

# 2025/01/06 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

**APA Justice Meeting – Monday, 2025/01/06  
1:55 pm Eastern Time / 10:55 am Pacific Time**

## 1. New Year Message from Congresswoman Judy Chu

Speaker: Judy Chu, Chair Emeritus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)

As in past years, Congresswoman Judy Chu was invited to kick off the New Year by reviewing 2024 and looking to what is ahead in 2025. She recounted the inception of the APA Justice Task Force in 2015, emphasizing its formation to address racial profiling against Asian Americans, particularly scientists such as Sherry Chen and Dr. Xiaoxing Xi. She stated, “I put out a call to mobilize and organize, and I’m so proud that you took action and created the APA Justice Task Force.”

She expressed pride in the community’s advocacy, noting how their voices have become more influential in addressing issues such as racial profiling and defending civil rights. She condemned the China Initiative, a program initiated under President Trump that disproportionately targeted Chinese American scientists. Despite its termination, she acknowledged the lasting damage it inflicted: “We saw time and time again how baseless accusations... resulted in protracted legal battles that upended lives and careers.” She credited collective efforts for ending the initiative but cautioned, “Our job is far from done.”

Congresswoman Chu also condemned recent discriminatory land ownership laws at both state and local levels that specifically target Chinese and immigrant communities. She drew parallels between these laws and past racist legislation, sharing, “We’ve heard stories like... Mr. Zhiming Xu... who was forced to cancel his contract to simply purchase a new home, losing both his property and a \$30,000 deposit.” She highlighted legislative efforts to address this injustice, adding, “And it’s why Congressman Al Green and I introduced the Preemption of Real Property Discrimination Act to block state laws that would discriminate against individuals based on their citizenship.”

Celebrating increased AAPI representation in Congress, she noted a record 25 AAPI members in the 119th Congress and 80 members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the largest in history. She reiterated her commitment to opposing discriminatory agendas and supporting the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.

Congresswoman Chu emphasized the critical role of organizations like APA Justice in mobilizing communities, advocating for civil rights, and resisting discriminatory policies. She urged continued vigilance and activism to defend against harmful policies targeting AAPI and immigrant communities while fostering collaboration to protect civil liberties. She concluded with a pledge of ongoing support, stating, "I look forward to continuing our work together this year and beyond."

## 2. Introduction of Judith Teruya

Speaker: Judith Teruya, Executive Director, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

Judith Teruya spoke on her first official day as the Executive Director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) under Chairwoman Grace Meng. She acknowledged the longevity and importance of these efforts, stating, "You all have been doing this for a long time through a lot of different circumstances and different issues coming up in the community across the country."

Teruya introduced herself and highlighted her professional journey, which began in Congresswoman Grace Meng's personal office. During her tenure, she contributed to significant legislative achievements, including the **COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act**, the passage of the **AANHPI Museum Study Act**, and the creation of a commission to establish a potential **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Museum**. Most recently, she served with the **White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI)** under Crystal Kai's leadership before transitioning to her current role.

Teruya honored the legacy of Chair Emerita Judy Chu, acknowledging her transformative leadership over the years. She expressed her excitement about continuing CAPAC's work and building upon its past achievements. Acknowledging the challenging political landscape ahead, she stated, "We know that the next couple of years are going to be a challenge. We know there are some challenging legislative battles that we have ahead of us in the House."

She also referenced potential difficulties under a second Trump administration, noting, "We know from the first time around some of what we can expect... and so I really look forward to getting to work with you all." Teruya emphasized the critical importance of ensuring that AANHPI communities are protected and actively involved in policymaking, saying, "Our communities must be seen, heard, and considered in the voices of policymaking, and not as an afterthought."

She concluded by inviting collaboration and encouraging open communication, stating, "Please be in touch... I just look forward to getting to join you all monthly, moving forward." Teruya underscored her commitment to sustained engagement, listening to community concerns, and working together to address key issues impacting AANHPI communities.

### **3. Update from Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC**

Speaker: Joanna YangQing Derman, Director, Anti-Profilng, Civil Rights & National Security Program, Advancing Justice | AAJC

Joanna Derman provided a brief policy update during her remarks, focusing on AAJC's opposition to the reauthorization of the House Select Committee on the CCP. She acknowledged that opposing this reauthorization was an "uphill battle," a reality confirmed by the recent passage of the rules package that reauthorized the Select Committee.

