

# 04/28 Webinar Open for Registration

Registration for the April 28, 2021 webinar on Legal Resources and Policy Advocacy: How to Combat Racial Profiling Under the "China Initiative" is now open: <https://bit.ly/3tBqUaE>. Capacity is limited.

The webinar will take a deep dive into how we can empower impacted persons and the broader Asian American and immigrant community to take action to protect their civil rights and advocate for policy reform. Policy makers, civil rights organizations, and the academic community will share their insights on topics including policy and advocacy engagement, access to available legal resources, and building narratives to lift up the voices of impacted people and combat xenophobia.

Panelists for the webinar are:

- Susan Lee 李凤迁, Maryland State Senator, Majority Whip
- Patrick Toomey, Senior Staff Attorney, National Security Project, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- Frank Wu 吴华扬, President, Queens College
- John C. Yang 杨重远, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

The webinar will be moderated by Michael German, Fellow, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3dkL6Bf>

## Erika Moritsugu Named as White House Liaison

On April 14, 2021, The White House announced Erika Moritsugu as deputy assistant to President Joe Biden and Asian American and Pacific Islander senior liaison. The new position will elevate AAPI voices and perspectives at the highest levels of government as well as advance policy proposals that are relevant and important to the AAPI community. Erika currently serves as the vice president at the National Partnership for Women and Families, and was General Counsel for Senator Tammy Duckworth. <https://bit.ly/3e714hD>

## Petition to President Biden Delivered

On April 9, 2021, Advancing Justice | AAJC delivered [a petition signed by 29,318 people to President Biden](#), urging him to put an end to the racial profiling of Asian Americans and Asian immigrants, particularly by the Department of Justice (DOJ), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Science Foundation (NSF), and end the Justice Department's "China Initiative." Among the comments submitted by the petitioners are:

- No race should suffer racism! No ethnicity, no color and no culture or religion should suffer racism or discrimination!!!!
- This is unbelievable. Asians should not be treated like this. The fact that our GOVERNMENT is doing this even more hypocritical. Please stop racially profiling and targeting Asians like this.
- The "China Initiative" does little more than stoke fear toward anyone who is Asian-American. It has resulted in unfair targeting that disregards how academic research is usually done.

On April 27, 2021, Professor Xiaoxing Xi will speak to the Stanford University community in a webinar colloquium. The title of his talk is Scientific espionage, open exchange, and American competitiveness. Register for the event at: <https://bit.ly/3x1qgip>

On April 15, 2021, defense attorneys for Texas A&M University Professor Zhendong Cheng submitted a letter from the Committee of Concerned Scientists, in support of the defense's motion to set this matter for a hearing to grant the Motion for revocation of detention order and release him upon appropriate conditions. This follows a similar request by the Human Rights Committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicines on March 29, 2021. Professor Cheng is identified as one of the "China Initiative" cases. He has been detained since August 2020 and has contracted COVID-19 during his time in the detention center. Read more about Professor Cheng's case at: [http://bit.ly/APAJ\\_Zhendong\\_Cheng](http://bit.ly/APAJ_Zhendong_Cheng)

## The Yellow Whistle Campaign Launches

[The Yellow Whistle Campaign](#) officially launches today, National Patriots Day. APA Justice is a partner of the campaign. The whistle is a symbol of self-protection and solidarity in our common fight against historical discrimination, anti-Asian violence, and racial profiling. It has a universal purpose - to signal alarm and call for help - for all Americans. We are whistleblowing to fight back against the stereotype that Asians are a silent minority. We shall not remain silent, because we belong!

Free whistles are distributed through a network of outreach partners in New York City

and throughout the continental U.S. Priority will be given to 501(C)3 organizations with demonstrated strong community ties. Complimentary shipping is funded by donors. The campaign was started by Dr. Agnes Hsu-Tang and her husband Oscar Tang, Li-En Chong, and several other generous individuals in response to the anti-Asian hate and violence. Below is a picture at a Yellow Whistle Rally in Brooklyn, New York City on April 17, 2021. More at <https://bit.ly/2RDZMmB>.



## Immigration and Anti-Asian Hate

On April 16, 2021, former President George W. Bush opined that immigration is a defining asset of the United States and provided suggestions on how to restore confidence in our system. He set out to accomplish two objectives: (1) to share his portraits of immigrants, each with a remarkable story to tell, and (2) to humanize the debate on immigration and reform. "Immigration isn't just a part of our heritage. New Americans are just as much a force for good now, with their energy, idealism and love of country, as they have always been," the former president wrote. Read more at <https://wapo.st/3svCgoJ>

On April 14, 2021, the Senate opened debate on legislation confronting the rise of hate

crimes against Asian Americans, a growing problem during the coronavirus crisis by a rare bipartisan vote of 92-6. Final passage of the bill is still uncertain because any one senator can halt the process. It takes 60 votes in the Senate to overcome a filibuster. Read more at <https://bit.ly/3uR2Gmv>

On April 15, 2021, President Biden met with leaders of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, which has pushed for more Asian Americans in his administration and for a law to combat the sort of hate crimes against the group that have risen since the COVID-19 pandemic began in China. Read more at <https://lat.ms/3gj4Mr1>

On April 15, 2021, [BusinessWire reported](#) that a group of Fortune 1000 General Counsel and over 40 law created The Alliance for Asian American Justice (“The Alliance”), a national pro bono initiative committed to standing up for victims, and preventing future acts, of anti-Asian hate in light of the recent surge in anti-Asian violence across the country. According to the report, The Alliance will coordinate and drive law firm pro bono resources on behalf of victims to assist and support them in obtaining legal remedies. This can include providing victims with counsel to bring lawsuits to seek compensatory and other civil remedies or working with law enforcement to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable, where appropriate. Frontline legal and community organizations will perform the initial intake with victims of anti-Asian hate and refer them to the Alliance. Contact The Alliance at [Contact@AllianceAAJustice.org](mailto:Contact@AllianceAAJustice.org)

A nationwide "Unity Against Hate" rally is being organized in partnership with the Yellow Whistle Campaign on May 15, 2021. Read more at <https://www.communityagainsthate.org/>

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