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## Updates on The Florida Alien Land Bill Lawsuit



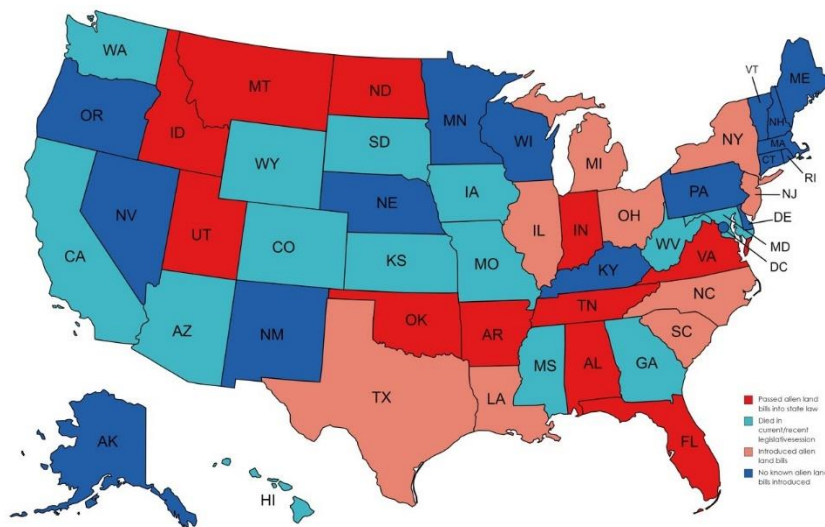
On July 3, 2023, **Clay Zhu 朱可亮**, Partner, DeHeng Law Offices 德恒律师事务所; Founder, Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance 华美维权同盟, provided these updates on the Florida alien land bill lawsuit:

- Prior to the Florida state law becoming effective on July 1, the legal team of more than 10 attorneys filed a motion for preliminary injunction on June 7, seeking a ruling that would declare the law to be unconstitutional and should be stopped.
- A major law firm, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, has joined the case pro bono. A hard-fought battle in the district court and the appeals court is anticipated.
- Nineteen (19) groups including racial justice centers, bar associations, and civil rights organizations filed an amicus brief on June 13. They represent Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, South Asians, and Latinos.
- On Jun 27, the US Department of Justice filed an amicus brief on behalf of the federal government to support the motion for a preliminary injunction. The brief echoes our arguments on equal protection and the Fair Housing Act.
- The judge has decided on a timetable for the motion. As Clay was speaking on July 3, the Florida government was filing its opposition to the motion for preliminary injunction. The legal team will reply next week on July 11. The judge will hold a hearing on July 18. Clay and Ashley Gorski of ACLU will appear at the hearing. The judge is expected to rule at the end of July or early August.

On July 3, 2023, the Florida state government filed this 59-page opposition to the motion for preliminary injunction: <https://bit.ly/3PI06N5>

The July 18 hearing will be held at United States Courthouse, 111 N. Adams St., Fifth Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. The courtroom does not allow any kind of video or audio recording and no photography. All cell phones will be stored in a locker before passing security check in the courthouse. The public should be completely quiet during the entire hearing.

### Tracking Map and List Updated



07/04/2023 APA Justice

On July 4, 2023, the tracking map and list of individual alien land bills by state for the 2023 legislative sessions were updated due to

- The Arizona state legislature ended its session without taking action on its alien land bills
- [Ohio House Bill 212](#) sponsored by 35 Republican representatives was introduced on June 13, 2023. It was referred to committee on June 20.

Follow the tracking map and state-by-state list of alien land bills at <https://bit.ly/43oJOYI>

## Opinion: Banning Foreign Ownership of Land Doesn't Protect US. It Just Scapegoats Asian Americans

USA TODAY  
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U.S. Sports Entertainment Life Money Tech Travel [ Opinion ] Obituaries

# Banning foreign ownership of land doesn't protect US. It just scapegoats Asian Americans.

*My family knows firsthand that the real threat to America is not international competition, but our own racism and history of scapegoating.*

**Russell Jeung** Opinion contributor  
Published 5:01 a.m. ET July 4, 2023

According to a *USA Today* opinion by **Russell Jeung** on July 4, 2023, for four decades, his great-grandparents had homes and a thriving fishing business in Monterey, California. Yet soon after the mayor and local townspeople complained about Chinese settlement to the landlord, a mysterious fire destroyed the village in 1906. As onlookers cheered those who looted the homes, his great-grandparents lost all their property. With nothing left, they sought refuge and a new start in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Unfortunately, his family could not purchase a home for generations: California amended its Constitution in 1879 to state that only white residents or those of African descent could purchase property. The state's 1913 Alien Land Law employed racially coded terminology barring "aliens ineligible for citizenship" to keep Chinese and Japanese people from purchasing property.

