The Litigation Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Call to Action to Address Anti-Asian Racism and Violence

The Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Litigation Section condemns the recent spate of racist and violent attacks against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Since March 19, 2020, Stop AAPI Hate has received over 3,700 reports of hate incidents, including over 1,600 reports from California. AAPI women have reported more than two-thirds of all incidents. Tragically, anti-Asian hate crimes have included physical assaults and murders, including the mass shooting and killing of eight people, including six AAPI women, in Atlanta, Georgia. We support our AAPI members during this difficult time and recognize that the impact of these events is being deeply and personally felt. As our California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye recently stated, “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.”

Anti-Asian racism, unfortunately, is not a new phenomenon. It is a part of the entrenched and systemic racism that has long existed, and continues to persist, in our country. We urge our members to engage in the hard work of addressing the systemic issues at the root of anti-Asian violence and learning how to address anti-Asian racism when they see it. We can start by educating ourselves about the history of anti-Asian racism in this country and the catalysts sparking the hate and violence experienced by AAPIs since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a starting point, we direct you to resources including the California Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association’s conference on APAs v. Hate (https://cal-apaba.wildapricot.org/APAs-vs-Hate) and bystander intervention training through Asian Americans Advancing Justice (https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/anti-asian-hate).

The Litigation Section stands in solidarity with AAPI communities and organizations fighting against racism. Together, we can work towards a society that has no place for racial hatred or violence.

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