



April 19, 2021

OPEN LETTER TO CALIFORNIA ATTORNEYS AND THE PUBLIC REGARDING ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE AND HATE

The State Bar of California, as part of a legal system dedicated to the rule of law and our national aspirations to equality and respect for all persons, condemns the recent rise in hatred and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). Indeed, while this problem has recently become more pronounced, it must also be recognized that it is not new, and efforts at redress have been too few and too ineffective.

According to California-based Stop AAPI Hate, hundreds of anti-AAPI hate incidents were reported in Los Angeles County alone since the beginning of the pandemic. And in a survey covering just 13 weeks, Californians reported more than 800 incidents of COVID-19-related discrimination and harassment, revealing a pervasive pattern of anti-AAPI hate that must be stopped.

This is unacceptable. These are attacks on our colleagues, friends, family, and neighbors. We cannot be silent and let this hate continue. We must speak out against bigotry and intolerance in all its forms.

The State Bar's mission includes furthering equity and inclusion for all people. All of us must find ways to act on that commitment. We encourage all California attorneys to become informed, call out intolerance, and work to eradicate the festering hate and racial injustice that the recent rise in anti-AAPI hate and violence demonstrate.

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