) on January 15, 2021, several science advocacy groups join calls for President Donald Trump to resign or be immediately removed from office for inciting the January 6 attack by a violent mob on the U.S. Capitol. They include The March for Science, The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), 500 Women Scientists, and 314 Action. "There need to be consequences," says Andrew Rosenberg, director of UCS's Center for Science and Democracy. "This was a true threat to our democracy."

On January 15, 2021. AP reported on [Capitol rioters included highly trained ex-military and cops](#). "ISIS and al-Qaida would drool over having someone with the training and experience of a U.S. military officer," said Michael German, a former FBI agent and fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University. "These people have training and capabilities that far exceed what any foreign terrorist group can do. Foreign terrorist groups don't have any members who have badges." Mike is also moderator for [the Webinar Series on the "China Initiative"](#) co-organized by APA Justice. Some of Mike's insights and media coverage:

- 2021/01/15 AP: [Capitol rioters included highly trained ex-military and cops](#)
- 2021/01/15 Mother Jones: [An FBI Agent Went Undercover to Study White Supremacists. He's Now Speaking Out About Racist Police](#)
- 2021/01/14 Time: [Security Officials Face the Possibility of a Threat from the Inside on Inauguration Day](#)
- 2021/01/12 Lincoln Project TV: [The Breakdown](#) (video starts at 21:15)

- 2021/01/07 Washington Post: [What happened at the Capitol 'was domestic terrorism,' lawmakers and experts say](#)
- 2020/08/28 The Guardian opinion: [The FBI warned for years that police are cozy with the far right. Is no one listening?](#)
- 2020/08/27 Brennan Center: [Hidden in Plain Sight: Racism, White Supremacy, and Far-Right Militancy in Law Enforcement](#)
- 2019/09/10 Mike German: [Disrupt, Discredit, and Divide: How the New FBI Damages Democracy](#)

On January 13, 2021, Donald Trump became [the first president in U.S. history to be impeached twice](#), as 10 of his fellow Republicans joined Democrats in the House of Representatives to charge him with inciting an insurrection in the [January 6 failed coup](#) in the Capitol. [Rep. Jamie Raskin](#), who chairs the House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and a former constitutional law professor, is named [the Lead Impeachment Manager](#). On January 17, 2021, he spoke on "[I am not going to lose my son in 2020 and country in 2021.](#)" Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) Whip Rep. Ted Lieu is one of nine Impeachment Managers.

More ...

Gary Locke, who served as U.S. commerce secretary and ambassador to China under former U.S. president Barack Obama, has been elected to serve as Chair of the Committee of 100. He will assume the post in May 2021.

On January 13, 2021, [NPR](#) reported that the Census Bureau has stopped work on Trump's order for unauthorized immigrant count. According to [a memo by Commerce Department Inspector General](#), multiple whistleblowers at the bureau reported that they are concerned the Census Bureau Director was trying to rush out a data report on noncitizens that would be "statistically indefensible" and could be "misinterpreted, misused, or otherwise tarnish the Bureau's reputation."

On January 11, 2021, [House Veterans Affairs Chairman Mark Takano](#), D-Calif., said he is "profoundly disappointed" with President-Elect's failure to appoint a person of Asian American or Pacific Islander (AAPI) descent to serve in his Cabinet. "With all due respect, Mr. President, I respectfully disagree and I will not give you a pass ..." said Rep. Takano, Vice Chair of CAPAC.

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