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## Chinese American Citizens Alliance Since 1895



**Kin Yan Hui** was recently elected to be National President of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.). He previously served as National Executive Vice President from 2023 to 2025 and as National Vice President for Membership from 2017 to 2023. He is also a Past President of the San Antonio Lodge.

In his hometown of San Antonio, Kin serves as the Zoning Commissioner for the City of San Antonio's District 6, representing 165,000 residents. He also sits on the Bexar County Civil Service Commission.

A retired civil servant with over 35 years of service in the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Kin concluded his career in 2017 as Chief Engineer for four Air Force Cyber Weapon Systems. In that role, he led a team of more than 75 engineers and technical professionals developing and acquiring advanced cyber capabilities for the Air Force.

Kin holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Houston, a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University, and was an Executive Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

In his remarks at the APA Justice monthly meeting on December 1, 2025, Kin offered a detailed overview of the organization's 130-year history, its national footprint, and his vision for

strengthening its role in the Chinese American community. Opening with characteristic humor—“As a good bureaucrat, I have to have PowerPoint slides, so please put up with that”—Kin set a collegial tone before walking the audience through C.A.C.A.’s mission: “to practice and defend Chinese American citizenship and to preserve our cultural and historical heritage, because without historical and cultural preservation, we are not a people.”

Kin traced C.A.C.A.’s roots to 1895, when it was founded in San Francisco as the Native Sons of the Golden State. By 1915, it had reorganized under its current name and expanded nationally. He highlighted several moments of historic significance, including the organization’s advocacy for repealing the Chinese Exclusion Act, testimony before Congress in the 1940s, efforts that led to the War Brides Act and Chinese Alien Wives Act, and more recent achievements such as the 2012 Congressional Statement of Regret and the 2018 Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Chinese American World War II veterans. The medal project, Kin recalled, was a challenge—“It was during COVID, and we were having a very difficult time doing that”—but C.A.C.A. persisted and continues to locate families who were unaware of their eligibility.

C.A.C.A. today includes 20 lodges and roughly 3,000 members, historically concentrated along the West Coast but growing rapidly in the South and Southwest. Kin emphasized that while the national board provides guidance and resources, “a lot of the work that’s being done is really at the lodge level.” His vision for the future focuses on restoring prominence, strengthening impact, and ensuring relevance nationwide. Conversations with community leaders, he noted, have helped sharpen that mission: “Not just for the C.A.C.A., but for the greater Chinese American community at large.”

To support this vision, Kin outlined strategic goals: empowering lodges, improving messaging and partnerships, increasing membership, and defending birthright citizenship. Membership development will include a new pipeline, service recognition programs, and a youth advisory council—critical, he noted, because “we are all volunteers, with no paid staff, so we must appreciate every minute we get from volunteers.”

On birthright citizenship, Kin recounted internal skepticism from some members who believed constitutional rights were secure. His response was grounded in risk management: “The risk may be low, but the severity is so high that we have to address it.” C.A.C.A. will establish a dedicated project team to prepare for and respond to potential policy threats.

Kin concluded by reaffirming C.A.C.A.’s long-standing role and future direction: “I just want to introduce the organization...and give you a glimpse into what we are planning to do in the next two years.” He expressed gratitude for the chance to connect with allied organizations and strengthen shared commitments to civil rights, community empowerment, and cultural preservation.

A summary of the APA Justice monthly meeting on December 1 is being prepared at this time.

According to [Reuters](#), the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide the legality of President Trump's directive to limit birthright citizenship. The policy, issued by executive order in January 2025, seeks to end automatic citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment for children born in the United States to parents who are neither citizens nor permanent residents. Lower courts had blocked the order as likely unconstitutional, and a federal judge in New Hampshire certified a class action that prevented enforcement nationwide. On December 5, the Supreme Court granted review specifically in that class action case, setting the stage for oral arguments in the spring of 2026 and a likely decision by late June or early July.

