

04/28 Webinar and 05/03 Monthly Meeting

The webinar on Legal Resources and Policy Advocacy: How to Combat Racial Profiling Under the "China Initiative" will be held on April 28, 2021. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3tBqUaE>. Capacity is limited.

The graphic features a light blue background with a white chevron shape pointing right. Inside the chevron, the title and date are listed. Below the chevron, there are five circular headshots of speakers: Patrick Toomey, John Yang, Frank Wu, Susan Lee, and Michael German. To the right of the speakers are logos for Advancing Justice, APA Justice, Brennan Center for Justice, and UCA. At the bottom right, there is an RSVP button.

**The Fourth "China Initiative" Webinar :
Legal Resources & Policy Advocacy: How
to Combat Racial Profiling Under the
"China Initiative"**

Wednesday, Apr. 28, 2021
8pm ET / 7pm CT / 6pm MT / 5pm PT / 3pm HT

Patrick Toomey
Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU
National Security Project, ACLU

John Yang
President & Executive Director,
Asian Americans
Advancing Justice | AAJC

Frank Wu
President, Queens College, City
University of New York

Susan Lee
Maryland State Senator,
Majority Whip

Michael German
Fellow, Brennan Center for
Justice, New York University Law
School

ADVANCING JUSTICE
APA Justice
BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE
UCA

RSVP:

The next APA Justice meeting will be held on May 3, 2021. Tentative agenda for the meeting will cover the newly appointed AAPI Senior AAPI Liaison at the White House, the May 15 nationwide "Unity Against Hate" rally, The Yellow Whistle Campaign, an impacted professor from the New York University School of Medicine, and updates from the Anti-Racial Profiling Project, requested House hearing, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Participation in the off-record meeting is by invitation only. Summaries of past meetings are available at <https://bit.ly/3kxkqxP>.

Breaking Bloomberg Report and "China Initiative"

On April 26, 2021, Bloomberg published "[Anti-Asian Atmosphere Chills Chinese Scientists Working in the U.S.](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-26/anti-asian-atmosphere-chills-chinese-scientists-working-in-the-u-s)" According to the report, Dr. Nianshuang Wang arrived from China in the U.S. seven years ago. His work enabled Moderna Inc. to develop its Covid-19 vaccine in record time. He and his wife are now confronting another kind of contagion. Growing anti-Chinese sentiment is palpable, making him and other Chinese scientists increasingly afraid that they're no longer welcome in the U.S. An explosion of hate attacks against Asian Americans in the past year has been blamed on the xenophobic rhetoric of former President Trump, particularly his racist broadsides labeling the novel coronavirus the "Chinese virus" and "kung flu." But other U.S. leaders and institutions have helped inflame the situation, arousing particular suspicion toward people of Chinese descent. Read more about this breaking comprehensive report at: <https://bit.ly/32OCtZL>

On April 20, 2021, Lisa Monaco, was confirmed by the Senate as the Deputy Attorney

General, the No. 2 role at the Justice Department (DOJ). She was formerly the director of the National Security Division at DOJ. On April 21, 2021, Vanita Gupta, was confirmed as the Associate Attorney General, the No. 3 role at DOJ. She was previously head of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and former director of the Civil Rights Division at DOJ. Merrick Garland was confirmed to be Attorney General on March 10, 2021.

The trial of University of Tennessee Professor Anming Hu is set to begin on May 25, 2021 after the government withdrew its motion to continue. Read more at: https://bit.ly/APAJ_AnmingHu

The U.S. District Court in Houston will hold a hearing on the motion to revoke or rescind the detention order for Texas A&M University professor Zhendong Cheng on May 6, 2021, starting at 1:30 pm CT. Professor Cheng has been denied bail since his arrest in August 2020 and has contracted Covid-19 while in detention. The charges against Professor Cheng do not involve economic espionage or trade secret theft despite the rhetoric under the "China Initiative." Read more about the hearing at <https://bit.ly/3njls3g>

On April 21, 2021, [DOJ announced the indictment](#) of Mathematics Professor Mingqing Xiao of at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale with two counts of wire fraud and one count of making a false statement under the "China Initiative."