Despite this setback, Joanna expressed gratitude to all the groups that joined AAJC's letter of opposition and reaffirmed AAJC's commitment to combating harmful rhetoric and policies that could lead to discriminatory backlash against the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. She concluded by promising further updates and actions in the weeks and months to come.

### **4. Update from Asian American Scholar Forum**

Speaker: Kai Li, Vice President, Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF)

Kai Li highlighted the organization's efforts and upcoming initiatives, emphasizing its role as a leading voice for the Asian American scholar community. He noted concerns about the potential resurgence of the "China Initiative," stressing its negative impact on civil rights, talent retention, and U.S. competitiveness in global talent.

Kai discussed AASF's ongoing research on talent retention. A previous analysis revealed a significant loss of talent in the U.S., exacerbated by a "chilling effect" stemming from investigations targeting Asian American scholars. To deepen their understanding, AASF is initiating a new round of data analysis with updated information through 2024, aiming to uncover the primary reasons behind this talent exodus.

AASF is launching a national survey to gather feedback on new policies from scholars of all backgrounds. This effort includes collaboration with the NIH and NSF to understand reactions among scientists. The survey aims to facilitate closer cooperation with federal agencies and provide insights for policymaking.

Kai mentioned discussions with university lobbying offices in Washington, D.C., regarding shared concerns. These include:

- Potential taxation of university endowments.
- Penalties for universities perceived as misaligned with administration priorities.
- Legislative proposals restricting access to educational and economic opportunities for students from specific countries, particularly China.

- Issues such as visa revocations at borders and penalizations of individuals based on historical affiliations with entities now on restricted lists.

Kai Li reaffirmed AASF's commitment to advancing the interests of Asian American scholars by fostering collaboration among scholars, policymakers, immigration attorneys, and partner organizations.

At AASF's Annual Symposium at Stanford University on July 25-27, 2024, in partnership with the NSF, six Asian American scientists were recognized for their groundbreaking contributions with inaugural Asian American Pioneer Medals. Nasir Ahmed: Inventor of discrete cosine transform, enabling modern video conferencing.

- **Raj Reddy:** Developer of continuous speech recognition technology.
- **Teresa Meng:** Innovator in Wi-Fi communication.
- **Frank Chung:** Creator of the power amplifier for prolonged phone use.
- **Hyungsup Choi:** Pioneer in semiconductor memory technology.
- **Dawon Kahng and Simon Sze:** Co-inventors of floating gate memory, the fathers of flash memory. Dawon Kahng also invented MOSFET, the fundamental technology for semiconductor chips. Simon Sze published a book considered as the bible for semiconductors devices.

## 5. Updates from the AAAS

Speaker: Sudip Parikh, Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Executive Publisher of the Science family of journals

- 2025/02/13-15 [2025 AAAS Annual Meeting](#)
- 2024/12/13 AP: [US updates a science and technology pact with China to reflect growing rivalry and security threats](#)

Dr. Sudip Parikh is Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Executive Publisher of the Science family of journals. Sudip last spoke at the September 2023 APA Justice monthly meeting covering open science, basic research, and US-China collaboration in today's environment. He returned to give an update on the latest activities and developments of AAAS during the APA Justice monthly meeting on January 6, 2025.

AAAS was the first permanent organization established to promote the development of science and engineering at the national level and to represent the interests of all its disciplines. Sudip emphasized the significance of leading an organization with a storied history since 1848, stating that it gives "a sense of perspective" about the evolution of science in the United States.

Sudip noted the symbolic power of his role as a first-generation immigrant of Indian descent leading the AAAS. Reflecting on the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, he remarked, "I wouldn't exist without [it]... several of us would not exist." This underscored the importance of inclusivity in science leadership. He acknowledged the organization's historical challenges: "When AAAS was formed in 1848, it was by 87 men—white men only—because that was the

demographic practicing science at the time.” Today, AAAS reflects diversity in gender, race, and geography, with a majority-female board, which he described as a hopeful sign of progress.

Acknowledging the complex challenges of the next two years, including divisive policy and rhetoric, Sudip found inspiration in AAAS’s history of overcoming its “baggage”; and shameful moments. “An organization that can evolve... can rise above and continue to advance science.”

