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## 2025/07/07 APA Justice Monthly Meeting











The next APA Justice monthly meeting will be held on Monday, July 7, 2025, starting at 1:55 pm ET.

In addition to updates from:

- Judith Teruya, Executive Director, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)
- Joanna YangQing Derman, Program Director, Advancing Justice | AAJC
- Gisela Perez Kusakawa, Executive Director, Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF)

We are honored by and welcome the following distinguished speakers:

- Lynn Pasquerella, President, American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
- **Toby Smith**, Senior Vice President for Government Relations & Public Policy, Association of American Universities (AAU)
- Clay Zhu 朱可亮, Founder and President, Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance (CALDA)
- Paul Cheung 鄭文耀, President, Committee of 100
- Tony Chan 陳繁昌, Former President of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (2018–2024) and Former President of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (2009–2018)

The virtual monthly meeting is by invitation only. It is closed to the press. If you wish to join, either one time or for future meetings, please contact one of the co-organizers of APA Justice

- Steven Pei 白先慎, Vincent Wang 王文奎, and Jeremy Wu 胡善庆 - or send a message to <u>contact@apajustice.org</u>.

# Supreme Court Limits Nationwide Orders on Birthright Citizenship





According to <u>AP News</u>, <u>NPR</u>, <u>Washington Post</u> and multiple media reports, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6–3 on June 27, 2025, in favor of narrowing the use of nationwide injunctions, limiting lower courts' ability to block federal policies for the entire country while litigation is pending. While the ruling does not address the constitutionality of President **Donald Trump**'s executive order ending birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to undocumented immigrants and foreign visitors, it does pause the order's implementation for 30 days and returns pending lawsuits to lower courts to reassess the scope of relief.

Justice **Amy Coney Barrett**, writing for the majority, argued that courts must limit relief to actual plaintiffs, not impose universal blocks. Dissenting Justice **Sonia Sotomayor** strongly opposed the decision, warning it would harm families and shield unlawful executive actions from scrutiny. The ruling allows nationwide class-action suits as an alternative and has already prompted new legal filings from civil rights groups seeking broad protections. While celebrated by Trump and Republican lawmakers as a check on judicial overreach, critics say the decision weakens protections against potentially unconstitutional policies and creates legal uncertainty for families and states.

Within hours after the Supreme Court ruling, two class-action suits had been filed in Maryland and New Hampshire seeking to block Trump's order, including an <u>amended class action</u> <u>complaint</u> and <u>emergency motion</u> for class-wide injunctive relief under <u>Casa Inc. v. Trump (8:25-cv-00201)</u>

One of the lawyers representing the plaintiffs, **William Powell**, senior counsel at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown Law, says his colleagues at CASA, Inc. and the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project think that, with the class action approach "we will be

able to get complete relief for everyone who would be covered by the executive order." The strategic shift required three court filings: one to add class allegations to the initial complaint; a second to move for class certification; and a third asking a district court in Maryland to issue "a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction asking for relief for that putative class," Powell said.

According to a <u>Washington Post</u> opinion on June 28, the Supreme Court's decision in CASA v. Trump will shift judicial power to check the executive from the roughly 700 district judges across the country to the nine justices of the Supreme Court in Washington. For example, district judges can guarantee birthright citizenship for the children of immigrants who file for relief in their district court (or potentially groups of immigrants who bring a class action). But a universal bar on enforcement of this and other presidential decrees will have to wait for the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is now the only court in the country that can block a presidential policy nationwide. However, if the president tries to implement an unconstitutional order and the district courts lack the tools to stop him, the Supreme Court can still swoop in on its time-sensitive emergency docket.

## Judge Rebukes Trump Administration NIH Grant Terminations



As of June 26, 2025, the number of legal challenges to President Donald Trump's executive actions has risen to 303, according to the <u>Just Security Litigation Tracker</u> (with 12 cases closed). One of the most significant recent developments centers on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' termination of hundreds of NIH research grants: <u>American Public Health Association v. National Institutes of Health (1:25-cv-10787)</u>

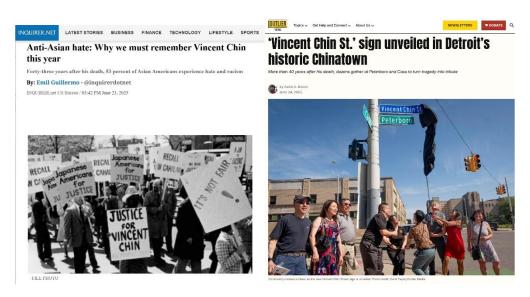
In February 2025, HHS halted both ongoing and pending biomedical and behavioral research grants at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), following Trump's Executive Orders 14151 and 14173, which barred federal funding from supporting "gender ideology" or diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. NIH subsequently issued directives labeling entire categories of research—such as DEI, transgender health, vaccine hesitancy, and COVID-19—as no longer aligned with agency priorities. At least 678 research projects have reportedly been terminated.

