



## **C-100's Educational and Public Awareness Efforts Regarding Asian Americans, Trade Secrets, and Economic Espionage**

In recent years, the incidences of Chinese Americans accused of and prosecuted for economic or corporate espionage in the United States have escalated. In many of these cases, despite the hyperbolic claims that the government made at the outset, prosecutors later dropped charges or reduced them greatly. These cases, often highly publicized, have the serious potential for tarnishing the reputation and image of Chinese Americans. On an individual level, accusations of economic espionage can have a devastating impact on a defendant's life and career and the effect of undermining trust between the U.S. and China.

As an organization committed to the full inclusion of Chinese Americans in the U.S., the Committee of 100 has been active for over 15 years in promoting due process and equal protection in economic espionage cases involving Chinese Americans. In 1999 and 2000, the Committee led a coalition to raise national awareness about the denial of due process in the Wen Ho Lee case of alleged espionage.

Since 2013, the Committee of 100 has been leading a series of educational seminars on the risks and requirements posed by complex U.S. laws on trade secrets, espionage, and export controls. Seminars are led by C-100 members who are leading experts and experienced lawyers in the areas of economic and corporate espionage. Programs have been held in Silicon Valley, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C., and at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) 2014 Annual Convention. Partnering organizations have included the Brookings Institution, Jones Day, the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at the Seattle University Law School, and others. Seminars are primarily addressed to Asian American professionals in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and provide a valuable public service by preventing Asian American scientists and government employees from being accused of wrongdoing due to insufficient knowledge of the risks and sensitivities involved in their fields.

The educational seminars complement C-100's efforts to collaborate with leaders in Congress, other Asian Pacific American organizations, and the U.S. government to address irresponsible prosecutions and practices inconsistent with the Justice Department's policies. On May 22, 2015, C-100 supported a Congressional request addressed to Attorney General Loretta Lynch to investigate whether racial profiling was involved in charges against Sherry Chen and in other similar cases. On September 4, 2015, C-100 led a coalition of seven national Asian Pacific American groups to call on the Attorney General to examine the growing number of criminal prosecutions with elements of racial discrimination and to work with Asian American groups to ensure the U.S. government can defend national security interests while upholding civil liberties for all Americans.

As a membership organization of illustrious Chinese Americans, C-100 is uniquely positioned to leverage its distinguished membership as well as its standing as a highly-reputable institution in both the Chinese American community and the U.S. legal and policy fields to promote justice and equal protection for Asian Americans.

To learn more, visit our website: [committee100.org](http://committee100.org).