



# 2<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EQUAL EDUCATION RIGHTS

SATURDAY  
JUNE 29, 2024  
9AM – 5PM

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

Host:

Asian American Coalition for Education (AACE)

Co-Hosts:

Californians for Equal Rights Foundation (CFER)

Chinese American Parent Association (CAPA)

Baltimore County (BC), Maryland

Howard County (HC), Maryland

Loudoun County (LC), Virginia

Montgomery County (MC), Maryland

Northern Virginia (NoVa)

## **A Distinctive National Conference Aiming to Challenge Our National Discourse on Education Rights and Meritocracy**

Dear Fellow Americans:

In recent decades, our national discourse on education rights and meritocracy has been narrowly focused on the myopic lens of racial diversity and equity. Unfortunately, this approach often leads to the unconstitutional practice of using race or race proxies in admissions of colleges or elite high schools.

However, positive change is on the horizon. On June 29, 2024, Asian American Coalition for Education (AACE) is going to host the Second National Conference on Equal Education Rights, in Washington, DC.

This conference is going to be the largest gathering of equal education rights leaders, scholars and supporters in America. It will delve into the following key areas:

1. Impact and implementation of SCOTUS' rulings on SFFA v. Harvard/UNC cases
2. The effectiveness and proper role of standardized testing in college admissions
3. K-12 Education: Meritocracy and improving underperforming minorities.

Unlike other conferences, our national event prioritizes equal treatment for ALL Americans and considers American education from a broader perspective. We'll discuss global technology competition, America's STEM talent shortage, and draw lessons from history.

This exceptional conference aims to directly challenge the root causes of American education failures, addressing issues in K-12 education and defending equal education rights and meritocracy. Expect fresh viewpoints and robust evidence to inform future policy-making.

The conference features an impressive lineup of speakers, as you can see in our speaker introduction.

I warmly welcome all of you to this distinctive conference and invite you to join our post-conference program celebrating the one-year anniversary of the SCOTUS SFFA rulings.

Best regards,



**Yukong Zhao**

**President, AACE**

# Agenda

8:00 AM	Registration
	MC: Swann Lee
9:00 AM	<b>Welcome (Yukong Zhao)</b>
9:20 AM	Letter from Congressman Vince Fong (Read by Jeff Wang)
9:25 AM	<b>Keynote Speech, Patrick Strawbridge, SFFA</b>
9:50 AM	<b>Section I: Impact of SCOTUS Rulings on College Admissions</b>
	AACE Policy Recommendation on College Admissions (Xiaoming Sheng)
	The Beginning of Collapse Woke DEI in College Campus (Kenny Xu)
	The Continuous Assault on Equal Education Rights - ACA7 (Frank Xu)
10:35 AM	Morning Break
10:45 AM	<b>Section II: The Definition of Diversity and Better Ways to Improve Diversity in College Education</b>
	Panel Discussion (Lee Cheng, Todd Gaziano, Kendall Qualls and Devon Westhill; Moderator: Suparna Dutta)
11:30 AM	<b>VIP Speech, Congresswoman Michelle Steel</b>
11:40 AM	Challenges after SCOTUS SFFA Rulings (Richard Sander)
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	<b>Section III: Why America Needs Meritocracy</b>
	Why Meritocracy is Good for America and all Americans (Mike Gonzalez)
	The STEM Talent Shortage in America (Julia Phillips)
	Lesson Learned from China's Cultural Revolution (Xi Van Fleet)
1:50 PM	<b>Section IV: The Effectiveness and Proper Role of Standardized Testing in College Admissions</b>
	Panel Discussion (Paul Lott, Jonathan Wai and Yukong Zhao; Moderator: Zhenya Li)
2:35 PM	<b>Keynote Speech, Gail Heriot, U.S. Civil Rights Commission</b>
3:00 PM	Afternoon Break
3:10 PM	<b>Section V: The Fight against Assault on Meritocracy in K-12 Education</b>
	Pacific Legal Foundation's Fight to Defend Equal Education Rights and Meritocracy in K-12 Education (Erin Wilcox)
	Panel Discussion – Asian Community Grassroots Movement in Defending Equal Education Rights and Meritocracy (Wai Wah Chin, Bentao Cui, Asra Nomani and Nan Zhong; Moderator: Samuel Yan)
4:20 PM	<b>Closing Remarks (Jack Ouyang)</b>
5:30 PM	Group Photo in front of the Supreme Court of the United States - Celebration of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Supreme Court Rulings on Affirmative Action
7:00 PM	Dinner

# Speakers



## Lee Cheng

Lee Cheng is an attorney and civil rights activist who has fought discrimination against Asian Americans for almost three decades. He is a co-founder and director of the Asian American Legal Foundation (AALF), which organized the *Ho v SFUSD* litigation in 1994, and is the inaugural recipient of the AACE Champion of Equal Opportunity Education Rights Award. Cheng received his SB magna cum laude from Harvard University and his J.D. from University of California, Berkeley School of Law.



