

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Asian American Leaders Express Disappointment at Court's Decision, Remain Hopeful

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San Francisco, California – Asian Equality (formerly APACE), a national coalition of Asian Pacific American (APA) leaders and organizations in support of marriage equality, today announced its disappointment at the California Supreme Court's ruling that Mayor Gavin Newsom exceeded his authority to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"Today's court ruling is nothing more than a minor setback," said Kai Lee of Asian Equality. "The movement for marriage equality is too bright and too brilliant to be dimmed by the forces of homophobia and hate. We remain hopeful and optimistic that the struggle in California will prevail."

In the months ahead, Asian Equality plans to engage in outreach and education to build support for marriage equality in APA communities and at large. Asian Equality also hopes to educate California state legislators on the legacy of marriage discrimination faced by APAs, as well as its continued impact against same-sex couples in their communities.

"Marriage equality is not simply a gay issue, it is an Asian issue," said Andy Wong of Asian Equality. "Tens of thousands of same-sex couples in our Asian communities would stand to benefit from the protections that marriage would afford their families. We must stand in solidarity with them. "

Asian Equality – along with Equality California, Marriage Equality California, Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, and other groups – recently organized the nation's first-ever APA demonstration for marriage equality in San Francisco's Sunset District. The event drew hundreds of supporters across the Bay Area, and was supported by some of the most prominent APA civil rights organizations in the country.

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Mission Statement: Asian Equality (formerly APACE) recognizes the historical legacy of marriage discrimination in the United States and its profound impact on Asian Pacific American families. Through community education and coalition building, we seek to empower our APA communities to challenge this legacy and to confront present-day marriage discrimination against same-sex couples. In doing so, we want to affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members in our communities and acknowledge the enriching presence of their love and lives. (www.asianequality.org)