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# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

**National Lodge**  
ESTABLISHED 1895

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: June 28, 2018**

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## **C.A.C.A. Joins Community Coalition for Justice for Sherry Chen**

San Francisco, June 28, 2018 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) joined a dozen community groups on June 20 in demanding justice for Sherry Chen, a naturalized Chinese American hydrologist at the National Weather Service (NWS), who had been falsely accused of espionage in 2014 by the Justice Department, only to have all charges dropped prior to trial in 2015.

In 2016, Ms. Chen was fired from her job by the Department of Commerce (DOC), which oversees the National Weather Service. Later, she successfully appealed her firing to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB). In the April 23, 2018, MSPB decision, the Chief Administrative Judge Michele Schroeder ruled that the DOC did not have cause to fire Sherry Chen, a “victim of gross injustice,” and that DOC top officials ignored or manipulated exculpatory evidence regarding Ms. Chen’s conduct. Judge Schroeder ordered the NWS to restore Ms. Chen’s position and provide back pay and benefits. Instead, the Commerce Department appealed the MSPB decision on June 18, 2018.

These organizations express concern over the DOC’s petition for review following Ms. Chen’s victory in her quest to be restored to her job. “Yesterday’s decision by the Commerce Department to appeal rather than comply with the MSPB decision further delays justice for Sherry Chen,” said Haipei Shue, President of United Chinese Americans and member of C.A.C.A. Washington, D.C. Chapter. “We greatly regret that the DOC could not abide by the rulings of their own Merit Systems Protection Board.”

Steve Simon, Sherry Chen’s attorney noted, “In their appeal brief, the Department of Commerce has recycled arguments that Judge Schroeder rejected and, worse yet, ignored once again exculpatory evidence presented at the hearing that the agency buried during the criminal and disciplinary investigations preceding Sherry’s arrest and termination.”

The organizations who have joined in the June 20 announcement in support of Ms. Chen included 80-20; Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF); Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles; Asian Pacific American Justice Task Force; Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA); Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA); Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.); Committee of 100 (C100); Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates; Ohio Chinese American Association (OCAA); and United Chinese Americans (UCA).



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Earlier on May 23, 2018, many of these participating organizations held a press conference on Capitol Hill along with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), including Representatives Judy Chu, CAPAC Chair, and Ted Lieu, Grace Meng, and Raja Krishnamoorthi, to draw attention to Ms. Chen's wrongful termination case and to issue a letter signed by 31 members of Congress requesting the Commerce Inspector General conduct an independent investigation into the mishandling of her case.

Community leaders and Congressional officials further stated the case against Ms. Chen, and separate charges that were brought and then dropped against Xiaoxing Xi, a Chinese-American professor at Temple University, raise concerns that Chinese-Americans have become targets for prosecution and workplace discrimination.

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Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.