

2026/02/02 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

APA Justice Meeting – Monday, 2026/02/02

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

1. Lunar New Year Message from Rep. Judy Chu

Speaker: Judy Chu 赵美心, Chair Emerita, [Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus](#) (CAPAC) (video); introduced by Amanda Yuen

In a Lunar New Year message to APA Justice during the monthly meeting on February 2, 2026, Congresswoman **Judy Chu 赵美心**—Chair Emerita of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)—welcomed the Year of the Horse as a time to renew energy, focus, and commitment to the issues impacting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. Reflecting on her 2015 call to organize against the growing racial profiling of Chinese scientists and researchers, Rep. Chu credited that moment with helping catalyze the formation of the APA Justice Task Force. She expressed deep appreciation for APA Justice leaders, including **Jeremy Wu 胡善庆**, **Steven Pei 白先慎**, and **Vincent Wong 王文奎**, whose sustained advocacy over the past decade has been critical in confronting discrimination, defending civil rights, and educating the community.

Rep. Chu highlighted major civil rights battles of the past year, including efforts to block discriminatory state and federal laws restricting land ownership by Chinese and other immigrant communities under the guise of national security. She underscored her leadership in reintroducing *the Preemption of Real Property Discrimination Act* with Rep. **Al Green**, removing discriminatory language from the defense spending bill, and preventing attempts to revive the xenophobic “China Initiative,” which disproportionately targeted Chinese and Chinese American scientists. She warned that national security must never be used as a pretext for racial profiling, particularly as renewed legislative and political efforts threaten hard-won progress.

Looking ahead to 2026, Rep. Chu issued a stark warning about escalating threats under the Trump administration, citing attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion; the

dismantling of the White House Initiative on AANHPI communities; assaults on language access; reckless public health decisions affecting hepatitis B prevention; and the terrorizing impact of aggressive ICE enforcement on immigrant families. She reaffirmed her commitment to accountability, transparency, and humane immigration reform, including her *Visible Act* and *Reuniting Families Act*. Closing on a note of resolve, Rep. Chu emphasized that organizations like APA Justice are indispensable partners in the fight ahead. “Together,” she affirmed, “we will keep fighting back and keep moving forward this Year of the Horse.”

Amanda Yuen, Legislative Aide to Rep. Judy Chu whose portfolio includes issues affecting the AANHPI community, introduced the video.

Watch the video of Rep. Chu’s new year message: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcOcQG4mTH8> (12:04).

2. Update from CAPAC

Speaker: Judith Teruya, Executive Director, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), Judith.Teruya@mail.house.gov

[not on record]

3. 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 Derman reported that Advancing Justice | AAJC briefed congressional offices on the status of discriminatory land laws, specifically focusing on ongoing litigation in Texas and Florida. AAJC maintains that property restrictions based on nationality or presumed foreign affiliations (targeting individuals from countries like China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia) raise profound civil rights concerns. Joanna emphasized that any federal

legislation in this area must be narrowly targeted to avoid discriminatory impacts on the AAPI community.

Joanna flagged the upcoming April 2026 expiration of Section 702 of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). She notes that Congress should not reauthorize Section 702 without sweeping reforms to ensure that it cannot be used as a domestic spying tool. As negotiations are currently underway, now is a critical window to advocate for:

- Robust privacy protections and strengthened oversight.
- Measures to prevent disproportionate impacts on civil liberties, particularly for AAPI individuals with international familial or professional ties.

AAJC and the Surveillance Reform Coalition are actively engaging with members of Congress to balance national security with individual rights. Joanna warned that the community should expect "rapid-fire" requests in the coming months, including sign-on letters and call campaigns as legislative action accelerates.

4. Update from Asian American Scholar Forum

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

Gisela provided the following updates from the Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF):

Advocacy for Dr. Jane Wu

- **Sign-on Letter:** AASF has extended the deadline to February 5, 2026, for a letter supporting the late Dr. **Jane Wu**. The letter, already signed by nearly 900 faculty and staff, raises concerns over allegations that Northwestern University (NU) retaliated against her following an NIH investigation that found no wrongdoing.
- **Allegations of Retaliation:** The complaint alleges that NU restricted Dr. Wu's research and grants, reassigned her lab members, and forcibly committed her to a psychiatric institute without family contact. Dr. Wu took her own life weeks after her release.

- **Civil Rights Partnership:** In addition to the academic letter, ASF is partnering with Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) on a second letter from a civil rights perspective to address the broader national scrutiny faced by Asian American scientists.

Combatting the "China Initiative"

- **Policy Efforts:** Gisela highlighted a Chemistry World feature on ASF board member Dr. **Gong Chen**, who shared insights on preventing the return of the "China Initiative" through the Appropriations bill.
- **Ongoing Vigilance:** She warned that opposing the revival of such xenophobic initiatives will be an annual struggle and encouraged those interested in policy impact to join ASF as members.

