

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

CONTACTS:

Roberto Bernardo
E-mail: mistergapa@yahoo.com
Tel: (650) 794-1810

Andy Wong
andy@asianequality.org
xxx-xxx-xxxx

**ASIAN AMERICANS CELEBRATE TRIAL COURT RULING:
MARRIAGE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SAME-SEX COUPLES
IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

San Francisco Asian Americans to Rally Tonight

[San Francisco, CA] In a huge step forward in the struggle for marriage equality, today San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer determined that denying gays and lesbians the right to marry violates the California Constitution in the historic consolidated marriage cases entitled *Woo v Lockyer, et al.* Asian Americans are gathering tonight in San Francisco at 5:00 pm at Harvey Milk Plaza (corner of Market and Castro) to celebrate this historic decision.

"This ruling is meaningful to so many gay and lesbian families in our Asian American communities. It represents a major breakthrough toward same-sex couples and their children gaining the same family protections afforded all other married couples," said Robert Bernardo of Gay Asian Pacific Alliance. "In essence, the court held that the state of California can no longer treat us as second-class citizens."

The chief plaintiffs in the lawsuit include Chinese American couple, Lancy Woo and Cristy Chung, who together have a young daughter named Olivia. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit also include interracial couple, Stuart Gaffney and John Lewis. Gaffney's mother is Chinese American, and his father is white. They were only able to marry over fifty years ago because the California Supreme overturned the ban on interracial marriage.

The Court's decision comes in the wake of New York State Supreme Justice Doris Ling-Cohan's ruling that struck down New York City's ban on access to marriage for same-sex couples this February. Ling-Cohan, herself Chinese American, repeatedly used the history of interracial marriages in America in her justification for extending equal marriage rights to same-sex couples.

About the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA): *Founded in 1988, the San Francisco Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) is an organization dedicated to promoting the interests of gay & bisexual Asian/Pacific Islanders by creating awareness, by developing a positive collective identity, and by establishing a supportive community. Website: www.gapa.org*

About Asian Equality: *Asian Equality is a coalition of nearly 50 community and civil rights organizations across the country committed to ending marriage discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) members of our Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities. Website: www.asianequality.org*

About Equality California (EQCA): *Equality California, the state's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights advocacy organization, leads efforts for LGBT equality in by proposing, sponsoring and lobbying for the passage of LGBT civil rights legislation. Website: www.eqca.org*

###