## "Is This Patriot Enough?"

During the March 23, 2021 regular meeting of the board of trustees in West Chester Township, Ohio, which he chairs, Lee Wong (黄良華) gave an impassioned speech. Ever since Lee Wong came to the U.S. after graduating from high school more than a half century ago, he has faced questions about his patriotism. Despite his 20 years of service in the U.S. Army, he says his patriotism has also been questioned by people who "can't get over this face." "Here is my proof," said Wong, who unbuttoned his shirt and showed his scars. "Now, is this patriot enough?" A tweet including a video has received 4.7 million views so far.

Lee Wong is here for Asian Americans now. He has also been here for us before.

On March 14, 2017, Lee Wong braved extreme cold weather to <u>organize</u> and show his support for Sherry Chen in her fight for justice in front of the U.S. Courtroom in Cincinnati, Ohio. "I fought for the country and I support its people (Sherry Chen)," Lee Wong's sign reads. In addition to <u>speak to the media</u>, Lee Wong also provided a statement of support to Sherry Chen at <a href="https://bit.ly/3cu6tjp">https://bit.ly/3cu6tjp</a> (courtesy of Professor Changfu Chang).

A year later on April 23, 2018, the administrative judge ruled in a blockbuster decision in favor of Sherry Chen, agreeing that she was "a victim of gross injustice." Read more about the rally and the judge's decision at <a href="http://bit.ly/2016-2018">http://bit.ly/2016-2018</a>

However, Sherry Chen's fight for justice against the U.S. Department of Commerce continues to this date. Peter Toren, one of Sherry Chen's attorneys, provided an update on her situation in the <u>March 2021 APA Justice meeting</u>. Peter also reported that Sherry Chen is available to testify in <u>the requested hearing</u> by the House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties if invited.





## **National Day of Action and Healing**

March 26, 2021 was a virtual #StopAsianHate National Day of Action and Healing initiated by Rep. Grace Meng and her colleagues in Congress. The U.S. enacted its first immigration law on March 26, 1790. The Naturalization Act specified that "any alien, being a free white person," could apply for citizenship, but it excluded Black people, Asians and Native Americans.

<u>The Washington Post</u> reported that 26 governors and dozens of Asian Americans who have served in top roles across six presidential administrations issued a pair of statements forcefully condemned the spike in anti-Asian harassment over the past year in a show of bipartisan solidarity.

In the wake of anti-Asian hate crimes on the rise across the country and the tragic mass shootings in Georgia that claimed the lives of eight people, including six Asian women, Congresswoman Grace Meng and her colleagues encouraged members of the public, corporations, organizations and other entities to post statements on March 26 condemning the rise in hate and violence against Asian Americans that has occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A National Day of Action website provides an outline of actions with the White House, Congress, Department of Justice, media, business leaders, state and local elected officials, and other stakeholders. Congressional members visited and paid respects to to the victims of anti-Asian hate crimes in Atlanta and spoke in media interviews. Activities and rallies continued across the nation into Sunday. More at https://bit.ly/2KC7zuk

## **Upcoming Events**

The next APA Justice monthly meeting will be held on April 5, 2021. New speakers will include Patrick Toomey of ACLU and Alex Nowrasteh and Patrick Eddington of the Cato Institute. The meeting is by invitation only and off record unless with explicit permission of the speakers. Past monthly meeting summaries are available at <a href="https://bit.ly/3kxkqxP">https://bit.ly/3kxkqxP</a>

A webinar on "Managing National Security Risks for University Researchers + Their Start-ups" is being planned for April 29, 2021, starting at 12 noon ET. The expert panelists on trade compliance, export controls, national security, and sanctions will explore the strategies to navigate the complex cross-section of international funding of higher education research, start-ups and US national security interests.

Congress is currently in recess. According to the <u>calendar of the House Majority Leader</u>, the House is scheduled to return on April 13.

A National STOP AAPI HATE Virtual and In Person Rally led the Asian American organizations is being planned for mid-May 2021 at this time.

The trial of University of Tennessee Professor Anming Hu is set to commence on May 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

The trial for Kansas University Professor Franklin Tao is sheduled to begin on October 25, 2021.

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