

**The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium  
Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 23, 2003

**CONTACT: Andrew Rice**  
(202) 296-2300

**NAPALC Pleased with Supreme Court's Decisions Upholding Affirmative Action**

Washington, D.C. – The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium and its affiliates, the Asian Law Caucus and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, applaud the Supreme Court of the United States for its decision in the cases of *Gratz v. Bollinger* (undergraduate program) and *Grutter v. Bollinger* (law school program), upholding the use of affirmative action and the constitutionality of the University's law school admissions program. The Court endorses the view that student body diversity is a compelling state interest in the context of university admissions. In February, NAPALC, along with 27 other Asian Pacific American organizations from the business, legal, civil rights, and community sectors, filed an amicus brief in support of the University of Michigan.

In *Grutter v. Bollinger* and in *Gratz v. Bollinger*, two Caucasian students who were denied admission, brought an action against the University of Michigan and University of Michigan Law School, respectively, with a claim that the use of race as a factor in consideration of applicants is unconstitutional. The Court did not find that either student's rights were violated by the school's pursuit of racial diversity. Today's rulings preserve the concept of affirmative action.

"The Supreme Court's decision reaffirms the need for affirmative action initiatives in America today," said Karen K. Narasaki, President and Executive Director of NAPALC. "Asian Pacific American students will now be ensured that the student body will be representative of American society and that the Supreme Court recognizes that discrimination is still a factor that affects all minorities."

"Diversity in higher education has a tremendous effect on both the quality of the learning environment and the future diversity of the workplace," said Stewart Kwoh, Executive Director of APALC. "The research is clear and the Supreme Court has affirmed that students interacting with people from different backgrounds are better prepared to work in an increasingly integrated working environment."

"The Supreme Court's recognition of diversity as an important component in selecting a student body is a victory," said Phil Ting, Executive Director of the Asian Law Caucus. "The Supreme Court has issued a clear message that affirmative action is valued by America and programs that promote diversity in higher education better prepares all students, including Asian Pacific Americans, to succeed in life."

Justice O'Connor stated in the opinion of the Court, "These benefits are not theoretical but real, as major American businesses have made clear that the skills needed in today's increasingly global marketplace can only be developed through exposure to widely diverse people, cultures, ideas, and viewpoints."

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*The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium ([www.napalc.org](http://www.napalc.org)) is a national civil rights organization dedicated to advancing and defending the civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans. The Asian Law Caucus ([www.asianlawcaucus.org](http://www.asianlawcaucus.org)) of San Francisco is the oldest Asian Pacific American legal group in the nation. The Asian Pacific American Legal Center ([www.apalc.org](http://www.apalc.org)) is the only organization in Southern California dedicated to providing the Asian Pacific American community with multilingual, culturally sensitive legal services and civic education.*



1140 Connecticut Ave NW  
Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20036

**TELEPHONE**  
202-296-2300

**FACSIMILE**  
202-296-2318

**WEBSITE**  
[www.napalc.org](http://www.napalc.org)

**AFFILIATES**

*Los Angeles*  
Asian Pacific American  
Legal Center

*San Francisco*  
Asian Law Caucus