

2026/07/06 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

APA Justice Meeting – Monday, 2026/07/06

1:55 pm Eastern Time / 10:55 am Pacific Time

1. Update from Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Speaker: Joanna YangQing Derman, Director, Anti-Profilng, Civil Rights & National Security Program, Advancing Justice | AAJC, jderman@advancingjustice-aaajc.org

- Advancing Justice | AAJC: [Anti-Profilng, Civil Rights & National Security Program](#)

Joanna YangQing Derman of Advancing Justice | AAJC provided the following legislative updates:

- Federal proposals raised concerns about renewed profiling of Chinese American scientists and researchers.
- House Judiciary Committee advanced the Protect America's Innovation and Economic Security from the CCP Act (H.R. 1468)
 - Not clear when it will be brought to the House Floor
 - Civil rights organizations believe the bill would effectively revive many of the same concerns associated with the former China Initiative.
 - AAJC worked with coalition partners, including Stop API Hate, CAA, and AASF to formulate a rapid response. A joint letter was sent to the Hill with over 75 AAPI and allied organizations signing on, opposing the legislation and reiterating our long-standing opposition to such efforts.
- Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act ([H.R.8800](#))
 - The bill was delayed in the House following procedural disputes among House Republicans over whether or not to pair the bill with a separate election, election bill.
 - The Senate continues to move forward with its version, but final action will likely slip until after Congress returns later this month.
 - AAJC continues to monitor amendments that may have implications for Asian American communities. She emphasized the importance of sustained advocacy throughout the legislative process and encouraged community members to remain engaged with policymakers.

(**APA Justice update:** the bill later passed the House on July 22, 2026, but remains stalled in the Senate amid partisan debate over defense spending levels and foreign policy.)

2. Readout of the June 3rd Joint Webinar

Speaker: Joanna YangQing Derman, Director, Anti-Profilng, Civil Rights & National Security Program, Advancing Justice | AAJC, jderman@advancingjustice-aajc.org

As the moderator of the [joint webinar](#), “*Geopolitics, Identity, and the Fight for Civil Rights*”, co-hosted by the Committee of 100, US-China Education Trust, and APA Justice on June 3, 2026, Joanna provided a readout of the event. Speakers were:

- Edgar Chen, special advisor to National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
- Frank Wu, President, Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY)

Major points discussed during the webinar:

- Rising geopolitical tensions intersect with civil rights challenges facing Asian American communities.
- Legitimate national security concerns are warranted but the growing use of broad, ethnicity-based suspicion undermines civil rights protections.
- Contemporary state-level restrictions, including foreign land ownership bans and expanded economic limitations in areas like SBA lending and healthcare licensing, echo historical anti-Asian exclusion laws. The current proposals disproportionately affect people of Chinese descent.
- The panel called for evidence-based policymaking rather than racialized assumptions, and urged Asian American civil rights advocates to deepen their fluency in foreign policy to better distinguish valid security issues from discriminatory measures while avoiding unfounded accusations of foreign influence.
- The discussion concluded with a call for increased civic participation—including voting, community engagement, and running for office—paired with coalition building and data-driven policy advocacy as the most effective long-term response to discrimination.

3. Update from Asian American Scholar Forum

Speaker: Gisela Perez Kusakawa, Executive Director, [Asian American Scholar Forum](#) (AASF), gpkusakawa@aaforum.org

Gisela Perez Kusakawa of the Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF) shared several updates:

- AASF will hold its third annual Asian American Frontier and Pioneer Symposium from August 7 to August 9 at Stanford University. The Policy Forum on August 9 will be co-organized with the Hoover Institution at Stanford. She described the symposium as an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of Asian American leaders in science, technology, medicine, and public service while fostering conversations about the future of research and innovation.
- AASF will launch a new webinar series, *Public Service in Action*. It aims to encourage greater Asian American participation in public service and government. Gisela emphasized that increasing representation in policymaking and public leadership positions is essential to ensuring that Asian American perspectives are included in important national conversations.
- AASF provided assistance to House staff in preparation for the House Select Committee hearing on the CCP on June 25.
- In closing, Gisela encouraged attendees to remain optimistic despite the challenges facing the community. She observed that efforts to undermine civil rights often depend on discouraging civic participation, making continued engagement, advocacy, and leadership especially important. She urged participants to remain hopeful and continue investing in the next generation of Asian American leaders.

