



JACL SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION COMMITTEE

SJAC ACTION ADVISORY REPORT

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Alien Enemy Act

The story of the incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry during WWII has been well-documented. Less well known is the experience of more than one million non-citizen immigrants classified as “[enemy aliens](#)” before, during, and after the war. Check out National Japanese American Historical Society’s [online exhibit](#) - Enemy Alien Files: Hidden Stories of WWII.

While the ACLU awaits the en banc rehearing decision of the panel of 15 judges in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in a case challenging the use of the AEA to deport Venezuelan immigrants, we are still seeking eligible amici curiae signers. You must be a descendant of someone detained under the Alien Enemies Act during WWII. This does not include individuals who were detained solely under E.O. 9066. It does include all Japanese Latin Americans (JLA) who were taken from Latin America and then held in the U.S. as enemy aliens under the AEA. If interested, please complete the [sign-on form](#). We have 193 descendants who have signed on to the brief so far and extend appreciation to the growing team of descendants and the Crystal City Pilgrimage team for their hard work in recruiting signers.



Alien Land Law

In 2026, Jason Phillips, senior policy analyst, expects the flow of state legislation prohibiting foreign governments and officials from obtaining or acquiring interest in real property near critical infrastructure projects to hold steady, including a number of carryover bills. [As of this writing](#), there have not been any related pre-files for the 2026 legislative sessions; however, the issue remains prominent and we expect a similar volume of legislation in the coming year.

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs (D) was the only governor to veto AZ SB1109 [legislation to prohibit the acquisition of real property from designated countries](#). Of all states that introduced legislation on this topic in 2025, Texas introduced the most by volume in 2025.



ARRT

[New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies](#) said a report for lawmakers is on track to be released later this year. A separate effort under the New York City Commission on Racial Equity (CORE) released [its first reparations report](#) last year. That report documented the work done so far, the depth of the issue, and outline next steps including research, and further outreach. Members of the CORE said the city and state have “separate but parallel processes.”

The state of Illinois’s African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission just published their full report on Illinois’s history of harm and racial discrimination against Black citizens— [summary here](#)



Birthright Citizenship

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and 48 of its affiliates and national associates from across the country have again united to defend the fundamental constitutional guarantee of citizenship for those born in the United States. Led by NAPABA, the nationwide coalition of bar organizations filed an amicus brief, which can be found [here](#), before the U.S. Supreme Court in Trump v. Barbara, No. 25-365. Oral argument is scheduled for April 1, 2026.

NAPABA and its coalition underscored then the historical significance of [United States v. Wong Kim Ark](#), 169 U.S. 649 (1898), the role of Asian Americans in shaping our nation’s foundational immigration and civil rights precedents, and the disproportionate harms that EO 14160, if upheld, would visit upon Asian American communities.

[SCOTUSBlog](#) posts guide to some of the briefs in support of ending birthright citizenship.



Trending News

Immigration dominated the lead-up to and delivery of the President’s State of the Union address on February 24th, with both parties using their guest lists as a deliberate messaging tool to [illustrate](#) their sharply different visions of the issue. As immigration takes center stage, these are the [current bills](#) being considered.

For those considering participating in a [No Kings Protest March](#) slated for March 28th, recommend checking on Protesters Safety Guidelines [PHR.org](#), as well as, ACLU’s Know your Rights video [here](#)



Resources

- [Litigation Tracker](#): Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions
- AEA [Talking points](#) [Send a message to your congressional member](#)
- How to set-up [alerts](#) to track legislative action



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SJAC Committee members: Naoko Fujii JD (Chair), Daniel Mayeda JD, Natsu Saito JD, Peggy Nagae JD, Carol Kawase. Questions? Contact us via [email](#). Advisory Committee members: Larry Oda, Mike Honda, Ken Massey JD, Gary Nakamura, Seia Watanabe, JACL DC Policy staff.

JACL is the Nation’s oldest and largest Asian American Pacific Islander Civil Rights Organization since 1929