Resolution Opposing White Supremacy

Endorsed January 2018

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 over 80 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 NAPABA has since its inception in 1988 been at the forefront of national and local activities in the areas of civil rights, combating anti-immigrant backlash and hate crimes;

WHEREAS the United States is experiencing a wave of intolerance and xenophobia, including a rise in the number of hate groups operating in the United States and a rise in hate crimes and incidents;

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific American community has, throughout the history of the United States, been subjected to the oppression of intolerant and xenophobic movements, such as the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 and the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II;

WHEREAS on Friday, August 11, 2017, a day before a White nationalist demonstration was scheduled to occur in Charlottesville, Virginia, hundreds of torch-bearing White nationalists, White supremacists, Klansmen, and neo-Nazis chanted racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant slogans and violently engaged with counter-demonstrators on and around the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville;

WHEREAS the next day, ahead of the scheduled start time of the planned march, protesters and counter-demonstrators gathered at Emancipation Park in Charlottesville;

WHEREAS the extremist demonstration turned violent, culminating in the death of peaceful counter-demonstrator Heather Heyer and injuries to 19 other individuals after a neo-Nazi sympathizer allegedly drove a vehicle into a crowd;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAPABA:

1. Condemns and rejects white nationalism, white supremacy, the so-called Alt-Right, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups;
2. Urges all political and civic leaders to speak out against racism, anti-Semitism, white supremacy, and xenophobia;

3. Authorizes its president, board, and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to its members, affiliate and associate organizations, other bar associations, members of Congress, the Administration, the press, and others and to take steps to implement this resolution, as they deem necessary.

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 Supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.