

# DOJ US Attorneys Asked to Resign

On February 9, 2021, multiple media reported that [the Department of Justice has asked Trump-appointed US attorneys except two to resign](#). The resignations are effective February 28. A number of acting US attorneys who are not Senate confirmed or who were appointed by the courts are expected to remain in their posts until a Biden appointee is approved by the Senate. The resignation request applies to 56 Senate-confirmed US attorneys appointed by Trump, a list of which is available at [Wikipedia](#). Among the 8 "China Initiative" leadership and committee members at DOJ are 4 appointees and 1 acting:

- David L. Anderson, U.S. Attorney, Northern District of California
- Erin Nealy Cox, U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Texas
- Seth D. DuCharme, Acting U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of New York
- Andrew E. Lelling, U.S. Attorney, District of Massachusetts
- Jay E. Town, U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Alabama

Earlier on February 4, 2021, the defense attorney for MIT Professor Gang Chen filed a motion to sanction U.S. Attorney Andrew E. Lelling for repeated violations of a local rule.

On February 9, 2021, the Daily Northwestern reported on the ["We are all Gang Chen" petition](#) launched by Professor Jeff Synder challenging the charges against MIT Professor Gang Chen. Over 800 persons have signed on. You can also join Maryland Senator Susan Lee and Terry Lierman's [letter calling for a House hearing](#) in the petition. The letter is addressed to the Chair of House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Rep. Jamie Raskin, who is also the Lead Impeachment Manager in the current proceedings in the Senate.

On February 10, 2021, a GoFundMe campaign at <https://gofund.me/5bf4adbe> has raised over \$300,000 for the Franklin Tao Legal Defense Fund. More than 2,400 individuals gave generously. It is only \$20,000 away from reaching the watermark for a generous donor to contribute the remaining \$80,000 to meet the goal of \$400,000. We are also all Franklin Tao. Please help!

Reminder: Register for the February 11, 2021 online webinar on [Scientific Espionage, Open Exchange, And American Competitiveness](#), hosted by USC US-China Institute and featuring Professor Xiaoxing Xi of Temple University: <http://bit.ly/2YTbrOR>.

## FBI - From Law Enforcement to Domestic Intelligence

During the [February 1 APA Justice meeting](#), Mike German, Fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law and a former FBI agent for 16 years, described how he achieved his childhood dream to join the FBI and to make use of law enforcement to keep our communities safe.

In his work as an FBI agent, there had to be articulable facts that led him to a reasonable conclusion that the people he was investigating were involved in criminal violations. That was an effective standard. It was put into the Attorney General's Guidelines after Watergate.

After 9/11, those structures that were built to protect American communities from the over-aggressive FBI were being dismantled and a new attitude had taken hold. First AG John Ashcroft and then AG Michael Mukasey modified the AG guidelines by removing the need for a criminal predicate. Today, the FBI can start investigations called assessments based on no factual predicate, that is, no evidence indicating an individual is involved in any wrongdoing, just a simple certification made by the agent doing the investigation that the investigation is properly intended to uncover a national security threat or criminal violation.

Mike wrote a book titled: [Disrupt, Discredit, and Divide: How the New FBI Damages Democracy](#) because he wanted people to understand why the FBI acts this way and how damaging it is to democracy. He explained it in terms of architecture and attitude. Mike believes that this is what is driving the abuses of the "China Initiative."

It is not just the prosecutions. It is also in the attitude. The FBI credits itself and has actually created a statistical accomplishment for agents to award themselves for what is called disruptions. They imagine the person they are investigating, even with no evidence, is already guilty. Anything they can do to disrupt that person's life becomes a credited statistical accomplishment for the agents, rather than recognizing the damage that does to our scientific and academic accomplishments that we can have in this country.

Indeed, the Department of Justice's review of the "China Initiative" on November 16, 2020 begins with this paragraph:

*On the two-year anniversary of the Attorney General's China Initiative, the Department continues its significant focus on the Initiative's goals and announced substantial progress during the past year in **disrupting and deterring** the wide range of national security threats posed by the policies and practices of the People's Republic of China (PRC) government.*

The FBI's efforts are no longer designed to enforce federal law but to disrupt potential threats. Often, taxpayers' dollars are spent on the threatening "other" who is not a foreign enemy but a fellow American in the minority communities. Meanwhile, the threat of domestic terrorism and [Racism, White Supremacy, and Far-Right Militancy in Law Enforcement](#) are hidden and ignored in plain sight.

## Honoring Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu

It is the Year of the Ox. Order the new Forever stamp from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to honor Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997) here: <http://bit.ly/3tGceAU>. Dr. Wu was one of the most influential nuclear physicists of the 20th century. A [virtual ceremony](#) will be carried on the USPS's social media channels on New Year's eve, February 11, 2021. Read more about Dr. Wu: <http://bit.ly/2OnVhLx>



## Anti-Asian Terror Concerns

On February 8, 2021, VICE reported on [Asian Americans Are Calling on Allies in Response to a Wave of Violence](#). Three recent attacks of senior citizens show the continued rise of anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic. They include an 84-year-old Thai grandfather who died as a result of injuries incurred when he was shoved to the pavement while taking a walk in San Francisco, a 91-year-old Asian man pushed to the ground in Oakland's Chinatown, and a 61-year-old Filipino man who was slashed across the face during a subway ride in Manhattan, New York.

Actors Daniel Dae Kim and Daniel Wu, as well as Nobel Peace Prize nominee Amanda Nguyen, explained in [a MSNBC interview](#) that an essential step for allies and the

country as a whole is to break the silence surrounding the current rise in racism and to end the apathy. “There is a new Asian American movement emerging and we are not going to be silent anymore. We are not your model minority. We are human and we deserve equal dignity, so stop killing us” Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley has announced the creation of a special response unit focused on crimes against Asians, and particularly older Asians, at a news conference in Oakland's Chinatown. On January 26, 2021, President Biden issued a [Presidential Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States](#).

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