On April 2, a coalition of prominent health organizations and affected scientists filed suit under the Administrative Procedure Act, challenging the legality of these terminations and seeking an injunction. The plaintiffs include four researchers, the American Public Health Association (APHA), the United Auto Workers (UAW), and Ibis Reproductive Health—all alleging loss of funding or research suppression.

According to <u>Politico</u> on June 16, U.S. District Judge **William Young** of Massachusetts issued a forceful ruling against the administration. Calling the NIH's actions "illegal" and "palpably clear" discrimination, Judge Young ordered the immediate reinstatement of the terminated grants. He condemned the terminations as unconstitutional, stating they demonstrated racial and anti-LGBTQ bias and violated procedural norms. The administration's defense—that the actions aligned with congressional priorities—was found to lack any evidentiary basis.

This ruling marks a significant legal and symbolic blow to the administration's sweeping efforts to dismantle federal support for DEI and LGBTQ+ initiatives under the banner of ideological reform. Appeals are expected.

## Anti-Asian Hate: Why We Must Remember Vincent Chin



According to <u>Detroit Free Press</u>, <u>Detroit PBS</u>, <u>Inquirer</u>, <u>Michigan Chronicle</u>, <u>Outlier Media</u>, and other media reports, 43 years after the brutal killing of **Vincent Chin** 陳果仁, a new sign was unveiled in Detroit: Vincent Chin Street. Under the hot June sun, a string quartet played Mozart, and the crowd — elders, youth, activists, public officials — gathered not only to honor the man, but to mark the legacy his death ignited.

Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese American draftsman, was celebrating his bachelor party on June 19, 1982, when he was assaulted by two white autoworkers who blamed "people like him" for their economic hardships. It was a time when an Asian nation - Japan - was on the rise and

blamed for threatening the American auto industry. Days later, on June 23, Chin died of head injuries from a baseball bat attack in a McDonald's parking lot. The assailants, **Ronald Ebens** and **Michael Nitz**, were sentenced to probation and a fine. No jail time.

The injustice was not just in the courtroom. It echoed in how little American society at the time recognized Asian Americans as part of the civil rights conversation. Even progressive institutions — local chapters of the ACLU and the National Lawyers Guild — argued Asian Americans did not qualify for civil rights protections. "Those were the things people would say to us," said **Helen Zia**, Founder of the Vincent Chin Institute. The battle to establish Chin's citizenship status in order to pursue justice became symbolic of broader struggles for recognition.

And yet, that moment in 1982 became a turning point. Chin's death spurred the creation of the American Citizens for Justice (ACJ) and catalyzed the modern Asian American civil rights movement. It showed that hate — even when misdirected — had deadly consequences. And it taught a generation that justice does not arrive unless you demand it.

The street naming this year, attended by many who led those early fights, is a testament to that generation's perseverance. Attorney **Roland Hwang**, who helped cofound ACJ, reminded the crowd: "What happened to him... was seared in our minds. His last words were, 'It's not fair." Those words, he said, should still guide us today.

Detroit Mayor **Mike Duggan** reflected on the leniency of the original sentence. "We have to step up and stop [hate]," he said, linking the legacy of Chin's killing to anti-Arab bias after 9/11 and to the rising violence and polarization seen today. "Most of all, we've got to remember. And that's what you've done today."

But remembrance is not enough.

According to new data from Stop AAPI Hate, more than 50% of Asian Americans today — especially those aged 18 to 29 — report experiencing racial animus. Many of these young people were not born when Chin died. Many have never heard his name. As Michigan State Senator **Stephanie Chang** put it, "There are going to be people who see this sign and ask, 'Who was Vincent Chin?' And hopefully, that will spur learning and understanding."

