

# 2023/05/01 APA Justice Monthly Meeting Summary

APA Justice Meeting – Monday, 2023/05/01

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

**May is the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month!**



## 0. New Speakers

[Brenna Isman](#), Director of Academy Studies, National Academy of Public Administration

## 1. Message from the White House

Speakers: [Neera Tanden](#), Senior Advisor to the President and White House Staff Secretary; [Erika L. Moritsugu](#), Deputy Assistant to the President and AA and NHPI Senior Liaison; [Philip Kim](#), Senior Advisor, White House Office of Public Engagement; and [Krystal Ka'ai](#), Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

[Hannah Y. Kim](#), Asia-Pacific policy adviser to the White House Chief of Staff, revealed the special video message from the White House on behalf of President Biden to celebrate the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and to honor the

AANHPI community's diverse culture and contribution to the nation. The theme is "Visible Together."



A few highlights of the White House message:

- President Biden made it his priority from Day One of the Biden-Harris Administration to advance equity in underserved communities, including AANHPI.
- The president's [Proclamation on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2023](#) acknowledges the contribution of the AANHPI community and the injustice the community experienced in history and at present.
- The AANHPI community has seen increased representation - 14% of the administration's appointees are of AANHPI heritage, double of the percentage of AANHPI as part of the population.
- The Senior Liaison at the White House is a new role created in 2021 to be the representative of the AANHPI community to the president, and the president's representative to the community. Erika met with community members around the country on behalf of the president, and helped deliver the president's message to support the AANHPI community in face of rising racial hate.
- Thanks to the COVID 19 Hate Crimes Act, the DOJ created two full time brand new roles to help battle hate crimes: Anti-hate Resource Coordinator, Language Access Coordinator.
- Coalition and allyship of the AANHPI community were appreciated.
- The White House launched the first-ever National Strategy to Advance Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities to help deliver the administration's commitment to improving the lives of AA and NHPs.

## 2. CAPAC updates

Speaker: Nisha Ramachandran, Executive Director, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, [nisha.ramachandran@mail.house.gov](mailto:nisha.ramachandran@mail.house.gov)



- USA Today: [In competition with Chinese Communist Party, anti-Asian rhetoric only divides America](#)
- CAPAC [reiterates its full support for Acting Secretary Su as the next leader for the Department of Labor and urges the Senate to confirm her swiftly](#)
- CAPAC Members [Mark Two-Year Anniversary of Indianapolis FedEx Shooting that killed eight individuals, including four Sikh community members](#)
- CAPAC Members [Recognize AANHPI Equal Pay Day on April 5](#)

Nisha provided the latest developments and activities from CAPAC:

- Rep. Al Green from Texas is co-leading a bill with Chairwoman Judy Chu, “Preemption of Real Property Discrimination Act”, which addresses the recent surge in discriminatory land ownership legislation around the country, such as the Texas SB 147.
- Organizations are invited to fill out a form to endorse the bill by May 5.

## 3. Anti-Racial Profiling Project and Related Activities - Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Speaker: John Yang 杨重远, President and Executive Director, Advancing Justice | AAJC



- Advancing Justice | AAJC: [Anti-Profilng, Civil Rights & National Security Program](#)
- Legal Referral Service: Contact **202-935-6014** using the Signal app for attorney referrals. AAJC staff can assist you in Mandarin Chinese and English
- AAJC: [As Senate HELP Committee Advances Julie Su's Nomination, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC Calls for Swift Confirmation](#)

John commented about the importance of supporting Reps. Green and Chu's bill, and provided an update about the recent developments and activities from Advancing Justice | AAJC:

- A number of groups including AAJC are looking into the various legal challenges faced by state laws like the Texas SB 147, including possible violation of the The Fair Housing Act and the Constitution.
- It is important to speak up against the alien land bills, even though they may not become law. Lawmakers will be more informed on why not to support such laws.
- AAJC is doing a number of presentations and speeches to celebrate the AANHPI Heritage Month:
  - Speak up about the positive contribution of the AANHPI community, national security, economy, culture and society as whole;
  - Push back against some of the negative narratives around national security;
  - Remind people about the history of racial injustice AANHPI has endured, such as the Incarceration of Japanese Americans, the murder of Vincent Chin, the widespread racial profiling after 911;
  - Education equity.
- Julie Su nomination - voted out committee at the end of April. Need everyone to urge their senators to support Julie Su's nomination.
- Post election survey - why AANHPI should vote, and what impacts voter turnout.
- "Digital Divide" survey among AANHPI.