## Hearing on Estate of Dr. Jane Wu v Northwestern University Scheduled



**Jane Ying Wu 吴瑛**

Case number: 2025L007963  
Cook County Circuit Court  
Estate of Dr. Jane Wu v Northwestern University  
Date Filed: June 23, 2025

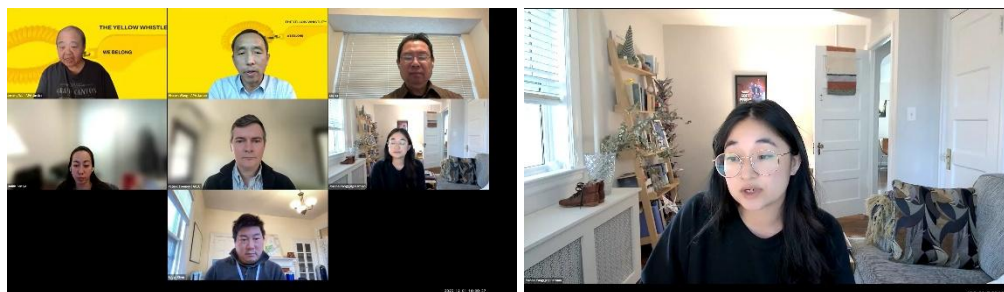
The Cook County Circuit Court has scheduled a hearing for February 24, 2026, on the case of Estate of Dr. Jane Wu v Northwestern University (Case Number 2025L007963).

According to the [South China Morning Post](#), the family of Chinese American neuroscientist Dr. **Jane Ying Wu (吴瑛)** filed a civil lawsuit alleging Northwestern University discriminated against her during NIH- and China Initiative–related inquiries and that its actions contributed to her suicide in July 2024. The complaint claims the university marginalized Dr. Wu by shutting down portions of her lab, removing team members, restricting access to funding, and even having her taken to a psychiatric unit—despite the NIH ultimately clearing her. Northwestern denies the allegations and has moved to dismiss the case.

Dr. Wu, a leading researcher on neurodegenerative diseases with more than \$11 million in NIH funding, had her faculty webpages removed shortly after her death—an unusual step noted by colleagues. Her case echoes broader concerns surrounding NIH-backed foreign-interference investigations, which disproportionately affected Asian American scientists, many of whom suffered career damage without criminal charges.

Read more about the story of Dr. Jane Wu: <https://bit.ly/JaneWu>

## Update from Advancing Justice | AAJC



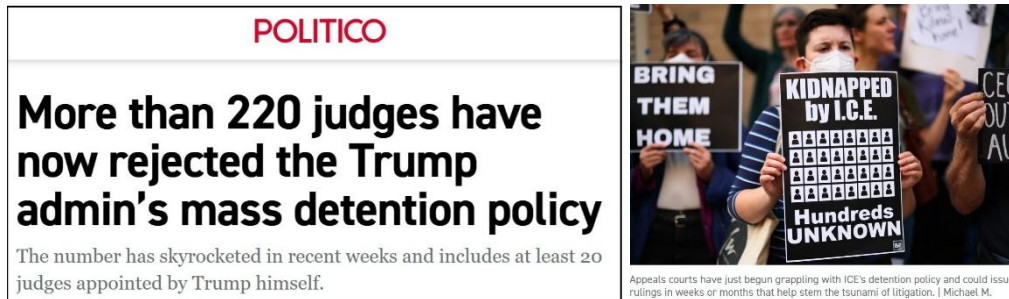
During the APA Justice monthly meeting on December 1, 2025, **Joanna YangQing Derman**, Director of Anti-Profiles, Civil Rights & National Security Program at Advancing Justice | AAJC, provided a policy update covering several key areas. She noted that AAJC continues to monitor developments related to the China Initiative and ongoing negotiations in the Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations process, particularly with the extended January 30 deadline.

On the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Joanna reported that both chambers have passed their versions of the bill and that AAJC has submitted its official letter to House and Senate Armed Services leadership. She highlighted the Rounds Amendment (No. 3810) as a major area of concern because it would broaden Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) reviews of foreign purchases of certain agricultural lands. She emphasized that AAJC is in active discussions with Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and others on the Hill to ensure civil rights safeguards are reflected in the final bill.

Joanna also addressed Texas Governor Greg Abbott's recent proclamation labeling The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) a "foreign terrorist organization" and "transnational criminal organization." She stressed that AAJC views this as "an attempt to weaponize state power against a religious minority" and is working with interfaith and civil rights partners to oppose discriminatory actions. She noted that CAIR has already filed a federal lawsuit in response.

She closed by expressing AAJC's appreciation for the APA Justice community and said the organization looks forward to sharing a full 2025 wrap-up in the new year.