Indeed, the only way his parents were finally able to buy a house in 1952 was through a non-Asian third party, because racially restrictive housing covenants kept them out of many neighborhoods.

As we Americans celebrate our nation's freedom on this Fourth of July, this history of state-sanctioned exclusion and discriminatory housing policies is repeating itself.

Capitalizing on current, widespread anti-China sentiment in the United States, lawmakers in nearly 30 states have proposed or have passed legislation banning foreign nationals, governments and companies from purchasing land, particularly farmland or property near military bases.

Although they ostensibly aim to protect America's national security, they have other dangerous consequences – stoking xenophobic biases and targeting of Asian Americans for further racial profiling and exclusion.

Bans on Chinese individuals and others of foreign nations from property ownership do not protect the United States, nor do they stave off any impending threat. Instead, what these laws effectively do is discriminate against Asian Americans and sanction greater scapegoating of

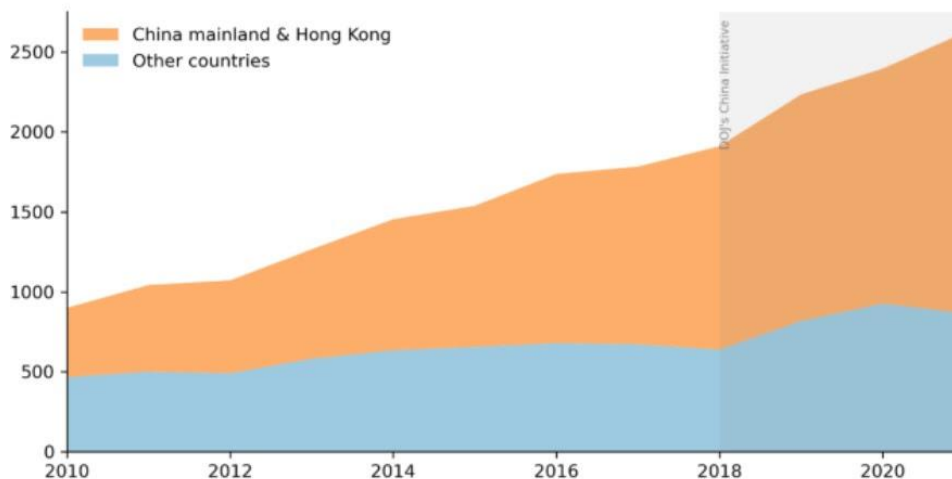
their communities. Such laws send a loud signal to the general public that certain groups are outsiders to America and don't belong.

The real threat to our nation's national security and our constitutional freedom is not international competition – but our own racism and history of scapegoating. This Fourth of July, let's not repeat the past but preserve our civil rights.

Russell Jeung is professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University.

Read the *USA Today* opinion: <https://bit.ly/46CwnLw>

## Chinese Scientists Increasingly Leaving U.S.



The annual number of Chinese-descended scientists who have left the U.S. for either China/Hong Kong or other countries.

Supplementary materials for “Caught in the crossfire: Fears of Chinese-American scientists”

On July 5, 2023, *Inside Higher Ed* reported on the findings of a new study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The paper suggests that the now-defunct "China initiative" investigations may have caused valuable researchers of Chinese descent to leave the U.S. for China based on data, from 2010 to 2021. The trend greatly accelerated in 2018 when the "China Initiative" was launched in 2018. There are questions over how much “the formal dropping of the ‘China Initiative’ name has been accompanied by substantive changes in the government’s practices that address the chilling effects.”

