



Asian American Coalition for Education

A Historic Victory for Asian and All Americans

For decades, the anti-Asian discrimination in Harvard and other selective colleges has caused tremendous harm to Asian Americans and to America. The discrimination unjustly imposes unbearable study loads and stress on Asian American students, possibly leading to depression, anxiety and other psychological problems among some Asian American youths. It also undermines the American meritocracy, exacerbates our STEM talent shortage and jeopardizes our technological leadership in the world.

In the face of such widespread injustice, Asian Americans have been fighting for equal education rights in college admissions since 1988, when they filed the first civil rights complaint against Harvard University. Since then, several Asian American students have challenged the discriminatory admissions practices of Ivy League colleges. In the spring of 2014, Asian parents in California formed an unprecedented grassroots movement against SCA5, a bill that would restore affirmative action in the state.

In November 2014, Mr. Edward Blum led Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA), joining our fight by filing lawsuits against Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He brought much needed legal talents and resources to help Asian American communities, the most politically marginalized racial group in America.

In the last nine years, SFFA made extraordinary efforts fighting in the court of law. For example, in the Harvard case, SFFA:

- Conducted three years of extensive discovery that reviewed over 150,000 Harvard's admission data from 2010 to 2015, Harvard's internal investigation and witness testimonies.
- Uncovered compelling evidence of anti-Asian discrimination, such as using higher admission standards, de facto racial quotas ("ethnic stats") and notorious low personality trait ratings to limit Asian American admissions.
- Fought all the way from the U.S. District Court in Boston, U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Over the last nine years, Asian American communities have been fighting side by side with SFFA. After SFFA's lawsuits against Harvard and UNC were discredited by some liberal media, co-founders of AACE started our journey of galvanizing Asian American communities and providing unwavering support to SFFA for its lawsuits against Harvard and UNC:

- In May 2015, we united 64 Asian American organizations and jointly filed a civil rights complaint against Harvard. As the largest united action taken by Asian communities over the past few decades, our action exposed anti-Asian discrimination in college admissions on national and international stages.
- Since July 30, 2018, AACE has built increasingly large alliances (from 64 in 2015 to 386 partner organizations in 2022) in Asian American communities and filed five amicus briefs in support of SFFA's lawsuits at various levels of the federal courts.
- In collaboration with partner organizations, AACE has organized two historical rallies in Boston and Washington D.C. to raise awareness and solidarity for the cause.

Besides AACE, many other Asian organizations hosted Mr. Blum for seminars and encouraged discriminated-against students to join the lawsuits. These organizations included Chinese American Citizens Alliance of New York, Long Island Chinese Association, Houston Chinese Alliance, Silicon Valley Chinese Association and more. As one of the major supporters of SFFA, Silicon Valley Chinese Association donated over \$100,000 to SFFA. It also teamed up with The Orange Club, United for Better Community and other Asian organizations to boost SFFA membership from 400 to over 20,000 within days after we filed the civil rights complaint against Harvard.

By exposing the anti-Asian discrimination in college admissions in American society, we are winning the battle in the court of public opinion. In 2019 and 2020, using scientific survey methods, Pew Research Center consistently found: "Majorities across all racial groups say colleges should not consider race in admission." Today, [82% of Americans](#) support us!

AACE is proud to stand with SFFA and Mr. Blum in this historic fight for justice and equality. Protected by the U.S. Constitution and the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Asian Americans deserve fair and merit-based access to higher education, without being penalized for their race or ethnicity.

As AACE President puts it: "It has been more than 35 years since Asian communities filed the first civil rights complaint against Harvard. Today we finally see that the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court have provided equal protection of the laws to our communities. This is a historic victory for Asian Americans, because our children will no longer be treated as second-class citizens in college admissions. This is also a historic

victory for all Americans, because the ruling will help preserve meritocracy, the bedrock of the American Dream. Very importantly, the ruling will abolish the only remaining race-based law, advancing America toward a color-blind society, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed 60 years ago.”

Today’s victory is not the end of Asian Americans’ fight for equal education rights. Starting today, AACE will monitor the implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling by asking all colleges and the Common App organization to remove race/ethnicity from college application processes. We will continue our fight to defend American meritocracy.

At this historic moment, we want to thank many scholars who helped expose this social injustice against Asian Americans, including Daniel Golden (2007), Thomas Espenshade (2009), Ron Unz (2012) and Richard Sanders and many others.

We are truly grateful to many civil rights and political leaders who have supported our cause, including Ward Connerly and Gail Heriot, as well as Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson, Winsome Earle-Sears, Senator Ted Cruz, Congresswoman Michelle Steel and Young Kim, and many other lawmakers at federal and state levels.

We owe heartfelt gratitude to those who directly helped us win this historic fight, including Edward Blum, all courageous students and all outstanding lawyers of SFFA, including the late Mr. William Consovoy. They are our heroes!

Furthermore, we’d like to express our sincere thanks to Asian American communities, especially the students, parents, leaders, volunteers and organizations who took part in this historical fight for equal education rights. Without Asian American communities’ involvement, America would have little chance to achieve what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once dreamed: judge our children not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character!

Finally, AACE urges America’s ruling class to take concrete measures to address the root causes of the failing K-12 education in many African American and Hispanic American communities, as America moves toward a color-blind society. Affirmative action has been used by the American establishment as a bandage to cover up a very deep wound: their policy failures in providing quality K-12 education in American inner cities. It’s time to hold these failing politicians accountable. Improving K-12 education in American inner cities is the only constitutional and effective way to enhance diversity in American higher education!

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