

APA Justice Conference Call – Monday, 08/03/2020

11:55 am Eastern Time/8:55 am Pacific Time

Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/265090331>

Agenda

0. Introduction

- a. Aurora Paik, Legislative Assistant & Press Secretary, [Office of Congressman Ted Lieu](#)
- b. [Steven Wong, 1990 Institute](#); CEO and cofounder of Ready State, a digital marketing agency that combines technology and creativity to deliver business-critical marketing for brands like Lyft, Torani, Google, HPE, Airbnb, and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
- c. [Haipei Shue](#), President, [United Chinese Americans](#)
- d. [H.C. Chang](#), President, OCA-Greater Houston
- e. [Jessica W. Chen](#), Immigration Lawyer, Houston

APA Justice is a task force of volunteers created in 2015 in response to CAPAC Chair Judy Chu's call for a platform to connect and address racial profiling and related justice and fairness issues. We facilitate, inform, and advocate. From its start in 2015, a stated goal of APA Justice is to "facilitate consensus and coalition-building on an issue-by-issue basis." Building a network or an ecosystem is a unique role that APA Justice plays. Several topics were brought to the table with this theme in mind in today's meeting.

1. CAPAC updates

- a. Bipartisan letter to Attorney General William Barr
Speaker: Aurora Paik, Office of Congressman Ted Lieu, confirmed
- [Rep Lieu Leads 150 member Letter Urging DOJ to Condemn COVID-Related Anti-Asian Discrimination](#)
- [APA Justice on Coronavirus](#)

Aurora reported on the bi-partisan letter by Rep. Lieu to Attorney General Barr condemning COVID-related Anti-Asian discrimination and urging regular updates. The letter was supported by a coalition of 47 Asian American and non-Asian American organizations and received substantive press coverage. AG Barr was asked questions for record (QFR) in a recent hearing.

- b. CAPAC updates
Speaker: Krystal Ka'ai, Executive Director, CAPAC
- [CAPAC Chair Issues Hate Crimes Tool Kit and Messaging Guidance on China Amid Spike in Anti-Asian Bigotry](#)

Krystal reported on a "Dear Colleague" letter and a tool kit issued by CAPAC Chair Rep. Judy Chu to both the House and the Senate on July 27. It urged congressional colleagues not to fan the flame of xenophobia in an already high-tension situation during the pandemic. Many Chinese Americans and Asian-looking individuals have already been targeted and attacked. The toolkit also advises not to use cold-war style rhetoric in discussing China. Be specific about the Chinese Communist Party and not place blame of all issues from racial profiling, the COVID-19 virus, to the economic turmoil on China.

CAPAC will continue to pursue meaningful answers from FBI and NIH through the House Oversight Committee.

2. Building and Sustaining a Network/Ecosystem

a. What is the Asian American marketing and advertising industry doing? How can/should the Asian American community get involved?

Speakers: Steven Wong, 1990 Institute

Russell Jeung, Professor, San Francisco State University

- YouTube: [Fight The Virus. Fight the Bias.](#)
- Ad Council Love Has No Label PSA: [Fight the Virus. Fight the Bias](#)
- 07/21 [Asian American Marketing + Advertising Town Hall](#)
- 07/21 New York Times: [Anti-Asian Harassment Is Surging. Can Ads and Hashtags Help?](#)
- #FightVirusBias

The 1990 Institute was among the first organizations to endorse Rep. Lieu's joint letter to AG Barr. Steven Wong addressed what the marketing and ad agencies are doing to combat racial prejudice, and what Asian communities can do to support these efforts. Steven first described the 1990 Institute and its history, along with its Chair Dan Chao.

The 1990 Institute through educational programming such as **China Now**, reaches over 70,000 teachers predominantly high schools with Sino-US curriculum. The Ad Council, a non-profit launched a "**Love Has No Labels**" ad campaign beginning July 22. This 60-second ad was directed by the much-acclaimed Alan Yang, titled, "**Fight The Virus, Fight The Bias**". It targets primarily non-activists, and the more liberal urbanites by enhancing their awareness and emphasizing fair treatment.

This ad received good news coverage in print and social media to include the New York Times. Steven hopes that young artists can help support this campaign via social media in blog and other medium. He also acknowledged ADL's Jonathan Greenblatt and the Korean community's Sandra Oh for their support.

1990 Institute will be launching a series of videos. It encourages us to gather stories that are interesting and educational to help more Asian Americans understand our cultural heritage and identity, as well as the on-going Sino-US policies and issues, particularly our high school students.

In terms of social media, we can learn more via : #FightVirusBias. Find it and like it.

Russell Jeung commented on the need and timing of the Lieu and Chu efforts at the federal level. The virus is not fueling anti-Asian hate; political rhetoric is. Foreign policy is being used to impact Chinese Americans and Asian Americans. Americans in general do not and cannot differentiate between China the nation and the people of Chinese origin. Therefore, messages should pivot more than just raising awareness, but also towards public policy issues. Multiple messages may in fact be more effective than single ones. We need to call out for action such as get out the vote.

b. What are the lessons learned from UCA's filing an amicus brief in the Harvard/MIT lawsuit against the ICE Directive on student visas? How can/should the Asian American community get

involved going forward?

