

In This Issue #143

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Injustice  ➔ 

This special issue of the APA Justice newsletter is dedicated to the petition to President Biden and the Senate Judiciary Committee in opposing the nomination of Mr. Casey Arrowood to be the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Letters to the White House and Senate Judiciary Committee Sent on September 6

On September 6, a broad coalition of Asian American groups submitted letters to the White House and the Senate Judiciary Committee, opposing President Biden's nomination of Casey Arrowood. Over 1,700 scientists, researchers, public servants, civil rights advocates, and concerned individuals from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and U.S. territories signed on, as well as 36 national, state, and local organizations.

In his capacity as assistant U.S. Attorney, Arrowood led a wrongful, years-long prosecution of Professor Anming Hu, in which Hu was falsely accused of being a spy for China. While a federal judge ultimately acquitted Hu of all charges, Arrowood's prosecution inflicted lasting damage to Hu's academic reputation, as well as his financial instability, trauma, and family separation. The case also had a chilling effect on the U.S. scientific and research community and eroded public trust in the judicial system.

In the letter to President Biden, the coalition called for the withdrawal of the nomination of Arrowood. The President should be well advised that a poor selection may reflect adversely on his administration for the next four years.

In the letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, the coalition called for the committee to take no action on the nomination until there is a thorough investigation of Arrowood's prosecution of Hu, Hu is interviewed by committee staff, and a public hearing from the Asian American and scientific communities is heard.

Read the letter to President Biden here: <https://bit.ly/3KTWGTm>

Read the letter to Senator Dick Durbin, Chair, and Senator Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, here: <https://bit.ly/3KSy79l>

Public Statement by Organizers of the Campaign Posted

The four organizations leading the campaign - **APA Justice, Asian American Scholar Forum, Tennessee Chinese American Alliance**, and **United Chinese Americans** - issued a public statement which is posted at <https://bit.ly/3qly3P>. In the statement, representatives of these organizations were quoted:

"For more than three years, Professor Anming Hu and his family suffered the prolonged ordeals of injustice. We urge President Biden and the Senate Judiciary Committee to do the right thing by not opening new wounds to our communities." -- Jeremy Wu, Co-organizer, APA Justice Task Force

"The wrongful prosecution of Professor Anming Hu and nomination of his lead prosecutor had further eroded trust and increased the chilling effect that unjust prosecutions have had on Asian American and immigrant communities, particularly those of Chinese descent. We are deeply concerned by and strongly oppose his nomination. Asian American Scholar Forum is a leading voice for the Asian American and immigrant scientific and academic community. We represent the individuals, families, and communities most directly impacted by the unjust prosecutions conducted under the now defunct Department of Justice's 'China Initiative.' Dr. Hu's story reflects the experiences and fears of so many in our community. We urge those in power to listen to our voices and work towards rebuilding trust with our communities." -- Yasheng Huang, President, Asian American Scholar Forum

"The United States Attorney is the chief federal law enforcement officers, who have an awesome duty to decide whether to prosecute based on applicable laws. Mr. Arrowood's wrongful prosecution of Prof. Anming Hu is evident that he is not a fair-minded prosecutor who will carry out equal justice under the law. We have lost confidence in his ability to represent the people of Tennessee. We ask the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject his nomination to be the next U.S. Attorney for the Eastern Tennessee District." -- Jinliang Cai, President, Tennessee Chinese American Alliance

"Time and again, Mr. Casey Arrowood has demonstrated bad and unprofessional judgement prosecuting Prof. Anming Hu. AAPI community, particularly Chinese American community, has lost any trust and confidence in him. We implore White House to withdraw this nomination immediately." -- Haipei Shue president of United Chinese Americans

Read the public statement here: <https://bit.ly/3qly3P>

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Impacted Scientists and the Committee of Concerned Scientists Also Sent Their Letters

Impacted Scientists. On September 6, 2022, four prominent impacted scientists sent their letters to the White House and the Senate Judiciary Committee, opposing the nomination of Mr. Arrowood.

"Prosecutorial misconduct ruins the lives of innocent people. We know it from our personal experiences of being falsely prosecuted by the government," the scientists said. "Mr. Arrowood should be held accountable for his conduct in Professor Hu's false prosecution, not promoted to a leadership position that will likely cause injustice affecting more innocent citizens and residents."

In their letters, these scientists cited their own experiences:

- **Dr. Gang Chen** was arrested on January 14, 2021, charged by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for failing to disclose activities in China to the Department of Energy in a grant proposal and progress reports. The charge was dropped by the government on January 20, 2022. <https://nyti.ms/3FLwea4>
- **Dr. Qing Wang** was arrested on May 13, 2020, charged by the DOJ for failing to disclose his affiliations and grants in China to the NIH in grant applications and progress reports. The charge was dropped by the government on July 15, 2021. <https://wapo.st/3Cqg3QY>
- **Dr. Ning Xi** was arrested on February 15, 2018, charged by the DOJ for defrauding Michigan State University (MSU) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) with false travel expense claims. The charge was dropped by the government on July 10, 2019. <http://bit.ly/2ZoEYih>
- **Dr. Xiaoxing Xi** was arrested on May 21, 2015, charged by the DOJ for sharing U.S. company technology with China. The charge was dropped by the government on September 11, 2015. <https://nyti.ms/3qjq23S>

Read their letter to President Biden here: <https://bit.ly/3L3RHiY>

Read their letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee here: <https://bit.ly/3cXcp7q>

Committee of Concerned Scientists. On September 3, 2022, the Committee of Concerned Scientists (CCS) sent a letter to President Biden opposing the nomination of Mr. Arrowood. CCS is an independent organization of scientists, physicians, engineers, and scholars devoted to the protection and advancement of human rights and scientific freedom for colleagues all over the world. "These missteps [by Mr. Arrowood] appeared to represent even more serious breaches of laws and regulations than those of which Dr. Hu has been accused," the letter said. "The CCS is concerned about how the case of Prof. Hu was handled by Mr. Arrowood who failed to halt this wrongful investigation. We respectfully ask that you withdraw

Mr. Arrowood's nomination."

The letter was co-signed by five CCS co-chairs - Joel L. Lebowitz, Paul H. Plotz, Walter Reich, Eugene M. Chudnovsky, and Alexander Greer.

Read the CCS letter at <https://bit.ly/3BnGbLO>

Next Steps Moving Forward

- We will continue to collect organizational and individual co-signers until there is an end to the nomination of Mr. Arrowood. Please help spread the word if you have already signed on and fill out the form here if you have not yet done so: <https://bit.ly/OpposeArrowoodNomination>
- Please let us know if you have sent your own letters or support this campaign in other ways via contact@apajustice.org. We are providing continuous updates at this web page: <https://bit.ly/3R6bP5w>
- Contact and inform the White House and your congressional delegation (two senators and one representative) about your opposition to the nomination of Mr. Arrowood, especially if your senators are member(s) of the Senate Judiciary Committee. <https://bit.ly/3A7Bzb9>
- Monitor the calendar of the Senator Judiciary Committee for any upcoming nomination hearings: <https://bit.ly/3qETxgV>

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