

Last summer, as we all began to 'settle' into life with a pandemic, the news began to report about the proliferation of hate crimes, discrimination and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Largely, this trend was borne out of misinformation and rhetoric about the start and spread of the COVID-19 virus. While we were shocked and saddened by these acts, we also knew we had to act swiftly to give the AAPI people in our community a voice.

Hate crimes towards AAPI are up nearly 150% over the past year. And with the most recent events many have turned to CLI again and asked, "what can we do?" or "how can we help?" And while we don't have all the answers, we use the tools we have to educate and advise our legal community to stop the spread of hateful speech, discrimination and violence.

One of those tools is this video from our "Getting it Right" series from last summer that addresses these topics head on. Becoming an ally is the easiest and perhaps most meaningful thing we can all do during these times. However, Bystander Intervention remains paramount and a way we all can support and defend against discrimination. I would encourage everyone to watch this program to learn more tips and techniques. We have made this video free to anyone who wishes to watch and learn. [CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO](#)



As an organization born from inclusivity, CLI continues to be a safe place for all people and a place to come during these painful times. We stand ready to have difficult conversations, and believe these hard conversations are one of the ways we advance our mission. And we are not afraid to call this what it is. This is racism. And it has to stop. We will not let ideologies passed on from hateful, xenophobic, fear-mongering people continue to live and thrive in our community. We will continue to be a place of education, advancing diversity and creating cultures of inclusion not only in the legal community, but beyond.

We are so grateful to our panelists - Kenzo Kawanabe, Stephanie McConkie and Andrew Bennett for sharing their knowledge and helping everyone to do better. We will continue to support and provide a safe space for not only our Asian community, but any and all marginalized groups. And we will never stop combatting racism.

We stand in solidarity with our AAPI friends, neighbors, and colleagues as we condemn these actions and as we search for answers about how we can all move forward together.

We have additional resources in which we would like to share:

- [Stop AAPI Hate](#)
- [Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council](#)
- [I Holla Back](#)
- [Anti-Asian Violence Resources](#)
- [Anti-Hate Program from the Japanese American Citizens League](#)