## ***Politico: Judges Reject Mass Detention Policy***



According to *Politico* on November 28, 2025, federal judges nationwide are overwhelmingly rejecting the Trump administration’s new mass-detention policy, which mandates that nearly all immigrants in deportation proceedings be held without any opportunity to seek release. Since ICE abruptly implemented the policy on July 8, more than 225 judges in over 700 cases—across 35 states—have found the approach likely unlawful and a violation of due process. Notably, 23 Trump-appointed judges have ruled against the administration. Only eight judges have sided with the government.

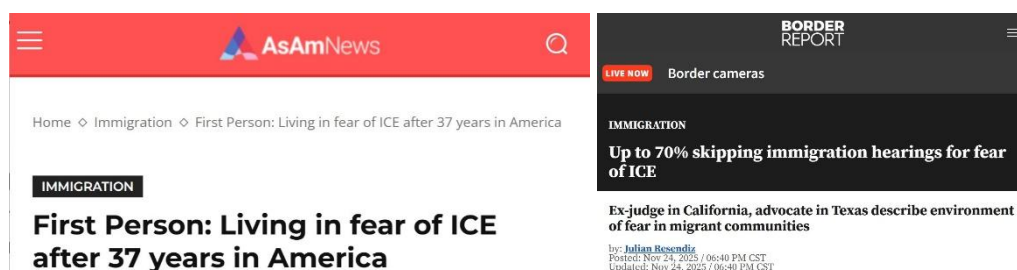
Courts have been flooded with emergency petitions from immigrants suddenly detained at workplaces, courthouses, or routine check-ins—many long-time residents with families, jobs, and pending legal claims. Judges have described the administration’s interpretation as extreme, illogical, and contrary to decades of precedent, warning that if upheld, the policy could subject millions of long-term residents to mandatory detention. Several courts have publicly noted the near-total consistency of rulings against the administration.

Momentum is now building toward nationwide relief. Judges in Massachusetts and Colorado have certified class-action challenges, and a federal judge in California has approved a nationwide class that could require ICE to provide bond hearings to those covered by the new rules. Appeals courts have begun reviewing the issue, even as the administration pushes for rapid consideration in some circuits and delays in others. DHS continues to defend the policy as faithful to statutory text, blaming prior administrations for what it calls overly permissive practices.

The dispute centers on two long-standing immigration provisions historically applied only to recent arrivals. For decades, long-term residents in deportation proceedings were eligible to seek bond before an immigration judge. The Trump administration upended that framework by redefining these residents as still “seeking admission,” stripping judges of authority to grant release. With the Board of Immigration Appeals now endorsing this view, federal courts have become the only avenue for relief—driving the nationwide wave of rulings rejecting the policy.

Read the *Politico* report at <https://politi.co/4q1yCRR>.

# Rising Fear, Collapsing Courts: Inside Today's Immigration Crisis



In [an opinion](#) published by *AsAmNews* on November 25, 2025, **Lily Chen**, a first-generation immigrant who came to the U.S. 37 years ago, describes a growing sense of fear spreading through Chinese immigrant communities as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests surge. She writes that friends now warn one another: “Be careful, know your rights, bring your IDs,” prompting her to carry her passport everywhere—not for travel, but out of fear. She notes that these anxieties are shared mostly within “Virtual Chinatown” WeChat groups, where “99% of immigrant Chinese Americans source their information.”

Despite her professional roles as a public health nurse educator and film producer, Chen says this is the first time in nearly four decades that she feels “unsafe, worried, and angry all at the same time.” Her fear is deeply personal, recalling watching her father being handcuffed in China even though “He did not commit any crimes and was simply doing his job.” She connects that memory with new UCLA data showing arrests of Asian immigrants nearly tripled in early 2025—from under 700 in 2024 to almost 2,000 between February and May.

As ICE operations expand into her own neighborhood in Cary, North Carolina—where she recently saw messages warning, “ICE is currently at a crossroads, Cary. Here is what you need to do today...”—Chen questions how long immigrants must live with this fear. She concludes by asserting her responsibility to speak out, emphasizing that “The immigrant story IS the American story.”

According to [Border Report](#) on November 24, 2025, a new Migration Policy Institute (MPI) brief warns that migrant communities are experiencing unprecedented fear and instability under the Trump administration, as immigration courts collapse under record backlogs. Enforcement spending has surged while funding for courts and legal aid remains minimal, leaving asylum seekers waiting up to four years for hearings and increasingly too afraid to appear because ICE now arrests people at courthouses and check-ins. MPI reports a backlog of 3.8 million cases—two-thirds involving asylum—compounded by Congress capping the number of immigration judges at 800 and the administration firing or pushing out at least 139 judges. The brief recommends shifting resources from enforcement to adjudication, allowing asylum officers to



handle new asylum claims, prioritizing serious cases, expanding technology, and increasing legal representation.