## Wai Wah Chin

Wai Wah Chin is an adjunct fellow at the Manhattan Institute and the founding president of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York (CACAGNY), an all-volunteer organization advocating for equal rights for New Yorkers, especially in education. A relentless advocate for the Chinese American community, Chin brings her professional background in private equity to advance support for school choice and address issues faced by Asian Americans in New York. She is a graduate of Yale, Princeton, and Columbia.



## Bentao Cui

Bentao Cui is the president of the Boston Parent Coalition for Academic Excellence (BPCAE). He is dedicated to advocating for merit-based and fair admission to Boston's three exam schools: Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, and the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. BPCAE's efforts have positively impacted the Boston school district, allowing more students to join these three prestigious schools based on merit. Cui holds a Ph.D. in engineering from the University of Minnesota and an MBA.



## Suparna Dutta

Suparna Dutta is a co-founder of the Coalition for TJ, a grassroots parents' organization aimed at maintaining merit-based admissions at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. She has served on the Virginia Board of Education from July 2022 to February 2023 and leads the Education Platform at the American Hindu Coalition, advocating for common-sense education reforms. Additionally, Dutta co-founded Asian American for Equality and Liberty (AAFEL). She holds an M.S. in environmental engineering from the University of Tennessee.



## Todd Gaziano

Todd Gaziano is the president of the Center for Individual Rights (CIR). He has worked in all three branches of the federal government and has been a legal scholar and public interest law leader for over 25 years. Gaziano served a six-year term as member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (2008-2013), where he conducted oversight and investigations of civil rights agencies. He received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.



## Mike Gonzalez

Mike Gonzalez is the Angeles T. Arredondo E Pluribus Unum Senior Fellow at The Heritage Foundation, focusing on identity politics, critical race theory, multiculturalism, assimilation, education, and foreign policy. He spent nearly 20 years as a journalist, reporting from Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Gonzales served in President George W. Bush's administration and was a member of President Donald Trump's "1776 Commission." He holds a bachelor's degree from Emerson College and an MBA from Columbia Business School.



### **Gail Heriot**

Gail Heriot is a law professor at the University of San Diego and a current member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She co-chaired the successful 1996 *Yes on Proposition 209* campaign to outlaw race-based preferential treatment and the 2020 *No on 16* campaign to prevent its repeal. Heriot currently chairs the *No on ACA7* campaign to prevent 209 from being undermined by unlimited exceptions. A prolific civil rights writer, she co-edited of “A Dubious Expediency: How Race Preferences Damage Higher Education.” Previously, she clerked for the Illinois Supreme Court and practiced law in Chicago and Washington, DC. Heriot holds a B.A. from Northwestern University and a J.D. from University of Chicago.



### **Swann Lee**

Swann Lee is a co-founder and board member of AACE. She is an advocate of meritocracy and equal rights regardless of immutable factors. She is also a writer of creative prose. Lee was the co-organizer of equal rights rallies in New England since 2013. She spoke for equal education rights, regarding AACE DOJ and DOE complaints, and the SFFA v Harvard case, in miscellaneous media coverage and panel discussions since 2015.



### **Zhenya Li**

Zhenya Li is a board member of AACE. She has been a long-term community volunteer, beginning from a parent volunteer at local public schools. She served as the President and Treasurer of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) for one of the largest public high schools in Maryland in 2016 and 2014, respectively. Li was also one of the founding members of the Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County (CAPA-MC). She holds a bachelor’s degree in basic medical sciences and a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from Georgetown University.



### **Paul Lott**

Paul Lott is an education advocate, author, and founder of the National Society for the Advancement of Black Americans (NSABA). He is the inventor of the “Parent Method,” which helps parents teach effective learning skills to their children for independent study. Lott is also an engineer and software designer, having founded two companies that developed software for the pharmaceutical industry and created document management systems.