Empowering the Next Generation

- **AIX Summit East 2026:** ASF will host a symposium in New York City on April 17, 2026, featuring a keynote by Turing Award Laureate Yann LeCun. The event aims to showcase how AI is transforming various industries.
- **Student Engagement:** The summit includes a student poster session where high school and university students can present AI research.
- **Countering the "Chilling Effect":** Gisela emphasized that these positive events are critical to ensuring that the next generation of Asian Americans feels welcome in science and research despite the current "chilling environment" and fear of professional backlash.

5. Update from Frank Wu

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

Frank Wu provided historical context for current civil rights challenges facing Asian American communities, emphasizing that recent developments—such as the China Initiative and renewed alien land laws—are not new phenomena but part of a recurring pattern. He described the “perpetual foreigner” stereotype, noting that Asian Americans are repeatedly portrayed as outsiders or potential threats tied to foreign governments. While acknowledging that the China Initiative has been defeated for now, he cautioned that such outcomes are never permanent, stating that in a democracy there are no lasting victories.

Frank illustrated this continuity through historical examples, including the scapegoating of Chinese communities during the San Francisco bubonic plague 125 years ago, ongoing threats to birthright citizenship first secured by Chinese Americans well more than a century ago, and the legacy of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. He stressed that these issues are not merely historical, citing contemporary discussions about the possible return of internment-style policies in the event of conflict with China. He underscored this point by quoting William Faulkner that “the past is never dead. It's not even past.”

Turning to his first core point, Frank emphasized the importance of sustained civic engagement. He argued that engagement must be ongoing and institutional, not limited to moments of crisis. He highlighted the value of regular organizing structures—such as standing coalitions, nonprofits, and recurring convenings—and praised the consistency of the APA Justice monthly call as an example of how communities can build experience, infrastructure, and readiness over time.

Frank's second point focused on relationship-building and coalition work. He stressed the need to cultivate allies across racial and political lines, pointing to the role of non-Asian American elected officials such as Rep. Al Green in opposing alien land laws in certain jurisdictions. He emphasized that effective civil rights advocacy requires showing up for others and maintaining principled relationships, even when disagreements exist on other policy issues. He shared his article published by the Guardian in 2023: ‘Can we move?’ Chinese residents are fearful over new US laws banning property ownership.

Finally, Wu highlighted the importance of allowing multiple strategies within a broader civil rights ecosystem. He encouraged bipartisan engagement, work at both grassroots and national levels, and acceptance of internal differences while maintaining unity on core issues such as opposing discriminatory land laws and surveillance abuses. He concluded by encouraging participants to involve others in their networks—including those less politically engaged—and reiterated his appreciation for the ongoing work of APA Justice and its members.

6. Update from US-China Education Trust

Speaker: [Rosie Levine](#), Executive Director, [US-China Education Trust](#)

Rosie Levine provided an update on the U.S.-China Education Trust (USCET), a DC-based nonprofit housed at George Washington University and founded over 25 years ago by Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch. USCET focuses on U.S.-China relations in higher education while highlighting the contributions of Asian Americans to both the United States and bilateral engagement.

Rosie highlighted concerning declines in student exchanges: Chinese students in the U.S. are down roughly one-third from pre-pandemic levels, and fewer than 2,000 Americans are currently studying in China, a steep drop from 15,000 a decade ago. She emphasized that this trend threatens nuanced understanding of China and could have significant implications for U.S. policy, innovation, and global competitiveness.

In response, USCET has established a senior expert working group to develop recommendations for boosting American student engagement in China. The group has convened academics, policymakers, and diplomatic leaders, including the U.S. Ambassador to China, and will release a report in the coming months. Rosie expressed cautious optimism that upcoming U.S.-China summits may create opportunities to strengthen education policy and international exchange.

Rosie also highlighted USCET's ongoing collaborative series with APA Justice and C100, which examines how U.S.-China relations affect Asian American communities. The first session in October featured Governor Gary Locke and Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch and attracted over 800 registrations. The next session, scheduled for February 26, 2026 will focus on global talent competition and the impact of U.S.-China relations on students and scholars, featuring panelists including Dr. Fanta Aw, Executive Director and CEO of Association of International Educators (NAFSA); Dr. Steven Chu, Professor of Stanford University and former U.S. Secretary of Energy; and other senior leaders. The session will be moderated by Professor Maggie Lewis of Seton Hall University School of Law. Rosie and USCET encourage participants to join the webinar and subscribe to its newsletter for ongoing updates. Visit <https://uscet.org/> for more information.

7. Estate of Dr. Jane Wu v Northwestern University

Speaker: Elizabeth Rao, Daughter of Dr. Jane Wu

[not on record]

8. Q&A and Discussions

9. Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, is the start of the New Year of the Horse. We wish you strength, speed, and boundless good fortune in the new year—may it carry you forward with energy, courage, and success.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2026, starting 1:55 pm ET/10:55 am PT