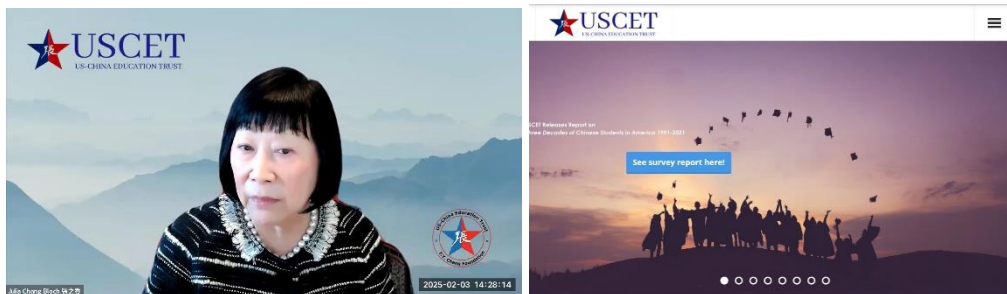


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### Remarks by Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch



Ambassador **Julia Chang Bloch** is the Founder and Executive Chair of the [US-China Education Trust](#). She was appointed by President **George H.W. Bush** to become the first Asian American ambassador in US history.

Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch spoke at the APA Justice monthly meeting on February 3, 2025. She highlights the urgent need to address the impact of U.S.-China competition on Chinese and Asian American communities. Julia acknowledges the work of APA Justice and its advocacy efforts while emphasizing the necessity of a new initiative that brings together racial justice and foreign policy concerns. Julia notes that discussions on U.S.-China relations often overlook the lived experiences of Chinese and Asian Americans, who face increasing discrimination and scrutiny. By forming broader coalitions, she hopes to bridge the gap between national security concerns and racial justice efforts.

Julia references historical instances of racial profiling, such as the Cox Report of 1999 and the wrongful prosecution of **Wen Ho Lee**, to illustrate how Chinese Americans have long been caught in the crosshairs of U.S.-China tensions. The China Initiative, initially launched under the Trump administration, further exacerbated fears by disproportionately targeting Chinese American academics and researchers. Despite past failures, Julia warns that Congress may seek to revive similar policies, reinforcing a dangerous precedent that equates ethnicity with suspicion.

Julia also highlights Beijing's efforts to exert influence on Chinese diasporas through United Front operations, which seek to blur distinctions between PRC citizens, diaspora Chinese, and Chinese Americans. These tactics, she argues, create further complications for Chinese Americans, who are unfairly perceived as foreign agents or political pawns. The result is an atmosphere of fear, scrutiny, and exclusion, where Chinese Americans must constantly prove their loyalty to the United States.

The rise in anti-Asian hate during the pandemic has further deepened the community's vulnerability. Many Chinese Americans have distanced themselves from U.S.-China policy discussions out of fear, choosing self-preservation over engagement. Julia stresses that this silence weakens the ability of Chinese and Asian Americans to advocate for their rights and contribute meaningfully to shaping U.S.-China relations. Without their voices, the United States risks losing a critical perspective that could help navigate this complex geopolitical rivalry in a way that upholds American values of inclusion and justice.

Julia draws a direct link between historical and present-day discrimination, citing the 1982 murder of **Vincent Chin** as a tragic reminder of the consequences of racial scapegoating. Chin, a Chinese American, was beaten to death with a baseball bat by two white auto workers who blamed Japan for the decline of the U.S. auto industry. His murder, and the lack of justice that followed, underscore the persistent view of Asian Americans as perpetual foreigners. Julia also highlights the case of Sherry Chen, a Chinese American scientist wrongfully accused of espionage and fired from her job at the National Weather Service in 2014. Despite being exonerated, Chen's case exemplifies how racial profiling continues to damage lives and careers. Her legal victory, including nearly \$2 million in damages, was a rare but important step toward accountability. However, Julia warns that similar injustices will persist if structural biases are not addressed.