News on the investigations is still emerging. “So far, the China Initiative has openly investigated about 150 academic scientists and prosecuted two dozen of them with criminal charges ... with many more investigated in secret,” says the paper.

“I don’t feel safe anymore. I don’t apply for federal grants,” said **Kai Li**, a Princeton University professor and Asian American Scholar Forum founding vice president. “Why do we lose talents?” Li asked. “That’s a combination of issues, but mostly due to a chilling effect—and the chilling effect in the name of national security. But if we’re losing talents, that’s a national security problem by itself. If we don’t have the top talents, we’re losing leadership in science and technology.”

Citing a 2023 report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, **David J. Bier**, associate director of immigration studies for the libertarian Cato Institute, also pointed to the “China Initiative.” “This is a disturbing trend that started before the pandemic,” Bier wrote in April. “In fact, it appears to coincide with the Trump administration’s ‘China Initiative’—more accurately titled the anti-Chinese initiative. Launched in November 2018, the Department of Justice’s campaign was supposed to combat the overblown threat of intellectual property theft and espionage. In reality, it involved repeatedly intimidating institutions that employed scientists of Chinese heritage and attempting malicious failed prosecutions of scientists who worked with institutions in China.”

**Gisela Perez Kusakawa**, the Asian American Scholar Forum’s executive director, noted the fears shown in the study’s survey results. “We are going to have a younger generation who don’t feel that they’re welcomed in the United States,” Kusakawa said. “Despite the fact that many of them want to contribute to U.S. leadership.”

Read the *Inside Higher Ed* report: <https://bit.ly/3CZuOtF>

2023/07/04 Phys.org: [In the aftermath of 'The China Initiative' a survey finds a third of Chinese scientists feel unwelcome in U.S.](#)

## Houston’s Chinese American Community Is Asking The Public For Help



According to *Yahoo Finance*, **Holam Cheng** was returning home from work when he was shot during a robbery in front of his family's apartment in the 9200 block of Bellwood in Houston's Chinatown on June 25. According to the Houston Police Department, Cheng was shot four times during the incident. He was rushed to the Ben Taub Hospital, where he is currently listed in critical condition.

Cheng's daughter, **Michelle Cheng**, has set up a [GoFundMe page](#) to help raise funds for her father's medical expenses and for their family's utility bills. According to Michelle, doctors have "determined that they cannot remove all of [the bullets]" from Cheng's body, "resulting in a permanent disability." There is a total of 8 people in his family, 5 children, 2 adults, and an elderly. Cheng, who worked at a restaurant, immigrated to the U.S. more than 20 years ago with his wife, **Jianyun Ke**.

The brutal robbery and shooting are galvanizing Houston's Chinese American community to help the family. Social workers are walking the family through possible social services and counseling. "They just want to make sure there is food on the table, and their children have school and education," **Chi Mei Lin**, executive director of the Chinese Community Center, said. "They basically tolerate a lot of things."

Read the *Yahoo Finance* report: <https://yhoo.it/3JIH4Te>

### Chinese Community of Houston Invited to Two Town Hall Meetings Addressing Recent Robbery and Shooting Incident

**GENE WU**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137

**護家護民社區安全大會**  
**COMMUNITY SAFETY TOWN HALL MEETING**

- Hosted by State Representative **Gene Wu**  
由德州眾議員吳元之舉辦

**Speakers 主講人:**

- HPD Chief 休斯頓警察局長 **Troy Finner**
- Executive Assistant Chief 執行副局長 **Ban Tien**

Thursday, 07/06/2023, 7-9 PM  
2023年7月6日周四下午7點至9點

Chinese Community Center 中華文化服務中心  
Chao Center 2nd Floor Auditorium 9800C二樓禮堂  
9800 Town Park Dr, Houston, TX 77036  
(Please enter from Sovereign Dr. gate.)

