

## In This Issue #295

- 12/11 Webinar: The Impact of Land Ownership Exclusion Laws on Diverse Communities
- State Representative Gene Wu Response to Texas Executive Order
- Appeals Court Hears Dr. Yanping Chen's Case
- Indians Become Biggest International Student Group in U.S.
- News and Activities for the Communities

## 12/11 Webinar: The Impact of Land Ownership Exclusion Laws on Diverse Communities

The image shows a webinar promotional graphic on the left and an interactive map interface on the right. The graphic features the text: "THE YELLOW WHISTLE™ WE BELONG", "Webinar", "From Past Prejudice to Present Policy:", "THE IMPACT OF LAND OWNERSHIP EXCLUSION LAWS ON DIVERSE COMMUNITIES", "Wednesday, December 11, 2024", "5:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET", and logos for "Committee of 100" and "APA Justice". The map interface includes filters for "Select bill provisions:", "Countries restricted from property ownership", "Property restrictions", and "Property restricted from ownership". A map of the United States is shown with states colored in red or light blue, indicating the presence or absence of specific provisions. A legend indicates "State considered a bill that includes all selected provisions." with "Yes" in red and "No" in light blue.

Historically discriminatory policies are reemerging in state legislatures across the U.S. Originally designed to prevent non-citizens, particularly those from AAPI communities, from owning property, these laws are now being reframed as safeguards to national security.

On December 11, 2024, the Committee of 100 and APA Justice will co-host a webinar to discuss whether these laws properly address national security concerns or whether they are merely a pretext that infringes upon civil rights and liberties under the guise of protection.

A panel of legal experts and advocates will delve into the history of alien land laws, examine their renewed impact on vulnerable communities and discuss key cases, including a law passed in Florida. This event is essential for anyone committed to upholding justice and equity in America.

To learn more about current land ownership exclusion legislations, visit Committee of 100's [interactive map](#), which details specific bills, status, and text. Also, visit APA Justice [Alien](#)

[Land Bills webpage](#) for the latest developments on current lawsuits challenging these laws and more.

**WHAT:** From Past Prejudice to Present Policy: The Impact of Land Ownership Exclusion Laws on Diverse Communities

**WHEN:** December 11, 2024, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

**WHERE:** Webinar

**HOSTS:** Committee of 100, APA Justice

**Moderator:** **Cindy Tsai**, Interim President, Committee of 100

**Speakers:**

- **Edgar Chen**, Special Policy Advisor, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
- **Ashley Gorski**, Senior Staff Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- **Gene Wu**, Texas State Representative

**Closing Remarks:** **Jeremy Wu**, Founder and Co-Organizer, APA Justice; Member, Committee of 100

**FOR MORE INFORMATION/REGISTRATION:** <https://bit.ly/3CEWK9p>

## State Representative Gene Wu Response to Texas Executive Order

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

2025 Legislative Session School Vouchers Ted Cruz College Tuition Personalize The Trib

2024 TEXAS ELECTIONS

### Gov. Greg Abbott issues executive order targeting Chinese government operatives in Texas

The order is in response to "Operation Fox Hunt," a Chinese government initiative intended to root out corruption but in practice has been used to intimidate Chinese citizens living abroad.

BY JAMES BARRAGÁN NOV. 18, 2024 UPDATED: 5 PM CENTRAL

#### TEXAS

## Rep. Gene Wu Response to Abbott's Support for Chinese Immigrant Community in Texas

by: Canaan Cadwell  
Posted: Nov 20, 2024 / 12:21 PM CST  
Updated: Nov 20, 2024 / 12:21 PM CST

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
GENE WU  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 137

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 19, 2024

Contact: Paige Dodge  
Paige.Dodge@house.texas.gov

#### Rep. Wu Response to Abbott's Support for Chinese Immigrant Community in Texas

HOUSTON, TX – On Monday, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA 47, which directs the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to target and arrest individuals engaging in influence operations on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This initiative, Operation Fox Hunt, first launched by the Chinese government in 2014, has been a global effort to intimidate, harass, and repress Chinese citizens living abroad. In response to Governor Abbott's Executive Order, State Rep. Gene Wu issued the following statement:

"I applaud Governor Abbott's newfound commitment to protecting the civil rights of Chinese Americans and Chinese immigrants and disavows in our state. The ability to speak your mind and live freely are the core promises of the American Dream, and any who seek to take that away stand against Texas values. I would also encourage Governor Abbott to share his new commitment to protecting the civil rights of Chinese immigrants and disavows with the Senators and Representatives in his own party who have recently filed legislation to take away the civil rights of Chinese immigrants and disavows. Laws that would strip away the rights of an entire community to buy a home, to start a business, to go to school, or even get a job-based purely on where they were born. Attacks from Texas Republicans on the civil liberties of Chinese immigrants are so low dangerous to the Chinese disavows community. The loss of safety and security, even by different means, sends the same message."