USCET aims to create a dialogue that not only acknowledges Beijing's actions but also holds Washington accountable for policies that harm Asian Americans. The initiative seeks to educate policymakers on the consequences of targeting Chinese Americans, encourage open discussions within the community, and guide the media in reporting on U.S.-China relations responsibly. Julia calls for collaboration between national security and racial justice advocates to tackle both the symptoms and root causes of discrimination against Asian Americans.

In closing, she urges APA Justice and other advocacy groups to unite in a powerful coalition that demands the U.S. government address security concerns without endangering Chinese and Asian American lives. The United States, she insists, must meet the challenge of China without sacrificing the rights and dignity of its own citizens.

A summary of the February 2025 APA Justice monthly meeting is begin prepared at this time. For past monthly meeting summaries, visit <https://bit.ly/4hyOV4i>

## Updates by Advancing Justice|AAJC and AASF



During the APA Justice monthly meeting on February 3, 2025, **Joanna YangQing Derman**, Director, Anti-Profilng, Civil Rights & National Security Program, Advancing Justice | AAJC provided an update on AAJC's response to the numerous executive orders issued by President Trump since January 20. She stated that these orders aim to militarize borders, expand deportation and detention, punish immigrant advocacy groups and local governments, and misinterpret constitutional and immigration laws. In addition to the ongoing litigation over birthright citizenship, AAJC has partnered with the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and OCA to file a lawsuit challenging Trump's authority to strip citizenship from babies born in the U.S. to parents on temporary visas or who are undocumented. The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, argues that the executive order violates the 14th Amendment and the Administrative Procedure Act.

AAJC is also monitoring nearly a dozen new immigration-related laws in Texas, conducting a threat assessment to categorize them from problematic to extremely harmful. The organization is working closely with local partners to equip them with the necessary resources to oppose these laws effectively. These legislative measures are seen as a continuation of policies that restrict immigrant rights and increase enforcement actions at the state level.

AAJC has been tracking Trump's nominations for key government positions and has taken public stances opposing several appointees. The organization has actively opposed Kash Patel for FBI Director, Pam Bondi for Attorney General, and Russell Vought for Director of OMB. Despite their efforts, Pete Hegseth and Kristi Noem have already been confirmed as Secretary of Defense and DHS Secretary, respectively, though AAJC also opposed their nominations.

AAJC remains deeply engaged in legal, legislative, and political advocacy efforts to counter policies they view as harmful to immigrant communities. They continue to collaborate with legal groups, assess the impact of new laws, and push back against controversial government appointments, ensuring that communities affected by these decisions have the support and representation they need.

During the same meeting, Dr. **Kai Li**, Vice President, Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF), provided an update on key concerns and ongoing efforts. He highlighted worries about the

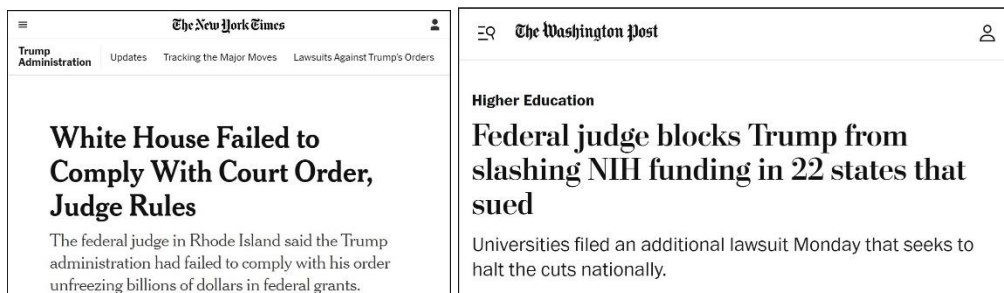
Senate hearing on malign foreign influence, particularly remarks by Senator Risch suggesting that every Chinese student could be a spy. Kai noted that Cornell's recent survey on international students with respect to transnational aggression disagreed with the remarks. He warned that restricting student visas from China, especially for AI graduate students, could harm U.S. leadership in science and technology. He suggested conducting more surveys or studies to assess the actual prevalence of transnational aggression among Chinese students.

AASF continues to work with federal agencies like the National Science Foundation (NSF) to address concerns about potential biases in new policies that may disproportionately affect Asian American faculty. This initiative, which began before January 20, remains active as long as agencies are engaged. The organization is helping facilitate outreach efforts to ensure fair treatment in research funding and academic policies.