Former immigration judge **Kyra Lilien** described an atmosphere of fear and chaos before her unexplained firing in July. She recounted 50–60-person hearings, migrants fainting as relatives were detained, ICE officers in tactical gear hiding in stairwells, and protesters clashing with ICE outside the courthouse. Detentions in and around courts caused appearance rates to plummet from 85% to 30%. Judge Lilien criticized the structural flaw that immigration courts are housed within the Department of Justice—placing judges and prosecutors under the same authority—and endorsed MPI’s call for institutional reform and greater resources. Advocates in Texas echoed concerns about escalating arrests, family separations, and the growing difficulty of providing legal representation amid expanding detention.

On December 1, 2025, *Bloomberg Law* [reported](#) that former immigration judge **Tania Nemer** has filed what appears to be the first federal lawsuit by an immigration judge against the Trump administration ([Nemer v. Bondi \(1:25-cv-04170\)](#)), alleging she was unlawfully fired from the Cleveland immigration court. Judge Nemer—a Lebanese American woman who was still in her two-year probationary period—claims the Justice Department discriminated against her based on sex and national origin, noting that two male, non-Lebanese probationary judges were retained. She also alleges retaliation for her prior run for local office on a Democratic Party ticket, asserting a violation of her First Amendment rights.

Since early December, the immigration system has come under even greater strain:

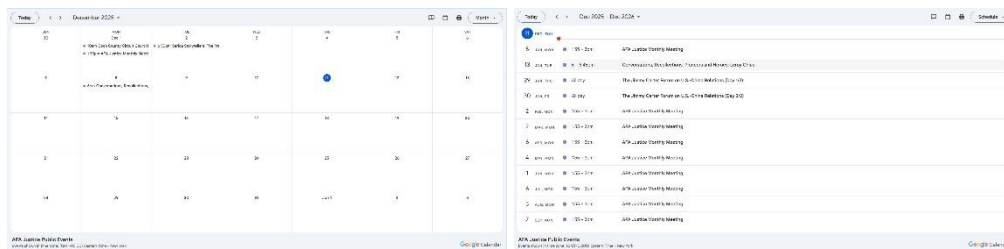
- New York immigration courts suffered another wave of judge firings, with at least eight judges terminated in one week, according to [ABC News](#). Some courts have lost more than 25% of their judges—deepening delays and weakening due process for asylum seekers.
- According to the [Los Angeles Times](#), immigrants who have won their cases or received court orders for release are still being held in detention, as ICE continues to pursue aggressive deportations even after legal victories—raising constitutional and separation-of-powers concerns.
- A UCLA School Climate Survey reported by [The Guardian](#) finds immigration raids are creating a “culture of fear” among students. Over 70% of high school principals observed increased bullying, absenteeism, and trauma among immigrant and Asian American students tied to enforcement operations.
- A December 11 [Reuters](#) investigation revealed ICE has begun using family separation threats, prolonged detention, and criminal prosecution to pressure migrants into accepting deportation, prompting legal advocates to warn that due-process protections are being eroded in unprecedented ways.

Together, these developments underscore a rapidly intensifying immigration crisis: rising

community fear, collapsing courts, unprecedented enforcement pressure, and a growing sense that long-standing norms of fairness and due process are breaking down.

## News and Activities for the Communities

### 1. APA Justice Community Calendar



#### Upcoming Events:

2026/01/05 APA Justice Monthly Meeting  
2026/01/13 Conversations, Recollections, Pioneers and Heroes: Leroy Chiao  
2026/01/29-30 The Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.-China Relations  
2026/02/02 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

Visit <https://bit.ly/3XD61qV> for event details.

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APA Justice Task Force is a non-partisan platform to build a sustainable ecosystem that addresses racial profiling concerns and to facilitate, inform, and advocate on selected issues related to justice and fairness for the Asian Pacific American community. For more information, please refer to the new APA Justice website under development at [www.apajusticetaskforce.org](http://www.apajusticetaskforce.org). We value your feedback. Please send your comments to [contact@apajustice.org](mailto:contact@apajustice.org).