OR

Join Us Online  
加入我們的網絡直播

ZOOM Meeting  
YouTube Live

**休斯頓 HOUSTON**  
**社區安全**  
**研討會**

2023年7月8日 上午10點  
Community Safety Forum  
Hosted by  
Chinese Civic Center  
July 8, 2023, Sat. 10am

主題:  
討論增強華人社區安全的方法和策略  
如何向政府部門提出加強安保的訴求等

中國人活動中心  
Chinese Civic Center  
5905 Sovereign Dr,  
Houston, TX 77036

ZOOM ID: 907 942 7803  
密碼: 8899

The Chinese community of Houston is organizing two crucial town hall meetings to address the alarming robbery and shooting incident that occurred on Sunday, June 25th, involving a restaurant employee in Asiatown. These meetings aim to provide information, support, and foster community dialogue on enhancing public safety measures.

The details of the town hall meetings are as follows:

1. Date: Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Venue: Chinese Community Center (2nd Floor Auditorium, Chao Center)  
Address: 9800 Town Park Dr, Houston, TX 77036  
Chief Guests: Houston Police Department's Chief Finner, First Assistant Chief Tien, and public safety leaders  
Zoom Broadcast: For those unable to attend in person, the meeting will be broadcast via Zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5639254958?pwd=YmwvWWd0cnlXdTZSOExOenB1VTZFdz09#success>
2. Date: Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Venue: Chinese Civic Center  
Address: 5905 Sovereign Dr, Houston, TX 77036  
Chief Guests: Houston Police Department leadership and public safety leaders  
Zoom Broadcast: For those unable to attend in person, the meeting will be broadcast via Zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9079427803?pwd=WjNLaKNOVWJhWld1YTFObEZUSmNxUT09> Zoom Link Password: 8899

Both town hall meetings will provide an opportunity for the Chinese community of Houston to engage with the Houston Police Department and public safety leaders. Attendees will receive updates on the progress of the investigation into the recent robbery and shooting incident, as well as discuss strategies to enhance safety measures within the community.

Members of the community are requested to RSVP in advance. Please contact Representative Gene Wu's office to confirm your attendance at [district137.wu@house.texas.gov](mailto:district137.wu@house.texas.gov)

We encourage all members of the community to actively participate in these town hall meetings to ensure their voices are heard, concerns addressed, and to collectively work towards building a safer environment.

## **Colonel Kalsi: Beyond The Call**



"Colonel Kalsi" is a documentary film about an American Sikh army officer's struggle to serve his country with honor and dignity.

**Kamaljeet Kalsi** always wanted to serve in the US army. His father had served in the Indian air force, and his grandfather in the British Army. As a son of an immigrant, he wanted to continue his family's tradition. He was willing to die for his adopted country. The one thing he was not willing to do, though, was to give up his religious identity.

Kamaljeet was born a Sikh and grew up immersed in the traditions and tenets of his faith. Sikhs wear a turban and a beard and adorn a strict religious uniform. Unshorn hair is a mark of their deep-rooted identity. "It is not just a baseball cap that you can just take off and put on at any time," he explains. "It is a part of my soul".

When Kamaljeet joined the Army, he was pursuing a career in medicine. While in training, the Army had no issue with him holding on to his religious identity or attire. But when the time came for him to deploy to Afghanistan, they reneged on their promise. They said he would have to cut his hair and shave his beard, as it would interfere with the mission and "esprit de corps" (spirit/cohesion of the unit), a reason that was often given to keep blacks, gays, women and others out of the forces.

The United States Armed forces desegregated in 1946 by order of then-president Harry Truman. It was a deeply unpopular decision, but it opened the doors to all and made any discrimination based on "race, color, religion or national origin" unlawful. Although the forces were desegregated by executive order, they were not welcoming to all -until recently. Kamaljeet decided to sue the US Army to obtain his religious accommodation, his constitutional right.

Dr. Kamal Kalsi is a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. He founded the Sikh American Veterans Alliance (SAVA) in order to promote diversity, religious freedom, and service.

Watch a trailer of the documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6UdaWM6yd0> (2:53).



# Understanding The FBI Webinar; Upcoming FBI-Community Roundtable



**Understanding the FBI:  
Its Mission, Motivations,  
and Tactics**

AUGUST 10TH 4:00- 5:00 PM ET

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gAorvODPQSSLXXuLqwuMGg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gAorvODPQSSLXXuLqwuMGg)

AASF is hosting an FBI teach-in to help the general public learn more about FBI investigations and tactics. Join us as the Brennan Center for Justice Liberty and National Security Program Fellow Mike German demystifies the FBI by explaining its missions and methods.

