



National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Statement of Support for Marriage Equality

Endorsed March 2013

WHEREAS, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, representing the interests of over 40,000 attorneys and more than 60 state and local Asian Pacific American bar associations; NAPABA members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government; and NAPABA is committed to addressing civil rights issues confronting Asian Pacific American communities and people of color;

WHEREAS, President Obama has declared the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional and has instructed the U.S. Department of Justice to stop defending it;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court is currently considering two cases dealing with marriage equality, *Windsor v. United States*, a challenge to DOMA, and *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, a challenge to California's Proposition 8;

WHEREAS, an increasing number of U.S. states and jurisdictions now allow same-sex couples to marry (with a total of nine states and the District of Columbia currently permitting marriage equality);

WHEREAS, at least 38,000 Asian Pacific Americans are part of a same-sex couple, and nearly 40% of such couples are raising children; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Americans have faced a history of marriage discrimination through anti-miscegenation laws in the 19th and 20th centuries, which prohibited marriage between them and whites.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NAPABA:

1. Continues to support the right of same-sex couples to marry and as a result will oppose efforts to eliminate or restrict marriage equality.
2. Supports efforts to ensure that the right of marriage equality is restored, protected, or enacted in jurisdictions where it currently does not exist.
3. Authorizes its president, board, and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to its members, affiliates, other bar associations, members of

Congress, the Administration, the press, and others to take steps to implement this resolution, as they deem necessary.