### **On Global Science Diplomacy and Collaboration:**

1. **U.S.-China Science and Technology Agreement:** This long-standing agreement, renewed for five years over the holidays, symbolizes critical cooperation. Sudip highlighted the new focus on reciprocity and transparency, which were absent in the 1979 framework. He described the renewal as “a good agreement” and crucial for fostering future collaborations.
2. **India and Immigration Policy:** Sudip’s visit to India highlighted the strong scientific ties between the two nations. He also addressed controversies surrounding H-1B visas, particularly on social media. “It turns out two things can be right at the same time—a program can be really important, and it can need to be reformed.” He encouraged constructive discussions on immigration policy reform.
3. **Japan and Collaboration:** During his visit to Japan, Sudip discussed the challenges of scientific collaboration despite the close alliance between the U.S. and Japan. He stressed the importance of distinguishing economic decisions from cultural signals, advocating for open and active collaboration in science.
4. **Science Diplomacy Efforts:** Sudip reaffirmed AAAS’s commitment to Track II diplomacy, which maintains dialogue even in strained geopolitical climates. He emphasized fostering long-term relationships, especially among junior scientists, to sustain international cooperation for decades.

### **AAAS Annual Meeting**

Sudip previewed the upcoming AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston (February 13–15), themed Science Shaping Tomorrow. He noted the event’s focus on international collaboration and breakthroughs of the year, particularly the development of a small-molecule drug providing six-month protection against HIV transmission. “It’s not a vaccine, but it’s as close as we’ve ever gotten,” he noted.

### **Vision for American Science and Technology**

Sudip discussed his role as chair of a task force developing a new vision for American science and technology—Endless Frontier 2.0, referencing Vannevar Bush’s seminal 1945 report. Recognizing changes since 1945, Sudip said, “Vannevar Bush never imagined me,” emphasizing the increased role of diversity, philanthropy, and international parity in modern science.

This updated vision will be released in late February, featuring multimedia formats to spark national conversations. Sudip reminded listeners of the historical precedent, noting that the original Endless Frontier was initially rejected and took five years of debate before leading to the National Science Foundation. He called for similar discussions today, concluding, “It’s time for an update... to look forward, not backward.”

Sudip closed by reaffirming AAAS's dedication to advancing science and fostering collaboration globally. He emphasized the importance of maintaining dialogue, covering critical issues like immigration and international relations, and inspiring the next generation to continue building bridges through science.

## 6. Latest Development on Arkansas Foreign Ownership Laws

Speaker: Robert S. Chang, Executive Director, Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, University of California Irvine School of Law

- 2024/12/10 National Agricultural Law Center: [Federal Judge Halts Enforcement of Arkansas' Foreign Ownership Restrictions](#)
- 2024/12/09 Jones Eagle LLC v. Ward (4:24-cv-00990): [Redacted Preliminary Injunction Order](#)
- 2024/11/18 [Jones Eagle LLC v. Ward \(4:24-cv-00990\)](#)

With over 30 years in the legal academy, Robert Chang has focused on anti-Asian discrimination in law, including alien land laws. He described his growing concern as these laws began to re-emerge in recent years, particularly with Florida's 2023 law. Collaborating with legal scholars like Rose Cuison Villazor (Rutgers Law School) and Jack Chin (UC Davis Law School), and the law firm Foley Hoag, Chang worked on an amicus brief addressing the historical and discriminatory dimensions of these laws.

Bob highlighted parallels between historical and contemporary laws targeting minority groups, emphasizing how national security concerns often serve as a "fig leaf" to justify discriminatory practices. Drawing from his experience advancing Fred Korematsu's legacy, he explained that the use of national security as a pretext is a recurring theme in American history.

### Alien Land Laws and Recent Litigation

Bob detailed the recent rise of alien land laws, noting that approximately 20 states are considering or have implemented new versions. He provided specific insights into Arkansas, where two laws were passed in 2023: one restricting agricultural land ownership and the other targeting land associated with data centers. Though framed as addressing "countries of concern" per the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) list, evidence suggests these laws primarily target individuals and entities linked to China.

Bob joined the Arkansas case after the complaint was filed, working with lead counsel Alexander Jones in the Little Rock office of Kutak Rock, and contributing a historical perspective to demonstrate the broader context and impact of such laws. Also joining in the case as co-

counsel is Paul Hoffman, a clinical law professor at UC Irvine, along with several of the students in his civil rights clinic.