AASF remains focused on both protecting Chinese students from unjust scrutiny and advocating for Asian American faculty in federal policy decisions. They emphasize the need for data-driven approaches to better understand these issues and prevent discriminatory practices.

A summary of the February 2025 APA Justice monthly meeting is begin prepared at this time. For past monthly meeting summaries, visit <https://bit.ly/4hyOV4j>

## Judges Block Trump's Funding Freezes as Lawsuits Against His Orders Surge



As of February 13, 2025, the number of lawsuits against President **Donald Trump's** executive actions reported by the [Just Security Litigation Tracker](#) has grown to 63.

According to [New York Times](#) and multiple media reports, U.S. District Court Judge **John J. McConnell Jr.** in Rhode Island said on February 10, 2025, that the White House had defied his order to release billions of dollars in federal grants, marking the first time a judge has expressly declared that the Trump administration is disobeying a judicial mandate. Judge McConnell mandated the immediate restoration of billions of dollars in federal grants and loans that had been halted.

“These pauses in funding violate the plain text of the T.R.O.,” Judge McConnell wrote. That earlier ruling ordered the administration not to “pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel or terminate” money that had already been allocated by Congress to the states to pay for Medicaid, school lunches, low-income housing subsidies and other essential services. These funds were intended for various programs, including early childhood education, pollution reduction, and HIV research. The judge's decision emphasized that the administration's broad categorization of the funding freeze lacked specific findings of potential fraud and violated the restraining order. The judge also made clear that White House officials were obligated to comply regardless of how they thought the case might conclude.

Another order requiring that the disputed funds be released was issued by Judge **Loren AliKhan** of the District of Columbia. That case, [National Council of Nonprofits v. Office of Management and Budget \(1:25-cv-00239\)](#), was filed by a coalition of nonprofits represented by Democracy Forward.

According to the [Washington Post](#) and multiple media reports, on February 10, 2025, U.S. District Judge **Angel Kelley** for the state of Massachusetts granted a temporary restraining order for the case of [Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. National Institutes of Health \(1:25-cv-10338\)](#), blocking the Trump administration from making drastic cuts to biomedical research funding in 22 states that banded together to sue. The judge ordered the National Institutes of Health (NIH) not to implement [a funding change the agency had announced](#) in the evening of Friday, February 7, which would dramatically reduce funding to universities and other research organizations for indirect costs related to research. The pause is to remain until otherwise ordered by the court. It only applies to the 22 states party to the lawsuit. A hearing is set for February 21, 2025.

On February 10, 2025, university leaders announced that they were also suing to halt the cuts, with the lawsuit [Association of American Medical Colleges v. National Institutes of Health \(1:25-cv-10340\)](#) that has the potential to be more far-reaching because the organizations filing it have nationwide reach.

A [third lawsuit](#) has been filed by organizations representing private and public universities including the Association of American Universities (AAU), American Council on Education, and Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, the University of California system, and 12 private universities.

On February 10, 2025, [STAT News](#) reported on that since Trump's return to the White House, many researchers have raised concerns over the administration's disruption of [grant reviews](#) and executive orders that [ended federal support](#) for programs that support diversity, equity, and inclusion. But at an institutional level, major universities have mostly been quiet and reluctant to directly oppose the administration.

"Now that Trump is going after the fiscal lifeblood of these institutions, however, that seems to be changing," the *STAT News* report said.

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*First they came for the Communists  
 And I did not speak out  
 Because I was not a Communist  
 Then they came for the Socialists  
 And I did not speak out  
 Because I was not a Socialist  
 Then they came for the trade unionists  
 And I did not speak out  
 Because I was not a trade unionist  
 Then they came for the Jews  
 And I did not speak out  
 Because I was not a Jew  
 Then they came for me  
 And there was no one left  
 To speak out for me*

Martin Niemöller

During the APA Justice monthly meeting on July 11, 2022, MIT Professor **Yoel Fink** who co-authored a faculty letter that sparked the "We Are All Gang Chen" movement nationwide, emphasized the tort in standing complacent in the face of injustice by quoting **Martin Niemöller** (1892–1984), a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany.

