

JUSTICE LEARNING CENTER



Anti-API Attacks in the Time of Covid19: Building Solidarity & Fighting Back Together

April 15, 2020

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This webinar will address the history of anti-Asian bias and the heightened attacks on Asian Americans today in the U.S. The webinar will also address the effects on API individuals and allies, a new wave of bigotry brought on largely by national leadership labeling the corona virus as a “Chinese virus” and attributing blame to Asians for the current suffering from the pandemic. The workshop will also present implications on immigration. And finally, the workshop will present and discuss ways to fight against these attacks on the API Community or specifically against those now being targeted.

Guest Speaker and Panelists:



ELIZABETH R. OUYANG

Elizabeth R. Ouyang is a civil rights attorney and an adjunct professor at Columbia University Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race and New York University’s Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. She was appointed as a special assistant to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights by President Bill Clinton in 2000.

Professor Ouyang has litigated and worked as a community advocate for the past 30 years. One of her areas of expertise is combatting hate crimes. From law school to her position as a staff attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund to former President and current supervisor of OCA-NY’s Hate Crimes Prevention Art Project for teenagers (now in its 14th successful year), Professor Ouyang has worked in the preventative end of educating others to offering representation and advocacy to victims of hate crimes locally and nationally through the National Asian Pacific American Consortium and the former National Coalition of Anti-Asian Violence. Her assistance ranged from helping victims to

complete victim compensation forms, circulating petitions demanding justice, mediating resolutions of hate crimes, serving as a spokesperson for victims in meetings with the DA's office, to packing the courtroom with concerned community members.



REX CHEN

Rex Chen (he/him) is the Immigration Director for Legal Services NYC. He leads 45 lawyers, paralegals, and social workers who are focused on immigration legal services in all five boroughs of NYC. Rex is known nationally for litigating suppression motions and other advanced litigation court strategies. He is regularly invited to give trainings across the country and co-wrote a Vera Institute practice advisory on filing termination motions in immigration court to protect children. He is Taiwanese-American, a lawyer, and has won a Third Circuit appeal involving the intersection of a United Nations Convention and

immigration law.

After the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, Rex organized with NYC activists about attacks and immigration policies that targeted Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians. He worked on the case of David Wong, a Chinese immigrant wrongly convicted of murder in upstate New York. Legendary Japanese-American organizer, Yuri Kochiyama, and others highlighted that what David Wong suffered was an example of much broader issues in the criminal justice system.



SHANEHI SHAH

Shanehi Shah has served as the MPG Consultant for the API Affinity Group at LSNYC for the past two years. Shanehi has an MSW from Columbia University and a BA in Psychology & Social Behavior from the University of California, Irvine.

Shanehi is a social impact consultant, with over ten years of experience in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy, and Non-Profit Management. She has worked in a wide breadth of industries including finance, hospitality, education, workforce development, and philanthropy. Outside of her consulting work, Shanehi is an adjunct professor at Columbia University, and is the founder and principal consultant of Blockbreaker, a 3-session coaching model, designed to help entrepreneurs and other professionals break through their blocks and reignite their momentum.



JANICE CHUA (Moderator)

Janice Chua is an Immigration Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney at Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), where she provides training and mentoring to pro bono attorneys at law firms and corporations on a variety of immigration matters. Prior to joining the pro bono unit, she was a Staff Attorney at LSNYC's Queens office, focusing on humanitarian immigration relief. She started her legal career at New York Legal Assistance Group, where she represented individuals in removal proceedings and other complex immigration cases. Janice was in the first class of Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC) legal fellows, from 2014 to 2017. Through IJC, she represented detained families in Karnes and Dilley detention centers in Texas in 2015.

Janice received her law degree from Fordham University School of Law in 2014 where she dedicated herself to promoting economic justice and community development, and to fighting to protect the rights of survivors of human trafficking and workplace crimes.



ROSE MORGAN (Host)

Rose Morgan is the Coordinating Attorney for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Education at The Justice Learning Center for Legal Services NYC (LSNYC). Ms. Morgan has significant experience in early adult education as well as city government enforcing federal, state and local anti-discrimination laws in employment-related matters. Ms. Morgan has also developed, coordinated and presented trainings on a city, state and national level for lawyers and other advocates on substantive legal issues as well as discrimination and diversity matters. As a Senior Attorney at Legal Services NYC, Ms. Morgan has served clients in local legal services offices in Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan providing representation in the practice areas of employment discrimination, unemployment insurance, consumer and family law.

Ms. Morgan served as a former president of The Legal Services Staff Association and has continued her union work as an active participant on labor-management committees at LSNYC. Ms. Morgan was also a founding member of the New York State Diversity Committee and later the Diversity Committee at LSNYC. She has been an active participant in the development and implementation of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiative at LSNYC since its inception in 2016. Ms. Morgan currently serves on the Citywide Diversity Committee.

Ms. Morgan received her B.A. from The University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Juris Doctor from CUNY Law School. She is admitted to the bar in New York and New Jersey.

Rose Morgan, Coordinating Attorney
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Justice Learning Center - Legal Services NYC

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Additional Resources: <https://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/index.php/covid19>