###

According to *Texas Tribune* on November 18, 2024, Texas Governor **Greg Abbott** issued an executive order directing the Texas Department of Public Safety to target individuals conducting

influence operations for the Chinese government. This response addresses “Operation Fox Hunt,” a Chinese initiative allegedly used to intimidate dissidents and forcibly return them to China. Abbott emphasized Texas’s commitment to protecting the state’s Chinese community from harassment by the Chinese Communist Party. The U.S. Department of Justice has prosecuted cases linked to this operation.

State Rep. **Gene Wu**, D-Houston, who was born in China and immigrated to the United States applauded Abbott's move. Wu issued a statement

***"I applaud Governor Abbott's newfound commitment to protecting the civil rights of Chinese Americans and Chinese immigrants and dissidents in our state. The ability to speak your mind and live freely are the core promises of the American Dream; and any who seek to take that away stand against Texas values. I would also encourage Governor Abbott to share his new commitment to protecting the civil rights of Chinese immigrants and dissidents with the Senators and Representatives in his own party who have recently filed legislation to take away the civil rights of Chinese immigrants and dissidents. Laws that would strip away the rights of an entire community to buy a home, to start a business, to go to school, or even get a job—based purely on where they were born. Attacks from Texas Republicans on the civil liberties of Chinese immigrants are no less dangerous to the Chinese dissident community. The loss of safety and security, even by different means, sends the same message."***

In 2023, Wu criticized Texas Republicans for pushing legislation that would ban citizens and foreign entities from countries including China from buying land in Texas. He urged Abbott to also support Chinese immigrants by opposing such legislation.

Read the *Texas Tribune* report: <https://bit.ly/40ScNL2>. Read Rep. Gene Wu's statement: <https://bit.ly/4eIWpQn>



Rep. Gene Wu discusses Texas Gov. Abbott's executive orders targeting China

On November 20, 2024, State Representative **Gene Wu** was interviewed by *KVUE* and discussed Texas Governor Abbot's orders targeting China. He expressed concerns about Abbott's approach, suggesting it may politicize the issue and harm Chinese Texans. Wu emphasized that existing laws are sufficient to address these threats and urged the Governor to focus on meaningful infrastructure improvements instead of divisive policies.

Wu linked alien land legislation to historical laws that fueled prejudice, such as those preceding Japanese internment, and warned they undermine Chinese dissidents who fled oppression, stating that:

*"These bills ... just label an entire community as being threats ... without accusation, without evidence ... saying that these communities, because of where they're from, we will just blanketly say that we should ban all of them from being able to even buy a home, start a business, or farm."*

Watch the *KVUE* interview: <https://bit.ly/3Okv781> (9:01)

## Appeals Court Hears Dr. Yanping Chen's Case



The screenshot shows the Yahoo News website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'yahoo!news' logo and a 'Sign in' button. Below the navigation bar, there are several news categories: 'Top Stories', 'Missing TV anchor cold case', 'Menendez case delay', and 'Testimony a...'. The main headline reads 'Court appears unlikely to spare former Fox News reporter in contempt fight'. Below the headline, the authors are listed as 'Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney', and the date and time are 'Mon, November 18, 2024 at 4:24 PM EST'. The article is noted as a '4 min read'. There are also icons for sharing and commenting.

According to *Yahoo News* on November 18, 2024, a U.S. Appeals Court is unlikely to overturn penalties against former *Fox News* reporter **Catherine Herridge**, who faces fines and possibly jail time for refusing to disclose her source in stories about Dr. **Yanping Chen**. Herridge's 2017 reporting involved leaks from an FBI investigation into Chen, who claims the leaks harmed her reputation. Chen later sued several federal agencies and subpoenaed Herridge to identify her source, but Herridge declined, citing journalistic protections.

