



ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

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NFALA STATEMENT ON U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION IN *TRUMP V. HAWAII*

The National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) is deeply disappointed in the United States Supreme Court's decision to uphold President Trump's Muslim Ban in *Trump v. State of Hawaii*. In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court ended the Ninth Circuit's injunction of President Trump's revised executive order that bars individuals from six Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.

NFALA joined the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and dozens of Asian Pacific American bar associations opposing the original Muslim ban executive order and its later variants in amicus briefs in support of Hawaii's challenge to the original and revised orders in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Supreme Court.

"We joined with NAPABA to oppose an executive order that targets a religious minority and stigmatizes immigrants out of hostility and fear," said NFALA President David Mesa. "Notably, after 74 years, the Supreme Court overruled the 'gravely wrong' *Korematsu* decision rejecting the repugnant race-based relocation and incarceration of Japanese Americans."

Mesa continued: "Tragically, the majority failed to apply *Korematsu*'s chief lesson: that national security is no cover for racial animus. We regret that the Supreme Court has, in the words of Justice Sotomayor in her dissent, chosen to 'sanction a discriminatory policy motivated by animosity toward a disfavored group, all in the name of a superficial claim of national security... redeploy[ing] the same dangerous logic underlying *Korematsu* and merely replac[ing] one 'gravely wrong' decision with another.'"

NFALA is the national voice for the Filipino-American legal profession. It advocates for justice, civil rights, and equal opportunity for the Filipino-American community. It cultivates high standards of integrity and professionalism among its members and strives for the advancement and success of Filipino-Americans within the profession. NFALA is a family, comprised of members throughout the United States, with the shared goal of increasing its national growth, impact, and visibility while also celebrating its members' cultural heritage.

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