

2024/06/03 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

APA Justice Meeting – Monday, 2024/06/03
1:55 pm Eastern Time / 10:55 am Pacific Time

1. CAPAC Updates

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

Nisha reported that May, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, was likely the busiest month of the year for CAPAC. She was pleased to have met many of us during this time.

Congress is gearing up for a busy legislative summer, particularly in the House.

The Agriculture Committee has begun the mark-up of the next Farm Bill. The appropriations process is also underway, moving towards mark-ups after members submitted their priorities. In addition, the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is in progress.

CAPAC is closely monitoring civil rights issues for Asian Americans, especially regarding research security and land and property ownership. There are efforts to reinstate the China Initiative, which CAPAC is actively tracking.

Nisha encouraged everyone to stay vigilant and collaborate with CAPAC members on these issues across various committees. She expressed special thanks to AASF and Advancing Justice | AAJC for their partnerships.

Nisha also mentioned a Bloomberg article about students being turned away at Dulles Airport and other ports of entry, highlighting this growing issue. CAPAC is tracking these developments and needs the community's support to balance all interests.

Finally, June is National Immigrant Heritage Month, and CAPAC will be uplifting immigrant stories throughout the month.

2. Anti-Profilng, Civil Rights & National Security Program - Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Speaker: Joanna YangQing Derman, Director, Anti-Profilng, Civil Rights & National Security Program, Advancing Justice | AAJC

Joanna reported that AAJC has significant work ahead concerning the Farm Bill, appropriations, and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

John Yang, President and Executive Director of AAJC, testified before the Texas Senate State Affairs Committee on May 29. The hearing addressed three interim charges or topics, one of which was foreign investment in Texas land.

John emphasized AAJC's deep concern about the resurgence of discriminatory land laws under the guise of national security. He underscored the historical context of AAPI discrimination and called for robust research to accurately identify the issues these land laws aim to address.

John successfully countered harmful and overbroad anti-China rhetoric that conflates Chinese individuals with the Chinese government.

Overall, it was a successful testimony, with special credit to Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) for facilitating the opportunity and playing a critical role in coordinating the response.

John Yang's written testimony is posted here: <https://bit.ly/3zkxgwe>

3. Update from Asian American Scholar Forum

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

Gisela began her report with a big shout-out to Nisha and CAPAC for organizing numerous events and demonstrating strong leadership during the month of May.

Regarding the NDAA, AASF is committed to ensuring that Asian American scholars have a voice by monitoring the bill and gathering feedback from AASF members and the Asian American scholar community on issues like research security.

AASF is keeping a close eye on HR 1398, the Protect America's Innovation and Economic Security from the CCP Act, which attempts to revive the China Initiative and increase scrutiny of the scholar community.

AASF plans to make a strong statement highlighting the exhaustive attempts by the House to reinstate the China Initiative and emphasizing the need for Congressional members to reconsider these efforts. This is not only crucial for the Asian American scholar community but also for the country, which benefits from the contributions of immigrant talent in science and technology.

Congressman Jerry Nadler supported AASF's stance, referencing a previous report detailing the harms and chilling effects of the China Initiative. He acknowledged CAPAC's efforts in alerting fellow Congressional members about this data.

Gisela also thanks CAPAC for alerting fellow Congressional members about the data and the issues.

AASF operates on the principle that policy changes are driven by data and stories from directly impacted communities. AASF aims to continue pushing back against efforts to reinstate the China Initiative in the long term, with the support of our coalition partners.

AASF is also advancing our education project with board member Dr. Gang Chan and community leaders Dr. Xiaoxing Xi, and Dr. Anming Hu. AASF is working to include their stories in academic institutions, legal curricula, undergraduate classes, and the mainstream public.

For instance, AASF has successfully integrated these stories into a Rutgers law course, where AASF and Dr. Xi interacted with law students. Recently, AASF participated in a reenactment of the China Initiative with Judge Chin and Dr. Xi in New York, discussing the legal narratives, stereotypes of perpetual foreigners, and Dr. Hu's personal experiences with racial profiling and bias. Audience feedback was very positive, and AASF believes this direct interaction will influence the next generation of attorneys, representatives, and hopefully, law enforcement.

AASF has been actively participating in AAPI Heritage Month to raise awareness about critical issues and celebrate Asian American scholars. A key part of the AASF mission is to highlight not just policy discussions but also the unique contributions of immigrant scholars.