That learning matters, especially in today's political climate. The same scapegoating that helped justify Chin's death in 1982 is reemerging in new forms. Now, it is not Japan but China that is framed as the threat — and proposals like Michigan's recent House bill restricting land ownership by nationals of certain countries (including China) raise alarm about repeating history. "It's discriminatory," said civil rights groups and community advocates.

State Senator Chang and others are working to embed ethnic studies into Michigan's education system so that no one graduates asking "Vincent who?" — not just to preserve memory, but to

prevent erasure. To see justice not as a one-time verdict, but a cultural habit that must be nurtured.

Even the site of the unveiling — once the heart of Detroit's Chinatown — tells a story. The Chinese Merchants Association building, where the ACJ first organized in 1982, was demolished in 2023 despite protests. Still, the effort to rebuild continues, with a \$1 million appropriation and a vision of a revitalized Chinatown, not only as a cultural anchor but as a space of solidarity and healing.

What is clear after 43 years is that Vincent Chin's story is not just a tragedy. It is a mirror. Of where we were, where we still are, and where we need to go. Every June, as Juneteenth reminds the nation of delayed justice for Black Americans, Chin's memory reminds Asian Americans that the struggle is shared — and ongoing.

Vincent Chin's story calls us to vigilance, solidarity, and the courage to confront injustice in all forms. The next generation is watching. Justice is not a moment — it is a movement, and the work continues.

## **Perkins Coie Webinar: Strategies for Nonprofits**



The law firm Perkins Coie launched <u>The Compliance Collective webinar series</u> in August 2024, hosting a monthly 60-minute session—every third Thursday at 1 p.m. ET—covering emerging compliance issues with expert panels.

The webinar on June 26, 2025, was titled "Essential Strategies for Nonprofit Leaders Navigating Government Inquiries," specifically designed to empower nonprofit leaders with the latest insights and practical strategies for effectively responding to government investigations and inquiries. As nonprofits face increasing scrutiny from both executive agencies and legislative bodies, it is essential to be prepared for subpoenas, inquiries, and other actions.

#### The webinar covered:

Unique risks facing non-profit organizations

- Interacting with the government
  - Preparing for informal outreach and inquiries from law enforcement and regulators
  - Navigating government raids
  - Effective subpoena response
- Best practices for developing policies & procedures to address these risks

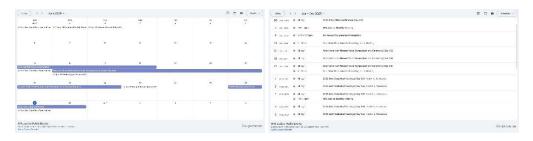
Sign up and receive Perkins Coie webinar invites and updates at <a href="https://bit.ly/44mtKgT">https://bit.ly/44mtKgT</a>

On March 11, 2025, Perkins Coie <u>sued</u> the Department of Justice (DOJ) and other government agencies over President Trump's March 6, 2025 executive order (EO) terminating government contracts, denying members of the firm access to federal employees, and suspending employees' security clearances.

On May 2, U.S. District Judge **Beryl Alaine Howell** of the District of Columbia held that the EO <u>violates</u> the law and is invalid and permanently enjoined the DOJ from implementing, enforcing, or using statements from the EO in any way. Judge Howell granted Perkins Coie's motion for summary judgment and declaratory relief and denied the DOJ's motion to dismiss.

### **News and Activities for the Communities**

## **APA Justice Community Calendar**



#### **Upcoming Events:**

2025/06/28-30 2025 ICSA China Conference 2025/07/07 APA Justice Monthly Meeting 2025/07/09 8th Annual Congressional Reception 2025/07/13 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting 2025/07/25-27 Asian American Pioneer Medal Symposium and Ceremony 2025/07/27 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting 2025/08/02-07 2025 Joint Statistical Meetings 2025/08/04 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

Visit https://bit.ly/3XD61qV for event details.

APA Justice Task Force is a non-partisan platform to build a sustainable ecosystem that addresses racial profiling concerns and to facilitate, inform, and advocate on selected issues related to justice and fairness for the Asian Pacific American community. For more information, please refer to the new APA Justice website under development at <a href="www.apajusticetaskforce.org">www.apajusticetaskforce.org</a>. We value your feedback. Please send your comments to <a href="contact@apajustice.org">contact@apajustice.org</a>.

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