U.S. District Court Judge **Christopher Cooper** had previously ordered Herridge to pay an \$800 daily fine for defying the subpoena, though enforcement was delayed pending her appeal. If Herridge loses the appeal, Chen's lawyers could seek harsher penalties, including potential jail time. This legal standoff raises significant questions about the balance between press freedoms

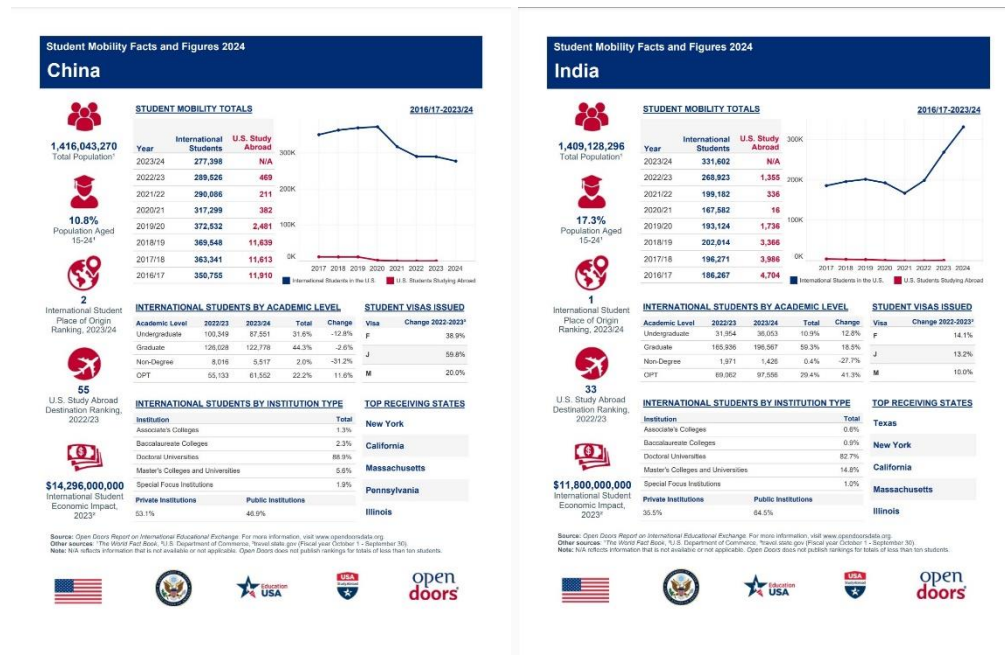
and privacy rights in the context of leaked information.

During oral arguments at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, two judges appeared unconvinced by Herridge’s arguments for lifting the contempt order, expressing doubts about the scope of protections for journalists. A third judge highlighted concerns over defining journalistic privilege in an era dominated by social media, asking how such privileges apply to less traditional media platforms and individuals claiming journalistic roles.

The case could become a major press freedom test during President **Donald Trump’s** second term. While Trump cannot directly intervene to remove Herridge’s penalties, he could instruct the Justice Department to settle Chen’s underlying lawsuit, effectively nullifying her subpoena against Herridge. Trump has previously praised Herridge’s investigative reporting, particularly when it aligned with his political narratives.

Read the *Yahoo News* report: <https://yhoo.it/3ZdoURF>. Read Dr. Yanping Chen's case: <https://bit.ly/3Xl4hms>

## Indians Become Biggest International Student Group in U.S.



According to *CNN*, *NBC News*, *South China Morning Post*, and other media reports, while India and China still make up over half of all international students in the US, India has overtaken China as the top source for international students in the US for the first time in about 15 years,

according to new data released by the Institute of International Education and the U.S. State Department.

A total of 331,602 Indians studied in the US during the 2023-24 school year, compared with 277,398 Chinese. Indian students saw a 23 percent increase from the previous academic year, while Chinese students saw a 4 percent decrease. The number of Chinese university students in the US rose from about 98,200 in 2009 to a record high of 369,500 in 2019.

The decline of students from China reflects significant shifts in both policy and public perception, with many Chinese students and families worrying about safety, racism and discrimination, and immigration difficulties – especially as more options open up in other countries, including in China itself.

In the late 2000s and early 2010s, when Chinese students first began surging overseas, China was rapidly transforming from a poverty-stricken nation to an economic superpower, thanks to an “opening up” initiative that began in the late 1970s and saw sweeping reforms. It changed China’s relationship with the world. After China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001 and hosted a successful Olympic Games in 2008, “there was this upturn in US-China relations – everyone had a really optimistic view of what China could be,” said **Mallie Prytherch**, a researcher at the University of Hong Kong’s Center on Contemporary China and the World. “So there was a lot of openness in accepting students into America.”

But the launch of the “China Initiative,” onslaught of racism, and anti-Asian hate crimes during **Donald Trump**’s first presidency and the Covid-19 pandemic meant students became disillusioned with the idea of the American Dream. The downward spiral was reflected in policy, too: Trump imposed an executive order canceling the Fulbright exchange program with China, then introduced a ban that effectively prevents graduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students from several Chinese universities from gaining visas to the US.

In 2020, the US revoked visas for more than 1,000 Chinese students and researchers deemed security risks. When President **Joe Biden** took office, many of those Trump-era policies were kept in place – making it difficult for Chinese graduate students and researchers to secure a visa.