## 4. Update from Asian American Scholar Forum

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



- [AASF Submits Letter In Support of Julie Su As the Next U.S. Secretary of Labor](#)

Gisela provided an update of latest developments and activities from the Asian American Scholar Forum:

- AASF was voted as the newest member of the [National Council of Asian Pacific Americans](#). AASF will continue to play an important role in bridging the gap between the scientific and legal and civil rights communities in the Asian American space, and ensure the Asian American scholars community are included in the discussion of racial profiling of Asian American researchers and scholars.
- AASF met with high level officials from the White House related to research security.
- Working with university leaders to educate them about NSPM33. Anyone who is interested in helping connect to university leadership on this can reach out to Gisela at [gpkusakawa@aasforum.org](mailto:gpkusakawa@aasforum.org).
- Expanded data and research and storytelling about the loss of talent due to research security policy issues, especially the impact to life science.
- Working with NBC to publicize the contribution of Asian American scientists.

## 5. Remarks by Brenna Isman, Director of Academy Studies, National Academy of Public Administration

Speaker: [Brenna Isman](#), Director of Academy Studies, National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA)



- National Academy of Public Administration: [12 Grand Challenges in Public Administration](#) and [Funded Studies Work](#)
- NAPA Management Matters Podcast: [DEIA in Public Service with Kim Walton](#)

Ms. Brenna Isman oversees the National Academy of Public Administration's studies, providing strategic leadership, project oversight, and subject matter expertise to the project study teams. Before this, she was a Project Director managing projects focused on organizational governance and management, strategic planning, and change management. Her research engagements have included working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and multiple regulatory and Inspector General offices. Before joining the Academy in 2008, Ms. Isman was a Senior Consultant for the Ambit Group and a Consultant with Mercer Human Resource Consulting. Ms. Isman holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from American University and a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Human Resource Management from the University of Delaware.

Brenna provided an overview of National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), its "Grand Challenges" campaign, and its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) efforts. A few highlights:

- NAPA was established in 1967 and chartered by Congress in 1984. It's a "sibling" of the National Academy of Science, with a focus on non-partisan expert advice to government leaders at all levels to address their critical management challenges.
- NAPA's mission: Through the experience and expertise of our Fellows and in strategic partnership with all levels of government and sectors, the Academy produces independent research and studies that advance the field of public administration and facilitates the development, adoption, and implementation of solutions to government's most significant challenges.
- NAPA's vision: A just, fair, and inclusive government that strengthens communities and protects democracy.
- NAPA has worked with stakeholders to identify the "Grand Challenges in Public Administration", in four focus areas:
  - Protecting & Advancing Democracy
  - Strengthening Social & Economic Development
  - Ensuring Environmental Sustainability
  - Addressing Technological Changes.
- The Academy's Fellowship is made up of nearly 1,000 public administration experts, including 37 AANHPI fellows.
- DEIA related study work:
  - An Assessment of Cultural Competence at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy
  - Comprehensive Equity Assessment of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service
  - Comprehensive Organizational Assessment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Brenna's presentation slides can be accessed [here](#).

## 6. Recap of the Inaugural Roundtable on the National Media Alert Network

Speaker: Paula Williams Madison, Former Print and TV Journalist, Retired NBCUniversal executive and GE Company Officer, Former Vice President of the Los Angeles Police Commission and owner of The Africa Channel



On April 17, 2023, the inaugural Roundtable on the National Media Alert Network took place to continue the conversation about the purpose, functions and impact of the national media alert network and strike teams to assertively address:

- Immediate xenophobic challenges to our freedom and
- Longer-term proactive actions to ensure fairness and justice for all, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and immigrant communities.

About 100 organizations and individuals spoke or participated in the Roundtable. Paula Williams Madison provided an update of the activities of the National Media Network strike force following the inaugural roundtable:

- Met with AAJA's ED [Naomi Tacuyan Underwood](#) to discuss possible options to do a virtual training. Timeframe and agenda coming soon.
- Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas expressed interest in providing support.
- With planning and the right media contact, grassroots efforts in speaking up against alien land bills can receive wide media coverage.
- Congressional testimony can be another good way besides the media to raise awareness of the AANHPI community's concerns and challenges such as racial discrimination, as well as our positive contributions and sacrifices in history to make what the United States is today.

## 7. Next Meeting

- Next meeting - Monday, June 5, 2023, starting 1:55 pm ET/10:55 am PT