



Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner Issues Statement Condemning Anti-Asian American Pacific Islander Attacks

Attacks against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities have risen at an alarming rate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Disturbingly, numerous incidents of anti-AAPI violence have occurred throughout California and in the Bay Area, as misinformation, fear, and racism have fueled violence against AAPI communities across the nation.

Last week, the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the California Affinity Judicial Association Coalition (CAJAC), and the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association (CAPAJA) issued statements roundly condemning the rise of racist and xenophobic anti-AAPI harassment and assaults.

“The Santa Clara County Superior Court stands behind the statements from the Chief Justice, CAJAC and CAPAJA, and is firm in its conviction that anti-AAPI hate in all of its forms is intolerable and must be stopped. The welfare and safety of our community are of the highest priority, and no one should experience violence, fear, or intimidation due to their race, national origin, gender, or identity,” said Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner.

Please take a few moments to read the statements from the Chief Justice and the CAJAC/CAPAJA. You can follow the links or read the original statements below.

- [California Chief Justice Responds to Violence Against Asians and Asian Americans](#)
- [The California Affinity Judicial Association Coalition \(CAJAC\) Condemns the Rise in Attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#)

California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye today issued the following statement on recent violent attacks against Asians and Asian Americans:

“Anti-Asian violence, like any violence based on prejudice, bias, or fear of the other, is reprehensible. Because of who I am as an Asian-Filipina, because of my parents, my aunties, friends, and connected communities of color, these attacks feel more personal. We can and must do better. We deepen our understanding by advancing diversity and respecting our differences. In respecting our differences, we strengthen our social contract. In strengthening our social contract, we abide by the rule of law. As we pass and approach many anniversaries relating to the pandemic, it is disheartening that while we have made progress on the virus, the disease of racism remains.”

The California Affinity Judicial Association Coalition Condemns the Rise in Attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:

The California Affinity Judicial Association Coalition (CAJAC) strongly condemns the rise in violence and hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in California and across the nation.

These attacks and incidents of racism threaten the collective public safety of all AAPIs. It is a sad and difficult time for the AAPI community. The series of recent assaults and deadly attacks on the Asian American elderly and other community members are not isolated incidents. Numerous studies have indicated a rise in widespread anti-AAPI sentiment and xenophobia. The current xenophobia targeting AAPIs is just the newest chapter in America's history of treating AAPIs as the "Yellow Peril."

We applaud California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye for addressing racism and bias last year as well as the California Supreme Court for issuing a statement on equality and inclusion on June 11, 2020: "We state clearly and without equivocation that we condemn racism in all its forms: conscious, unconscious, institutional, structural, historic, and continuing. We say this as persons who believe all members of humanity deserve equal respect and dignity; as citizens committed to building a more perfect Union; and as leaders of an institution whose fundamental mission is to ensure equal justice under the law for every single person."

It is with these words in mind that CAJAC and its member associations look forward to working with others in condemning racism in all its forms and to educating the community on the risk of violence against AAPIs.

CAJAC is comprised of the Association of African American California Judicial Officers (AAACJO), the California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association (CAPAJA) the California Association of Black Lawyers, Judicial Council (CABLJC), the California Latino Judges Association (CLJA), and LGBT Judges of California (LGBT JOC).

CAPAJA is committed to improving the administration of justice and promoting diversity in the legal profession through community outreach and educational programs. If you are interested in becoming more involved in CAPAJA, please contact us at capaja2020@gmail.com