AASF collaborated with the National Science Foundation on a private event showcasing the remarkable innovations of Asian American scientists. It also worked with Oak Ridge National Laboratory for their Heritage Month celebration, educating them on the historic challenges faced by Asian Americans and how they can better support their scientists and employees. AASF aims to continue these efforts and change hearts and minds.

Lastly, the AASF Youth Ambassador for Science video competition is ongoing. This unique opportunity allows high school students to celebrate prominent Asian American scientists and win Visa gift cards and other prizes to support their education. The contest has been extended through July 1. This fun initiative helps students learn about history while changing the narrative for Asian American scientists.

4. Update on Research on Research Security (RoRS) Workshop

Speaker: Tam Dao, Assistant Vice President for Research Security, Office of Research Security, Rice University

- 2024/05/28 Rice News: [Research security as a top government, university priority examined at Rice Baker Institute workshop](#)

On May 23 and 24, 2024, Rice University, in partnership with multiple organizations, hosted a groundbreaking global workshop to explore the emerging field of Research on Research Security (RoRS).

Tam Dao provided background information and outlined the workshop's two primary objectives.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) launched the Research on Research Security program in 2023. It was inspired by a JASON report on research security. The report raised critical questions such as: What should research security look like? How should it be studied? What areas need a deeper understanding?

In response to these questions, NSF decided to host this workshop with two goals in mind:

1. **Identifying Key Areas for Further Understanding:** The workshop aimed to pinpoint specific areas within research security that require deeper understanding. The goal was to generate research questions and testable hypotheses to guide NSF's funding priorities in this field.
2. **Building a Community of Practice:** NSF also sought to create a community of practice that could pursue these research opportunities once the requests for proposals are issued. NSF emphasized the importance of not only creating a research roadmap but also engaging scientists across various disciplines to apply for grants in this area.

For the workshop, Tam and Rice University brought together a diverse group of experts from across the United States and overseas, including participants from Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan, and the United Kingdom. These experts represented fields ranging from STEM to public policy, economics, business, social sciences, and law, offering a broad perspective on research areas needing further exploration.

Ideas were collected from the virtual session. They were then bucketed for the in-person workshop.

The workshop materials, including notes and videos, were organized into several thematic "buckets," with the first focusing on national security and the cross-cutting clusters identified in the JASON report.

Key themes included:

- **Defining the Scope of the Problem:** Assessing the true scale and scope of research security issues and determining how to study them effectively.
- **Data Access:** Addressing the challenges of accessing and utilizing relevant data.
- **Policy and Governance:** Examining the impact of policies at individual, institutional, and societal levels.

- **Risk Assessment in the Research Enterprise:** Developing models to assess and quantify risks associated with research activities in face of the challenge of defining and understanding the different perspectives of risk.
- **International Collaboration:** Understanding how policies affect international research collaborations and comparing approaches across different countries.

Some hurdles identified included data access, especially when dealing with classified information, and the need for innovative methods to share and analyze sensitive data. The integration of social scientists with experts in hard sciences was seen as crucial for advancing research in this area.

One of the biggest challenges is encouraging researchers to engage in this new field. NSF expressed concerns that despite generating research questions, scholars might hesitate to shift their focus to research security due to a lack of familiarity. Therefore, a key message from the workshop was to motivate the scholarly community to pursue these research grants.

The workshop's findings will be compiled into a report for NSF, with a planned delivery by the end of July or early August. NSF is eager to move forward quickly, likely driven by the requirements of the CHIPS and Science Act, which mandates progress in this area.

Overall, the workshop marked a significant step toward understanding and improving research security, fostering collaboration among scientists, and addressing the critical challenges identified.

5. 2024 Chinese American Convention

Speaker: Haipei Shue, President, United Chinese Americans

- United Chinese Americans: [2024 Chinese American Convention](#)

Haipei reported that the biannual Chinese American Convention this year will have the theme "Embracing the Civil Rights Movement of Our Time."

The Convention is scheduled to take place in Washington, DC, from June 27-30, 2024. The main events will be on Friday and Saturday, June 28 and 29, with additional activities to allow for travel days.

On June 27, there will be a Congressional Day where groups will visit Congressional Offices, followed by a Congressional reception at 6:00 pm. Haipei expects many special AAPI members to attend and engage at this reception.

The core programs on Friday and Saturday will primarily focus on civic engagement and political participation in the 2024 election in a bipartisan or nonpartisan manner, with a significant emphasis on civil rights politics.

The event will also feature award ceremonies recognizing organizations such as the ACLU, Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance (CALDA), and the Florida Asian American Justice Alliance (FAAJA), which emerged from last year's protest movements.