### **Asra Nomani**

Asra Nomani is a former Wall Street Journal reporter and a senior fellow in the practice of journalism at the Independent Women’s Network. She co-founded the Coalition for TJ, a parent advocacy and civil rights group challenging anti-Asian racism and promoting merit in education. Nomani is the author of “Woke Army: The Red-Green Alliance Destroying America’s Freedom”. She holds a B.A. from West Virginia University and an M.A. from American University.



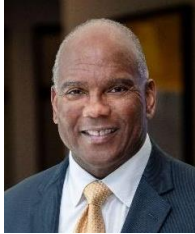
### **Jack Ouyang**

Jack Ouyang is a co-founder and vice president of AACE since 2015, advocating for equal education rights. In 2016, he co-founded the Millburn Institute of Talent, a nonprofit organization promoting cultural exchanges, and served as chairman of the board. Previously, Ouyang was the president of the Millburn Short Hills Chinese Association, a nonprofit organization fostering community bonds and civic engagement. He holds a Ph.D. in genetics.



### **Julia Phillips**

Julia Phillips is a distinguished materials physicist and a member of the National Science Board (2016-2028). She had a significant career at Sandia National Laboratories, where she served as Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. Previously, she conducted research in electronic materials at AT&T Bell Laboratories. Phillips is also a member and home secretary of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and chairs the Committee on Science and Engineering Policy. She oversees the biannual publication of *Science and Engineering Indicators*. Phillips holds a B.S. in physics from the College of William and Mary, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in applied physics from Yale University.



### **Kendall Qualls**

Kendall Qualls is the founder and president of TakeCharge, an organization dedicated to empowering black and other minority communities to take charge of their own lives, emphasizing meritocracy and free enterprise as pathways out of poverty. He is also a faculty-in-residence at Crown College School of Business. Qualls worked full-time to pay for college, served as a U.S. Army officer and held executive roles in several Fortune 100 healthcare companies. He has earned three graduate degrees., including an MBA from the University of Michigan.



### **Richard Sander**

Richard Sander is an economist and the Dukeminier Distinguished Professor of Law at University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, where he has been a faculty member since 1989. His research primarily focuses on issues of social and economic inequality. Sander is well-known for his work on affirmative action, including co-authoring the book “Mismatch: How Affirmative Action Hurts Students It’s Intended to Help, and Why Universities Won’t Admit It” (2012). He also serves as the Director of the UCLA-RAND Center for Law and Public Policy. Sander holds a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University, a master’s degree in economics, and a J.D. from Northwestern University.



### **Xiaoming Sheng**

Xiaoming Sheng is a board member of AACE, actively engaging in community activities since 2007. He focuses on the civic engagement of Asian Americans and equal education rights of Asian American students recently. He has organized several fundraising events in Utah to support AACE and SFFA’s lawsuit against Harvard University. Sheng holds a Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Alberta in Canada.



### **Michelle Steel**

Michelle Steel is a U.S. Representative for California’s 45th congressional district, serving her second term in congress. She is on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Education and Labor. Born in South Korea and raised in Japan, Steel immigrated to the U.S. and pursued a career dedicated to public service and advocacy for taxpayers. She previously served on the California State Board of Equalization and the Orange County Board of Supervisors, where she worked in tax reform and public safety. Steel holds a degree in business from Pepperdine University.



### **Patrick Strawbridge**

Patrick Strawbridge is a partner at Consovoy McCarthy PLLC, specializing in constitutional law, financial and securities regulation, environmental laws, complex commercial disputes, and consumer protection statutes. He has clerked for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Judge Morris Sheppard Arnold of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and Justice Howard Dana of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Before law school, Strawbridge worked as a newspaper reporter. He holds a bachelor of journalism from the University of Missouri and a J.D. summa cum laude from Creighton University School of Law.



### **Xi Van Fleet**

Xi Van Fleet is a prominent advocate for liberty. She is a survivor of China's Cultural Revolution and has lived in the US since 1986. She has made significant contributions as a speaker and author, warning about the dangers of cultural Marxism. Van Fleet authored the book "Mao's America: A Survivor's Warning," where she draws parallels between the Cultural Revolution in China and current sociopolitical trends in the U.S. Her advocacy has made her a prominent figure in the fight against critical race theory (CRT) in schools and the broader conversation on education and ideology.



### **Jonathan Wai**

Jonathan Wai is Associate Professor and the Endowed Chair in Education Policy in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas and also holds a joint (courtesy) appointment in the Department of Psychology. His research focuses on education policy through the lens of psychology, particularly talent development and supporting talented students from diverse and impoverished backgrounds. Wai holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and mathematics from Claremont McKenna College, a master's degree in cognitive psychology and evaluation, and a Ph.D. in quantitative methods for psychology from Vanderbilt University.