Speaker: Haipei Shue, President, UCA

- [Amicus brief](#)
- [APA Justice on the ICE Directive on Student Visas](#)
- 2020/07/24 NPR: [ICE Confirms New Foreign Students Can't Take Online-Only Course Loads In The U.S.](#)

Haipei recounted the chronological sequence of events starting with several events that happened in rapid succession within a month, starting with the White House proclamation to retroactively expel a new category of military-civilian program participants, additional H1-B visa restrictions, and then the ICE directive. UCA was considering a lawsuit in response to the ICE directive, but was given a weekend to file an amicus brief. It was filed in support of Harvard and MIT to oppose the directive on the following Monday.

c. 2020 Census

On July 21, 2020, an executive order was issued to exclude undocumented aliens from the apportionment base that will be established this year by the 2020 Census. Four lawsuits have been filed to date.

- 2020/07/24 NPR: [Trump Sued Over Attempt To Omit Unauthorized Immigrants From A Key Census Count](#)
- [1:20-cv-02023 Common Cause](#)
- [1:20-cv-05770 New York States and a coalition of 20 states plus some cities and localities](#)
- [1:20-cv-05781 American Civil Liberties Union and New York Civil Liberties Union](#)
- [3:20-cv-05169 California, along with the cities of Oakland, Los Angeles, Long Beach and the Los Angeles Unified School District](#)

3. Racial Profiling/Targeting updates

a. Update on Anti-Racial Profiling Project

Speaker: Gisela Kusakawa, AAJC | Asian American Justice Center (AAJC)

Gisela reported on the hiring of Vivin Qiang as the program coordinator for the Anti-Racial Profiling Project. Vivin is bilingual and will be conducting intakes of impacted scientists and researchers over the phone. Gisela will provide the number to their referral line once the line is up and running.

The Anti-Racial Profiling Project will advance the rights of, provide resources for, and refer impacted persons with specialized lawyers in the field many of whom will have experience representing Chinese scientists and researchers. AAJC is soft launching the project and has already taken in a number of calls and made referrals. In the interim, individuals who seek help may contact Gisela at gkusakawa@advancingjustice-aaajc.org.

b. On-The-Ground Situation Report on Houston

Speakers: H.C. Chang, President, OCA-Greater Houston

Jessica W. Chen, Immigration Lawyer, Houston

- **FBI knocking on the doors of Chinese Americans demanding an immediate**

interview, or contacting them to set up an interview.

- 07/26 Intercept: [Was The Chinese Consulate in Houston Really a Hotbed of Economic Espionage?](#) People close to China-related investigations in Houston say the decision to close the consulate may be more about politics than spy threats.

China's Consulate in Houston was shut down on July 24, after being accused of a "spy center" to conduct spying activities with local medical center or universities. Within the past week, FBI agents have begun to knock on doors to demand interviews with persons of Chinese descent, creating fear and anguish.

On July 26, the Intercept published an article on: Was The Chinese Consulate in Houston Really a Hotbed of Economic Espionage? According to the article, "people close to China-related investigations in Houston say the decision to close the consulate may be more about politics than spy threats."

Community leaders led by H.C. Chang and Jessica Chen provided on-the-ground reports on "Houston: After the closure of Chinese Consulate General." They expressed concerns about a "witch hunt for spies" by the FBI to use Chinese Americans as "scapegoat" to justify the political claim, for which the U.S. government has provided few supporting evidences.

They and other local community leaders appealed to Congress to de-escalate the situation, rein in the rhetoric and irresponsible actions, and provide oversight to protect the civil rights of Chinese Americans.

After the APA Justice meeting was officially closed, a group continued discussion on the topic and reached agreement that OCA, UCA, the Asian American Justice Center, and the Asian American Bar Association of Houston will co-host a "Know Your Rights" webinar on August 6 to address the urgent question, "What to do if you are questioned by the FBI or police?"

The concerns were also later relayed to Senator Mark Warner, Vice Chair of Senate Intelligence Committee.

c. Based on recent discussions and presentations, can an emerging and converging view from the legal, scientific and community perspectives be formed on the racial profiling and related justice and fairness issues?

4. Catch-up on all developments

- [Website: https://www.apajustice.org/](https://www.apajustice.org/)
- [LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12395028/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12395028/)
- [Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/386238778398753/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/386238778398753/)

5. Upcoming Events

a. 08/08 AAUC webinar: Celebrating 100 years of Women's Suffrage with National Organization for Women

b. 09/12-26 2020 [National Civic Leadership Forum on AAPI Unity](#): The Power of We. AAUC is soliciting ideas and proposals from all AAPI organizations to participate in this common platform to build trust and solidarity

6. Next Call

a. Next Call: 2020/09/14 **(note change due to Labor Day)**

Email Jeremy Wu at Jeremy.S.Wu@gmail.com or Vincent Wang at wang177@gmail.com to submit agenda items. Thank you.