

February 15, 2021

Dear Emory Law Community:

This past week, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee was pushed and killed on the sidewalk, a 64-year-old grandmother was assaulted and robbed in broad daylight, and 61-year-old Noel Quintana was slashed in the face, after which he received no help from fellow passengers. These are just a few incidents in the rise of violence and hate against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

2020 saw a 1,900% increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans. It's estimated that one in four Asian Americans has experienced anti-Asian hate since the pandemic started. This hate was further fueled by inflammatory and xenophobic rhetoric spoken by prominent members of government and institutions, resulting in increasing rates of bullying, harassment, and violent hate crimes against AAPI individuals. Furthermore, as always, AAPI struggles continue to be invisible, largely ignored by the media and America at large.

President Biden recently signed an [Executive Order](#) condemning Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance against the AAPI community—a good start in trying to reverse the harm that the White House has done, but not enough. As a community, AAPI individuals are used to being glossed over and ignored in our struggles. We are made to think we are being praised as the “model minority,” when in reality it weaponizes us against other minority groups, while further shielding our struggles.

We ask our Emory Law community and beyond to see us. See the struggles that we face and do something. Don't be the passengers who just watched as Noel Quintana was slashed across his face. Don't be the politicians who allowed and even endorsed the vile vitriol spewed against your fellow Americans. The AAPI community has supported its fellow Americans on the frontlines during this crisis, and we've confronted our own biases against other communities. Now, as we stand up for ourselves, screaming for help, we hope you will stand with us too.

Stay in solidarity,

Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
Chinese American Law Students Association (CALSA)
South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA)

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