



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCES RELEASE
OF REPORT ON RISE OF ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE IN NEW YORK DURING
COVID-19**

NEW YORK – February 10, 2021 - The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) is proud to announce the release of its report co-authored with Paul, Weiss, *A Rising Tide of Hate and Violence against Asian Americans in New York During COVID-19: Impact, Causes, Solutions*. Executive editors of the report were Chris Kwok, AABANY Board Director and Issues Committee Chair, and Karen King, Vice Chair of AABANY's Pro Bono and Community Service Committee and Counsel at Paul, Weiss. The report is dedicated to Corky Lee, who passed away on January 27, 2021 due to COVID-19. Corky was a revered photographer in the Asian American community who had been documenting the effort to combat anti-Asian violence and harassment in the wake of COVID-19.

AABANY will host a press conference on February 11, 2021 at 1:30 pm on Zoom, and press is invited. To register to attend and receive Zoom codes, go here: https://www.aabany.org/events/event_details.asp?legacy=1&id=1486669. A PDF copy of the report will be sent to registrants along with the Zoom codes. If you are unable to attend the press conference but would like to receive a PDF copy of the report, please contact main@aabany.org.

Using data from STOP AAPI Hate, the report describes the skyrocketing incidents, attacks, harassment, and violence against Asian Americans in New York during the COVID-19 pandemic and how this climate of racism and xenophobia has impacted the Asian American community. It provides a historical background and context of anti-Asian hate and violence, which reflects anti-Asian racism during times of economic downturn, war, and disease recurring throughout United States history. This unfortunate historical pattern re-emerged in 2020 and exploded during COVID-19. It was exacerbated by President Trump and other political leaders when they propagated inaccurate information about the origins of the virus and used terms such as "China Virus" and "Kung Flu." While many individuals and organizations in the community, including government officials at the federal, state, and local levels, have condemned anti-Asian racism and harassment due to COVID-19, the overall response from the government has been lacking.

The report offers seven proposals that AABANY hopes will turn back the rising tide of violence against Asian Americans in New York:

1. Clear Reporting Mechanisms for Victims, Including Online and Hotline Reporting
2. Uniform and Consistent Classification, Documentation, and Reporting of Hate Crimes by Law Enforcement as well as Uniform and Consistent Investigation and Prosecution of Hate Crimes

3. The Asian Hate Crimes Task Force and Greater Representation of Asians in Law Enforcement, Public Office, and the Courts
4. Public Education Campaign
5. Stronger Unity and Collaboration Among Minority Groups
6. Legislative Reform
7. Civil Actions

The report acknowledges President Biden's January 26, 2021 memorandum condemning racism and xenophobia against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and further recommends the appointment of Vice President Kamala Harris as the Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

"AABANY thanks Chris Kwok and Karen King for taking the lead as Executive Editors of this report, and we thank Paul, Weiss for contributing its resources and talented attorneys to help research and write the report. We are also grateful to the AABANY Student Leaders for their invaluable assistance. Finally, we thank NAPABA for its generous grant to fund this project," states AABANY President Sapna Palla. "There is no vaccine for hatred, ignorance, and racism, but we hope this report will increase awareness about the magnitude of the anti-Asian violence that has been prevalent in New York since the start of 2020. We hope that the report's proposals will bring about more effective government action and leadership at all levels, and prompt much-needed change that will eradicate the ongoing anti-Asian violence and harassment that has been plaguing us for far too long."

Paul, Weiss' chairman, Brad Karp states, "Paul, Weiss is proud to continue the fight for racial justice. There is zero tolerance for hatred and violence against Asian Americans who have long been the subject of prejudice and discrimination in the United States."

For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653-2168, or direct any inquiries to main@aabany.org.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian Pacific American community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the Asian Pacific American community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

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