A gala dinner will include entertainment by comedian Joe Wong, known for his performances at the White House.

On Sunday, June 30, there will be a commemorative walk on the National Mall for civil rights. Starting from the corner of the Air and Space Museum, participants will walk toward the Lincoln Memorial, covering about 3K. The walk will include a detour past Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial for a small ceremony, followed by a one-hour program where sister organizations from diverse backgrounds and cultures will join at the Lincoln Memorial.

6. The Story of Exonerated Professor Anming Hu

Speaker: Jeremy Wu, Co-Organizer, APA Justice

- APA Justice Impacted Person web page (alpha version): <https://bit.ly/44V5tOG>
- Charlotte Ding, Website Developer, Cornell University
- Ryan Zhao, Website Developer, University of Texas at Austin

During the meeting, Jeremy Wu presented an early version of the APA Justice Impacted Person web page featuring Professor Anming Hu. This page documents his journey from being wrongfully indicted under the China Initiative to his reinstatement at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, alongside related activities.

APA Justice received a generous donation from an anonymous donor to support the creation of a new website. Charlotte Ding, a junior-turning-senior studying computer science at Cornell University, and Ryan Zhao, a sophomore-turning-junior at the University of Texas at Austin studying pre-med and computer science, have been instrumental in developing this website over the past year. They were recognized for their contributions during the monthly meeting.

The community is encouraged to explore Professor Anming Hu's story at this link <https://bit.ly/44V5tOG> and provide feedback on its content, navigation, and links by emailing contact@apajustice.org.

7. An Update by Professor Anming Hu

Speaker: Anming Hu, Professor, University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK)

Professor Anming Hu gave an update of his situation and his family since the end of his ordeal under the China Initiative.

Professor Hu expressed his appreciation to his attorney, Phil Lomonaco, several members of the UTK Faculty Senate, Congressional representatives, CAPAC, Asian American organizations of justice for their support.

After Professor Hu was reinstated to UTK, he spent one year rebuilding his lab with startup support from UTK administrative leadership. He was able to purchase some new equipment and devices and repaired old and broken devices.

After Professor Hu was indicted, UTK terminated his employment and his lab was closed. His equipment was moved to storage or distributed to other faculties. When he returned to UTK, he regained about 95% of the devices. These devices are very delicate and precise, some of them were unique optical components that required dustless protection.

Nearly 50% of his facilities could not work properly. Nearly 30% were totally damaged.

With the help of his previous collaborators, two of Professor Hu's PhD students graduated and went back to China in 2022 and 2023 respectively. Professor Hu spent another year applying for external funds and hiring new students.

To earn research funds is core work. However, his previous sponsors could not support him due to many reasons. Professor Hu had to reshape his research directions, seek new opportunities, and start from scratch.

After submitting several proposals, Professor Hu secured one federal fund and one industrial fund. Currently, one new PhD student and two undergraduate students are hired in his lab. But this is only about 30% of the size of his previous group.

It would probably take one or two more years before Professor Hu could fully recover his previous research scale and activities.

The wrongful malicious prosecution caused serious damage to Professor Hu's family, both mentally and physically. His wife Ivy, his two sons, and he still have issues sleeping and had frequent nightmares. Sometimes, he has to rely on medication for sleeping.

Even now his wife is still nervous when she hears a phone call in the afternoon, because their son called her in the afternoon to inform her that Professor Hu was arrested. She lost lots of her hair. It took them almost two years to return to a normal life.

During the past two years, his wife, two sons, and Professor Hu himself talked a lot to their colleagues, friends, church groups about the wrongful prosecution and their fight for justice.

Professor Hu joined the China Initiative and Civil Right panel discussion of National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) annual meeting last November and the education program of Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) last week.

Even after Professor Hu returned to UTK for nearly two years, the US government still accused him of being a member of the Thousand Talents Program. He was not. They also accused him of recruiting students for the Thousand Talents Program.

With the help of his two lawyers, they fought with the US immigration agency and talked with the Congressional representatives. With the help of U.S. Representatives Judy Chu, Ted Lieu, and Jamie Raskin, also with the UTK provost, Professor Hu's permanent residency (green card) was approved in March 2024.

Therefore, Professor Hu can remain in the state and continue his position at UTK. Two weeks ago, the green card of his older son was also approved.

Finally, Professor Hu thanked APA Justice for providing him a chance to update his situation. He also thanked all the people who have supported him!

8. Q&A and Discussions

9. Next Meeting

- Monday, July 1, 2024, starting 1:55 pm ET/10:55 am PT