As relations between the government of the United States and China have grown more hostile, more and more Asian Americans, particularly those of Chinese descent are concerned about what their rights are and how they should respond when the FBI knocks on their door.

This webinar is intended to aid a greater understanding of the various reasons why the FBI might be interested in talking with you, to make these events less intimidating and assist you and your attorney in developing an appropriate response.

Michael German is a fellow with the Liberty and National Security Program of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, where his work focuses on counterterrorism, law enforcement, and intelligence reform. He previously served sixteen years as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (1988-2004), where he conducted criminal investigations and undercover operations. He is the author of "Disrupt, Discredit, and Divide: How the New FBI Damages Democracy" (New Press, 2019).

AASF  
Asian American  
Scholar Forum

BRENNAN  
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FOR JUSTICE

**APA  
Justice**  
Service Justice Partners

**Presentation to  
FBI San Francisco Field Office Town Hall Meeting**  
Jeremy S. Wu, Ph. D.  
Co-organizer, APA Justice Task Force  
May 31, 2022

Thank you, Mr. Fields and the FBI San Francisco Field Office, for your outreach to our community and convening today's town hall to discuss one of the most serious issues impacting the Asian American community today. I regret that I cannot attend today's meeting because I was recently impacted by Covid.

The APA Justice Task Force submitted a 10-page statement to you last week. I thank our friend Joel Wong for bringing hard copies to share with you in the meeting. I will read a short summary of the key points here and urge you to read the statement in its entirety.

Racial profiling, both conscious and unconscious, is an invidious form of anti-Asian hate that has a long history and devastating consequences. And it keeps repeating.

Wen Ho Lee, Sherry Chen, Xiaoxing Xu, Anming Hu, and Gang Chen are some of the innocent Chinese American scientists who were wrongfully prosecuted and suffered devastating consequences. Most of them are U.S. citizens. Although they have been exonerated, their career, reputation, finance, and families were severely damaged.

Except for Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, the United States is a nation of immigrants. Some came earlier than others; some came more willingly than others.

Asians came to the U.S. more than 170 years ago. They have made contributions to every segment of the American society. However, they are repeatedly stereotyped and subject to bias as "Perpetual Foreigners" who are outsiders, pose threats, to be feared, and suspect of their loyalty to the U.S., frequently by the government itself.

Not too long ago, we were portrayed as "thousand grains of sand" working for the People's Republic of China. Today, we are alleged to be "non-traditional collectors" and require a "whole-of-society approach" to address the threat we pose to the United States. It is wrong, and it must change.

The Department of Justice launched the ill-conceived "China Initiative" in November 2018. It wasted valuable taxpayers' dollars and failed in four major areas:

1

Mark your calendar for August 10, 2023, the Asian American Scholar Forum and the Brennan Center for Justice will host a webinar on Understanding the FBI: Its Mission, Motivations, and Tactics. The speaker will be **Mike German**, Michael German is a fellow with the Liberty and National Security Program of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, where his work focuses on counterterrorism, law enforcement, and intelligence reform. He previously served sixteen years as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (1988-2004), where he conducted criminal investigations and undercover operations. He is the author of "Disrupt, Discredit, and Divide: How the New FBI Damages Democracy" (New Press, 2019). Register for the event at <https://bit.ly/3pAMzwh>

On July 26, 2023, FBI and the Department of Justice will host an Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Partners Roundtable in person in Washington DC or virtually.

On May 31, 2022, APA Justice submitted a 10-page statement in a town hall meeting hosted by the FBI San Francisco Field Office "to engage in an open and honest discussion about our program, better understand the AANHPI community's concerns [surrounding FBI national security investigations related to the People's Republic of China], and exchange ideas on ways we can collectively work to address those concerns": <https://bit.ly/3GD6fDL>. This is a summary of our statement: <https://bit.ly/3N6zaTp>

Five years ago on December 7, 2018, when the "China Initiative" was launched, Steven Pei and

Jeremy Wu, current Co-Organizers of APA Justice, were part of a small group that met with top officials at the FBI Headquarters. Read more about the visit at <https://bit.ly/3lcubz9>

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