



Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 Tel: (415) 921-5225
DC Office: 1629 K Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20006 Tel: (202) 223-1240
www.jacl.org

May 2, 2022

Wendell Pritchett
Interim President
1 College Hall, Rm 100/6380
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104
presweb@pobox.upenn.edu

Sent via email

Dear Dr. Pritchett,

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) demands the immediate suspension of the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)'s Robert Mundheim Professor of Law, Amy Wax. We are outraged and deeply concerned that someone like Professor Wax, who has a history of xenophobia, continues to be tenured as an educator specializing in social welfare law and policy. The racist and ethnocentric statements that have been issued by Professor Wax harm and threaten the safety and wellbeing of UPenn's students, faculty, and at-large community. We support the National Black Law Students Association, National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, and North American South Asian Law Association in condemning Professor Wax's hateful rhetoric. We request an expeditious suspension of Professor Wax, and strongly urge UPenn to revisit and enforce its stated policy of: "substantive institutional commitment to diversity along dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, veteran status, interests, perspectives, and socioeconomic status."

Since 1929, the JACL has worked tirelessly to preserve the history, culture, and legacy of Japanese Americans. For 93 years and counting, the JACL has supported, honored, and advanced policies that safeguard the interests of those who are Japanese Americans, and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. As the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, we are appalled and discontented by Professor Wax's anti-Asian statements, which minimize and discredit the contributions and achievements of Asian immigrants and Asian Americans. Furthermore, Professor Wax's remarks perpetuate antiquated yellow peril sentiments that have historically fostered the rise of verbal harassment and violence towards the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) throughout our country.

According to a national report conducted by Stop AAPI Hate, a total of 10,905 hate incidents against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) persons took place from March 19, 2020, to December 31, 2021. Professor Wax's derogatory statements come at a dangerous time for Asians and Asian Americans, a community that continues to experience unprecedented counts of racial discrimination and violence. For Professor Wax to state that the "United States is better off with

fewer Asians,” during a time when so many Asians and Asian Americans have tragically lost their lives due to bigotry, is offensive and dehumanizing.

We implore you to immediately suspend Professor Amy Wax from her teaching duties and request that you consider stripping her of her tenure. Outside of the Asian American community, Professor Wax has made multiple racist remarks directed at the Black community and other “non-western groups.” If UPenn is truly a place of equitable learning and nondiscrimination, as it claims to be, then it should take the steps that are necessary to address the chauvinistic behaviors and remarks of Professor Wax and enforce disciplinary action. We also request that the board actively consult, support, and work with the university’s Task Force on Support to Asian and Asian-American Students and Scholars (TAASS) to ensure that those experiencing “increased stigma, bias, discrimination, and violence during the COVID-19 pandemic” receive the support and protection they deserve.

Sincerely,



David Inoue
Executive Director

cc: Dean of the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School
truger@law.upenn.edu

Senior Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer
joannm@upenn.edu

Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff
gregrost@upenn.edu

Board of Trustees and Administrators
ofcsec@pobox.upenn.edu