



For Immediate Release

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NFALA CELEBRATES THE SIGNING OF THE RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT INTO LAW

WASHINGTON, DC – On December 13, 2022, President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law after the bill passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support. NFALA applauds Congress and the Biden administration for codifying federal protections of same-sex and interracial marriages.

The Respect for Marriage Act requires the federal government and states to recognize same-sex and interracial marriages across state lines. The law also repealed the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as between a man and a woman and allowed states to decline the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states. Until now, the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act remained on the books despite being declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court's rulings in *United States v. Windsor* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

"The codification of all rights, protections, or duties pertaining to or arising from same-sex and interracial marriages comes at a time when the pursuit of equality and justice for all is more imperative than ever," said Gage Javier, President of the National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA). "As we celebrate this milestone achievement towards marriage equality, we recognize that more work needs to be done to ensure LGBTQIA+ and racial equality in this country. NFALA recommits itself to this cause and will continue to be an advocate of equal justice for all."

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.

To learn more about NFALA, visit nfala.com, like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on Twitter ([@NFALA1](#)) and Instagram ([@filamlawyers](#)).