There have been more immigration-friendly policies in other nations, like Canada, the UK and Australia. Chinese parents have more options to choose from in terms of where they want to go, and what universities are willing to accept their children. Simply staying in China is also one of the options, where universities are growing in prestige. Many Chinese professors previously based in the US are now returning to teach in China – partly because of the difficult conditions they faced in the US, but also because of the improvement in Chinese educational quality.

Despite the tightening of immigration rules under the last two administrations, some US officials are still trying to encourage the flow of students. “I want to confirm that we very much welcome

students from China to the US. We have the largest number of Chinese students studying outside of China here. We do know that US universities are continuing to value Chinese students,” said **Marianne Craven** of the State Department.

2024/11/21 CNN: [Indian international students in the US outnumber Chinese for the first time in 15 years](#)

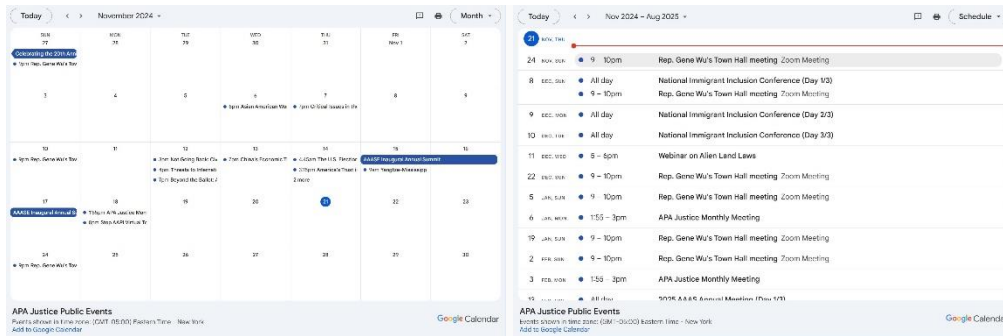
2024/11/19 NBC News: [Indians become biggest international student group in U.S., surpassing Chinese for first time since 2009](#)

2024/11/18 South China Morning Post: [As number of Chinese students in US keeps falling, Indians move to top of list](#)

2024/11/18 Institute of International Education and State Department: [Report on International Exchange](#) (video 43:59)

## News and Activities for the Communities

### 1. APA Justice Community Calendar



#### Upcoming Events:

- 2024/11/24 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
- 2024/12/08-10 National Immigrant Inclusion Conference
- 2024/12/08 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
- 2024/12/11 Webinar on Alien Land Laws
- 2025/01/06 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

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

### 2. Census Bureau Implements New Standard

# Implementation of SPD 15 in the American Community Survey

On November 4, 2024, the Census Bureau announced that it will implement the [finalized 2024 Statistical Policy Directive \(SPD\) 15](#) published by the Office of Management and Budget on March 28, 2024, in the 2027 American Community Survey (ACS) data collection cycle.

Read the Census Bureau announcement: <https://bit.ly/4fZiKy2>

## 3. APA Justice Newsletter Web Page Moved to New Website

### Newsletters

APA Justice began publishing a free periodic newsletter about 4-7 times a month in July 2020. You can subscribe [here](#). Visit the [Virtual Library](#) to search the entire collection.

Filter by year: All

The screenshot shows a grid of four newsletter cards. Each card has a thumbnail image, a title, a date, and a 'Read' button. The cards are: 1) '#280 Xenophobic Legislation; 9/9 Meeting; Mixed Enrollment; USSTA; AA History in States; +' dated September 17, 2021. 2) '#278 Briefing to Oppose China Initiative Bill; AASF Forum with NIH; Xiaoxing Xi Interview; +' dated September 10, 2024. 3) '#278 9/9 Monthly Meeting; Harmful Anti-China Rhetoric; NASEM Report; War for Chinese Talent' dated September 5, 2021. 4) '#277 Passing of Dr. Jane Wu; Anti-Asian Laws; Rock Springs; White House Initiative Meets; +' dated September 3, 2021.

As part of its continuing migration to a new website under construction, we have moved the Newsletter webpage to <https://www.apajusticetaskforce.org/newsletters>. Content of the existing website will remain, but it will no longer be updated. We value your feedback about the new web page. Please send your comments to [contact@apajustice.org](mailto:contact@apajustice.org).

Copyright © 2024 APA Justice, All rights reserved.  
You are receiving this email because you opted in or have expressed interest.



**Our mailing address is:**

APA Justice  
P.O. Box 1242  
McLean, VA 22101

[Add us to your address book](#)

We do not share, sell, rent or trade any of your information with third parties unless you provide explicit consent. [Read our Privacy Policy here.](#)