***"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.***

***"Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.***

***"Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.***

***"Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."***

# Third Court Injunction Against Trump's Executive Order Ending Birthright Citizenship



According to [AP News](#), *Reuters*, and multiple media reports, U.S. District Judge **Joseph N. Laplante** in New Hampshire has issued a preliminary injunction blocking President **Donald Trump's** executive order that sought to end birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to individuals residing in the country illegally. This decision marks the third such injunction against the order, following similar rulings by federal judges in Seattle and Maryland.

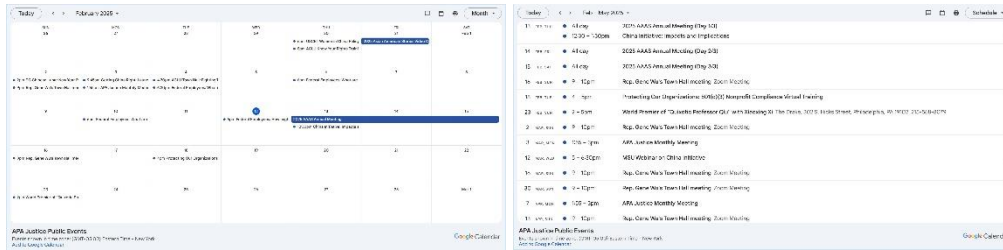
The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed the lawsuit, [New Hampshire Indonesian Community Support v. Trump \(1:25-cv00038\)](#), leading to Judge Laplante's ruling, arguing that the executive order violates the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which has been consistently interpreted to guarantee birthright citizenship to those born on U.S. soil.

According to the [Just Security Litigation Tracker](#), at least nine lawsuits have been filed against Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship.

On February 10, 2025, *New York Times* reported on **Wong Kim Ark** as "[This Man Won Birthright Citizenship for All.](#)" Today, the decision of [United States v. Wong Kim Ark \(1898\)](#) is the focus of debate over who can be an American.

## News and Activities for the Communities

### 1. APA Justice Community Calendar



## Upcoming Events:

- 2025/02/13 China Initiative: Impacts and Implications
- 2025/02/13-15 2025 AAAS Annual Meeting
- 2025/02/16 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
- 2025/02/18 Protecting Our Organizations: 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Compliance Virtual Training
- 2025/02/23 World Premier of "Quixotic Professor Qiu" with Xiaoxing Xi
- 2025/03/02 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
- 2025/03/03 APA Justice Monthly Meeting
- 2025/03/12 MSU Webinar on China Initiative
- 2025/03/16 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting

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

## 2. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine Held Town Hall and Offer Help to Feds



U.S. Senators **Tim Kaine** and **Mark Warner**, both of Virginia, held a town hall on February 10, 2025, to address a variety of issues related to President **Donald Trump's** executive actions. They have dedicated staff and set up these webpages to assist federal employees, including understanding their rights, filing complaints, and collecting stories about what they are experiencing.

- Senator Tim Kaine's Resources for Federal Workers: <https://bit.ly/4aVH0fa>, (202) 224-4024
- Senator Mark Warner's Resources for Federal Employees: <https://bit.ly/4iPaijz>, 202-224-2023



### 3. Reuters: Boston Man Cleared of US Charges He Acted as Chinese Agent

My News  

## Boston man cleared of US charges he acted as Chinese agent

By Nate Raymond

February 10, 2025 4:52 PM EST · Updated 4 hours ago

According to [Reuters](#) and multiple media reports on February 10, 2025, a jury found **Litang Liang** of Boston, a China-born U.S. citizen, not guilty of U.S. charges that he acted as an unlawful agent of China's government by supplying officials information about individuals, dissidents and groups in the local Chinese community. Lian, 65, was acquitted in federal court of charges in a case brought in 2023 that U.S. authorities had portrayed as part of their commitment to counter efforts by China's government to silence its critics abroad.

###

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 [www.apajusticetaskforce.org](http://www.apajusticetaskforce.org). We value your feedback. Please send your comments to [contact@apajustice.org](mailto:contact@apajustice.org).

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