Statement Opposing Community Targeted Registries
Based on Religion, Race, Ethnicity, or National Origin

Endorsed January 2017

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 50,000 attorneys and approximately 75 national, 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, national security practices that target communities based on religion, race, ethnicity, or national origin profoundly affect Asian Pacific American and other communities of color across the country;

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific American community is mindful of the harmful legacy of national security programs targeting its communities both in the aftermath of the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, and in other contexts such as the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor;

WHEREAS, since September 11th, community targeted registry programs and policies such as the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS)\(^1\) have perpetuated sweeping and aggressive discrimination against members of Muslim, Arab, and South Asian American communities and those who appear to be part of those groups;

WHEREAS, Community Targeted Registries contribute to a culture that trickles suspicion and animus down from the government to the people, culminating in hate crimes against Asian Pacific Americans, such as the massacre of Sikhs practicing their faith at the gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin in 2012 and the widespread anti-Muslim animus in contemporary politics; and hate crimes against the same;

WHEREAS, Community Targeted Registries disrupt law enforcement’s relationships with immigrant communities and create mistrust and suspicion from immigrant communities;

WHEREAS, Government programs that target one group create a social and public animus against that specific group and those who appear to be of that group;

\(^1\) NSEERS was a program started in September 2002 under the Bush Administration requiring special registration of non-citizens entering the United States from 25 countries, disproportionately impacting Arab, South Asian, and Muslim communities. The program was officially rescinded by President Obama in December 2016.
WHEREAS, Community Targeted Registries are an ineffective law enforcement practice that focus on factors unrelated to criminal activity rather than on particularized suspicion of criminal behavior;

WHEREAS, Community Targeted Registries divert valuable law enforcement resources from the task of pursuing specific and actual threats to public safety;

WHEREAS, NAPABA maintains strong organizational positions opposing government policies and practices that enable racial profiling and discrimination, and NAPABA recognizes the role of discriminatory policies and positions of public figures in provoking or intensifying xenophobia and hate- or bias-motivated acts against Asian Pacific Americans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NAPABA:

1. Opposes vehemently any proposals by the federal government to create national security registries based on an individual’s religion, race, ethnicity, or national origin. These proposals include the creation of a “Muslim registry,” the revitalization of NSEERS, or similar programs, including community targeted surveillance, that are motivated by stereotypes and sanction the unjustified profiling of communities.

2. Authorizes its president, board, and staff, to communicate the contents 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.

3. Supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

---

3 See, e.g., Statement Opposing Hate- and Bias-Motivated Acts (2016).