4. Debrief of the House Select Committee Hearing on China

Speaker: [John C. Yang](#), President and ED, Asian American Advancing Justice | AAJC

John C. Yang of Asian American Advancing Justice | AAJC provided a debrief of the [hearing](#) held by the House Select Committee on the CCP on June 25, 2026, where he was one of the three witnesses. He began by providing the background of the committee:

- The House Select Committee on the CCP was established in 2023 under Republican leadership. The full name of it is the House Select Committee on Strategic Competition with the Chinese Communist Party.
- At that time, it was considered a bipartisan effort to address a specific so-called threat from the Chinese government, but Congress never had a committee like this that's solely focused on one ethnicity, and on one country in this particular way.

- This distracts Congress from understanding legitimate national security concerns.
- There are many countries that the U.S. have concerns with.
- There are two purposes of such hearings:
 - Factual inquiry and get educated on relevant issues.
 - Political theater - make political points and produce sound bites to use in campaigns saying that they are tough on China.
- Each party selects their own witnesses, with the party in the minority getting one witness and the party in the majority getting 2-3 witnesses. John was asked to testify by the Democrats on the Committee.

While acknowledging that China presents legitimate national security and economic challenges, John emphasized that discussions about those issues must remain grounded in evidence rather than assumptions based on ethnicity or national origin.

- Throughout his testimony, John argued that national security and civil rights should not be viewed as competing priorities. These should be handled via a nuanced, targeted approach, like using a “scalpel” rather than a “sledgehammer”.
- He cautioned against policies that broadly cast suspicion on Chinese American researchers, students, and professionals, explaining that racial profiling ultimately weakens both civil liberties and America's ability to attract and retain talent.
- Rather than relying on broad stereotypes, he encouraged policymakers to pursue targeted, evidence-based approaches that address genuine security concerns while respecting constitutional protections.

John also reflected on the importance of remaining calm and factual during congressional questioning or in other settings when speaking about national security and civil rights, even when confronted with provocative statements. He emphasized that constructive dialogue and credible evidence are more effective than confrontation in influencing policymakers.

Looking ahead, John encouraged community members to

- Embrace our identity as both American and Asian American, pushing back on racism, and use everyday conversations to chip away at the “perpetual foreigner” myth over time.
- Continue to engage with elected officials, educational institutions, and local organizations to ensure that Asian American voices remain part of the national conversation.
- Continue to build alliances with other marginalized groups (Black, Latino communities) by acknowledging their distinct stereotypes and struggles.

5. Remarks on the Misleading Argument About Racism Raised During the House Select Committee Hearing on China

Speaker: [Frank H. Wu](#), 11th President, Queens College, City University of New York

Frank Wu, a leading scholar on racism toward minority communities, recently retired as 11th president of Queens College, City University of New York, shared his perspective on the argument made during the House Select Committee on the CCP hearing by a witness and a committee member: “A person cannot be racist because he is married to a Chinese woman.”

By placing current events within the broader history of American civil rights, Frank reflected on how, since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, American society has largely rejected explicit racial stereotyping — a “fragile consensus” that emerged over the following decades.

- This consensus doesn’t fully extend to Asian Americans, because they don’t fit the traditional Black-white civil rights paradigm and are instead treated through a lens of foreignness and national security, particularly during periods of geopolitical tension — leaving Asian Americans continually viewed through the “perpetual foreigner” stereotype.
- National security concerns have historically created circumstances in which discrimination against Asian Americans becomes more socially acceptable.

Frank cautioned against generalizing the actions or traits of a small number of individuals to an entire ethnic community, describing this as the core mechanism of racial stereotyping.

He also noted that, according to the Committee of 100’s research, the general American public holds more favorable views of Chinese people and China than many policymakers and political leaders do.

Frank suggested focusing on the effects and impact of people’s words or actions — rather than trying to determine whether the person is personally “a racist.” He argued that debating someone’s inner character or intent is a distraction and an unwinnable argument; what matters is the real-world harm caused, regardless of intent.

6. Q&A and Discussions

7. Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2026, starting 1:55 pm ET/10:55 am PT