Protecting Science and Exaggerated Threat

On April 9, 2021, leaders of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the House Committee on Armed Services sent a joint letter to President Biden, calling for a measured and balanced approach to strengthen the security and integrity of the country's academic research enterprise in facing the reported risks posed by undue foreign influence. The suggestions include:

- Transparency about the nature, scale, and scope of the risks.
- Coordination and clarity regarding research security and integrity requirements.
- Commitment to openness and collaboration.
- Strong investment in United States research and development.
- Trusting partnership between the federal government and the academic community.

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

Recent articles have also pointed out the exaggerated threats and the presence of more balanced approach to the perceived threats:

- 2021/04/23 Physics: [Crackdown on Spying Damages US Science, Says Chinese-Born Physicist](#)

- 2021/04/21 Foreign Policy: [Concern about China is overblown - China Doesn't Pose an Existential Threat for America](#)
- 2021/04/09 Brookings Institute: [Fears of a Chinese global takeover are greatly exaggerated](#)
- 2021/04/08 Washington Post opinion: [The U.S. has very little to gain by overdemonizing China](#)
- 2021/02/20 The National Interest: [How Much of a Threat is Espionage from Chinese Immigrants?](#)

On April 27, 2021, the Stanford University Physics Department will host an event on Scientific espionage, open exchange, and American competitiveness, featuring Professor Xiaoxing Xi. Register for the event here: <https://stanford.io/3sUa9jl>

Laws and Rallies Against Anti-Asian Hate

On April 22, the U.S. [Senate passed](#) the [COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act \(S.937\)](#), which hopes to address the large increase in anti-Asian hate crimes. The measure passed 94-1. The bill requires a designated officer or employee of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes and reports of COVID-19 hate crimes. It defines COVID-19 hate crime as a violent crime that is motivated by two things: (1) the actual or perceived characteristic (e.g., race or ethnicity) of any person, and (2) the actual or perceived relationship to the spread of COVID-19 of any person because of that characteristic. The bill requires DOJ to issue guidance for state and local law enforcement agencies on how to establish online hate crime reporting processes in multiple languages and how to expand culturally competent education campaigns. Additionally, DOJ and the Department of Health and Human Services must issue guidance on best practices for mitigating racially discriminatory language in describing the COVID-19 pandemic. A companion bill ([HR.1843](#)) introduced by Rep. Grace Meng is pending in the House.

On April 15, 2021, [NBC News reported](#) on the documentary "The Six" which highlights Chinese survivors from the Titanic. "The horrendous events that we saw in Atlanta really just highlight that the issues that six Chinese passengers on the Titanic faced over 100 years ago are still issues in the United States today," the film's lead researcher said.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Some of the rallies that will be taking place across the country are:

- 2021/05/02 Flushing, New York: "We Belong Here: Queens Rises Against Hate" March in Flushing: <https://bit.ly/3tPXW0o>
- 2021/05/02 Palo Alto, California: #StopAsianHate Rally: <https://bit.ly/3wZ5LCK>
- 2021/05/15 Coast to coast: National "Unity Against Hate" Rally: <https://bit.ly/32tyl1a>

Based on a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults, Pew Research Center reported on April 21, 2021 that 32% of Asian adults say they have feared someone might threaten or physically attack them – a greater share than other racial or ethnic groups. The vast majority of Asian adults (81%) also say violence against them is increasing, far surpassing the share of all U.S. adults (56%) who say the same, Read more at <https://pewrsr.ch/3nlEAXt>

Join the [Yellow Whistle Campaign](#). The whistle is a symbol of self-protection and solidarity in our common fight against historical discrimination, anti-Asian violence, and racial profiling. It has a universal purpose - to signal alarm and call for help - for all Americans. We are whistleblowing to fight back against the stereotype that Asians are a silent minority. We shall not remain silent, because we belong! Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2RDZMmB>.



In the wake of recent violence in the United States, African-American and Asian groups take steps to join forces as they see their communities under siege. According to [a South China Morning Post report](#) on April 20, 2021, the non-profit [Black China Caucus \(BCC\)](#) (黑人中国专家团) was formed last year to encourage African-American scholars, economists, policy experts and diplomats to embrace China-related fields.

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