



NAPABA

Statement of Support for LGBTQ Equality

Endorsed January 2016
Amended February 2020

1 **WHEREAS**, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the preeminent
2 professional development organization and voice for 50,000 Asian Pacific American attorneys,
3 judges, law professors, and law students. NAPABA represents the interests of nearly 90 national,
4 state, and local Asian Pacific American bar associations.

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6 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA is the national voice for the Asian Pacific American legal profession; promotes
7 justice, equity, and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans; and fosters professional development,
8 legal scholarship, advocacy, and community involvement.

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10 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA has a long-standing commitment to supporting the civil rights of all
11 members of our community, including our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer
12 (LGBTQ) brothers and sisters;

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14 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA recognizes that there are legal, cultural, and social issues specific to the
15 Asian Pacific American LGBTQ community;

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17 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA recognizes that Asian Pacific American LGBTQ people have a human
18 right to be free from discrimination, threats, and violence based on their LGBTQ status and a
19 constitutional right to be treated equally under the law;

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21 **WHEREAS**, numerous jurisdictions have considered or are considering legislation that would
22 discriminate against, harm, or otherwise deny equal rights from Asian Pacific Americans who
23 identify or are perceived as LGBTQ; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA condemns all laws, regulations and rules or practices that discriminate
26 on the basis that an Asian Pacific American individual is LGBTQ.

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28 **WHEREAS**, 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, a momentous historic
29 event where the LGBTQ community and allies protested against the discrimination and
30 harassment faced from the New York Police Department, and sparking the very first Pride
31 March.

32 33 34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NAPABA:**

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- 36 1. Urges the government, at local, state, and federal levels to repeal any existing
37 discriminatory and unjust laws, regulations, and practices with deliberate speed and
38 ensure the safety and equal protection under the law of all Asian Pacific American
39 LGBTQ people.
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 - 41 2. Urges the government, at local, state and federal levels, to work to defend and protect
42 Asian Pacific American victims of anti-LGBTQ discrimination or conduct, including
43 threats and violence, and to recognize and support their colleagues who take these
44 cases as human rights advocates.

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3. Urges the government, other bar associations and all attorneys in jurisdictions where there are such discriminatory laws or incidents targeting Asian Pacific American LGBTQ people to work to defend victims of anti-LGBTQ discrimination or conduct, and to recognize and support their colleagues who take these cases as human rights advocates.
4. Urges Congress to pass and the President to enact the Equality Act, a bill that passed the House of Representatives May 17, 2019 that would amend the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination “on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition of an individual, as well as because of sex-based stereotypes.”
5. 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.
6. Supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.