



**For Immediate Release**

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**NFALA STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH DIVERSE COMMUNITIES  
DESPITE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DECISION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) condemns the decision by the United States Supreme Court in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*. The Court held that Harvard and the University of North Carolina's admissions programs violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment due to their consideration of race as a factor in a holistic college admissions process.

With the Supreme Court's decision, we are left with a framework that ignores our history of racial hierarchy and the remnants of slavery; and further impedes efforts to achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the pipelines of leadership. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor noted in her dissent, "Ignoring race will not equalize a society that is racially unequal. What was true in the 1860s, and again in 1954, is true today: Equality requires acknowledgment of inequality." Diverse perspectives enrich our schools, businesses, and provide us with creative, novel, and inclusive solutions to tackle the emerging issues of our world.

This Supreme Court decision impacts Filipino American representation in institutions of higher learning, the legal community, and positions of leadership, and impacts our ability to shape policy in our country. As Filipino Americans, we are no stranger to discrimination, hate, or violence. Because of our stories and our histories, the grit and tenacity passed down by generations of agitators, farmworkers, nurses, and labor organizers, and our history of cross-racial solidarity; we must continue to champion opportunities for inclusivity and fight further attempts to omit our contributions to civil rights in this country.

NFALA is a beacon for Filipino American excellence and home for all community leaders and advocates for justice. We are building the pipeline for young Filipino Americans to become the future leaders in this country. We understand the framework upon which barriers to resources disproportionately affect marginalized communities. As Filipino American lawyers, we are not alone in the struggle against racism, colorism, sexism, cissexism, ableism, etc. We stand in solidarity with diverse communities to continue efforts to achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the profession.

We call for diversity in admissions offices. We call for better efforts to track and report disaggregated data, including those relating to ethnicity, and multicultural and intersectional identities. We call for mandatory CLE trainings on diversity, equity and inclusion. We call for robust efforts in the recruitment, hiring, and professional and leadership development of diverse attorneys at all levels of the profession. We call for equity and equality in the administration of justice. As Filipino American attorneys and leaders in the legal profession, we commit to educating ourselves, other lawyers, and our community members on the importance of diversity and cross-racial solidarity, and other legal issues that have long-standing impacts on our community. We will continue to work towards mentoring, supporting, and empowering the next generation of Filipino American lawyers,

including working with K-12, college, and law students. Join us in this fight and stay tuned on the many ways you can help our communities.

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*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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