### **Legal Strategies and Outcomes**

Bob discussed the legal strategies used to challenge these laws, including filing motions for a temporary restraining order (TRO) and a preliminary injunction. He humorously advised against filing such motions around Thanksgiving due to the intense workload, sharing that his team worked through the holiday to secure the preliminary injunction. Ultimately, the judge granted the preliminary injunction but based the decision on statutory claims of federal preemption without reaching the constitutional claims.

The federal preemption claims relied on the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA), emphasizing that land ownership related to national security is under federal, not state, jurisdiction. While this argument succeeded, Bob warned that changes in federal policy or administration could weaken this approach.

### **Historical Lessons and Federal Advocacy**

Bob drew historical parallels to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, explaining how discriminatory state laws against Chinese immigrants in the 1870s led to federal legislation. He stressed the importance of proactive advocacy with organizations like APA Justice and engagement with groups like the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) to prevent discriminatory policies at the federal level.

### **Ongoing and Future Litigation**

Bob highlighted the broader legal battle against alien land laws, noting active cases in multiple states. Arkansas just filed its notice to appeal the preliminary injunction, and similar cases in states like Tennessee and Florida are advancing through the courts. He underscored the importance of building strong coalitions and setting favorable legal precedents, as these cases may ultimately reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

### **Conclusion**

Bob concluded by emphasizing the need for vigilance and collaboration to combat discriminatory laws effectively. He expressed his willingness to engage further with interested parties, both during the Q&A session and offline.

## **7. The Legacies of Former President Jimmy Carter**

Speaker: Yawei Liu, Senior Advisor, China Focus, Carter Center

- 2024/12/29 Carter Center: [Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter Passes Away at 100](#)
- Carter Center: [China Focus Program](#)

Yawei Liu delivered an insightful talk reflecting on the life, values, and contributions of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, emphasizing lesser-known aspects of his legacy.

Yawei highlighted President Carter's humility, honesty, and integrity, noting that while his presidency (1977–1981) is often criticized, his post-presidential accomplishments elevated him to one of the most admired former presidents. Yawei emphasized President Carter's refusal to capitalize on his political status, stating, "He would not take a penny" from honorariums or his Nobel Peace Prize earnings, instead directing all proceeds to philanthropic causes. Yawei noted, "His income is his pension, the royalties from his 33 books, and the proceeds from his farm."

President Carter's modest lifestyle was underscored with examples such as his return to Plains, Georgia, where he lived in a \$170,000, three-bedroom home. Yawei remarked, "The house, along with its three-acre compound, is cheaper than the Secret Service Suburban parked outside." Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, planned to be buried on this property.

### **President Carter's Humanitarian Efforts**

The Carter Center led a global campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease, reducing cases from 3.5 million in 1986 to just 11 in recent years. Yawei quoted President Carter's lifelong wish: "I would like to see all the worms gone before I die," acknowledging the near success of this effort.

President Carter's 33-year dedication to volunteering a week annually with Habitat for Humanity exemplified his commitment to grassroots humanitarian work. He also lent his reputation to "The Elders," a group of former global leaders mediating conflicts worldwide, significantly enhancing its credibility.

### **Diplomatic Contributions**

Yawei shed light on President Carter's underappreciated role in resolving the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula in the early 1990s. His 1994 meeting with Kim Il-sung helped establish a framework for peace, which later administrations attempted to follow.

President Carter's pivotal role in normalizing U.S.-China diplomatic relations in 1979 was another focus. President Carter's interest in China began in childhood, inspired by letters from his uncle, a merchant marine, and his awareness of Baptist missionary work in the region. His first visit to China in 1949 exposed him to the devastation of the civil war, deepening his understanding of the country's challenges. Yawei emphasized the lasting benefits of President Carter's work, noting that normalization turned East Asia into a global economic engine.



Yawei concluded by quoting President Carter's 2018 op-ed, where he called for “courageous leadership” to prevent a U.S.-China cold war. President Carter advocated for continued engagement, arguing that policies initiated under President Richard Nixon and solidified during his presidency brought peace and prosperity to East Asia. Rejecting engagement outright, President Carter warned, was “ludicrous and absurd.”

Yawei celebrated President Carter’s enduring legacy as a global humanitarian and diplomat, urging future leaders to uphold his principles of humility, service, and a vision for a peaceful, interconnected world.

## 8. Q&A and Discussions

## 9. Next Meeting



January 29, 2025, is Lunar New Year Day. Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year of the Snake!

The next monthly meeting will be held on February 3, 2025, starting at 1:55 pm ET/10:55 am PT