### **Devon Westhill**

Devon Westhill is the president and general counsel of the Center for Equal Opportunity (CEO), where his efforts focus on promoting equal opportunity and combating racial preferences in public policy. He has extensive experience in civil rights law and policy, having provided expert testimony to the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He also led the civil rights office at USDA in President Donald Trump's administration. Devon holds degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Florida.



### **Erin Wilcox**

Erin Wilcox is an attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), where she litigates to enforce the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law. Wilcox was the lead attorney in the recent Coalition for TJ case challenging race-based admissions changes at one of the nation's former top high schools and is currently challenging a New York law that uses racial barriers to exclude Asian American students from STEM enrichment programs. Wilcox holds a B.A. in history and political science from Wake Forest University and a J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law.



**Frank Xu**

Frank Xu is the president of Californians for Equal Rights Foundation (CERF), co-founder of San Diego Asian Americans for Equality (SDAAFE) and board member of Poway Unified School District (PUSD) Community Watch. He served as the Statewide Finance Chair for the No on 16 campaigns and has been dedicated to equal opportunity since 2013. Xu has been a board member of Educational Technology Advisory Committee and Budget Review Advisory Committee in PUSD and served as an alternate board member of County of San Diego Health Advisory Board.



**Kenny Xu**

Kenny Xu is the president of Color Us United, advocating for a colorblind society. A two-time author, Xu has highlighted the dangers of critical race theory (CRT), diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and wokeness since beginning his literary career in 2020. His first book “An Inconvenient Minority” exposed the harms of DEI admissions programs on a critical minority, Asian-Americans. Xu’s second book “School of Woke” became his deep dive into how CRT is wracking the public education system from the inside out. Xu is a graduate of Davidson College with a major in math and minor in philosophy.



**Samuel Yan**

Samuel Yan is a board member of AACE and a community activist. He co-founded the 80-20 Initiative DC Chapter and serves as its acting president. Since its inception, 80-20 has collaborated with AACE on complaints against Harvard’s discriminatory admission policies against Asian American students and fought for equal education rights on the Fisher v UT case in 2015. Yan holds a Ph.D. in math from Kansas State University.



**Yukong Zhao**

Yukong Zhao is the founder and president of AACE. Since 2015, AACE has mobilized Asian communities to support SFFA’s lawsuits against Harvard and UNC, culminating in the landmark Supreme Court rulings in June 2023 banning Affirmative Action in college admissions. As a prolific author, Zhao has published a book and numerous columns advocating against the radical liberal agenda. He holds a bachelor’s degree in nuclear electronics and an MBA in international business management from the University of South Carolina – Columbia.



**Nan Zhong**

Nan Zhong is a software engineering manager in Silicon Valley who came to the U.S. from China in 1997 for graduate study. After his son Stanley was rejected by 16 colleges but later hired by Google, Zhong launched a movement demanding transparency in college admissions. He has co-founded two startups, created a top-ranked communication app, and raised \$10 million in venture funding. Zhong holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota.



# Awards

## **AACE Champion of Equal Education Rights**

Gail Heriot

Patrick Strawbridge

## **AACE Outstanding Leader Award**

Asra Nomani

Bentao Cui

Frank Xu

Kan Qiu

Alexander Zhong

## **AACE Courage Award**

Stanley Zhong

## **AACE Outstanding Service Award**

Ajar Kothari

Kenny Xu

Ted Tian

Bin Xie

## **AACE Outstanding Supporter Award**

Jean Xu

**About the AACE:** [www.asianamericanforeducation.org](http://www.asianamericanforeducation.org)

Asian American Coalition for Education (AACE) is a non-political, nonprofit, grassroots national alliance with over 300 partnering organizations nationwide. In May 2015, founders of AACE united 64 Asian American organizations and filed a civil rights complaint against Harvard's anti-Asian discriminatory admissions practice. AACE galvanized Asian American communities to stand firmly behind SFFA and exposed the Ivy League college's anti-Asian discrimination on the national stage. Over the last eight years, in support of SFFA, AACE teamed up with over 360 Asian American organizations, organized the Boston Rally in 2018 and "Equal Education for All" rally in 2022, encouraged Asian American students to join SFFA's lawsuits, and filed five amicus briefs. Besides supporting SFFA, we have advanced the cause of equal education rights for the Asian-American community in many other areas, including federal adoption of AACE policy recommendation on college admissions in July 2018, federal lawsuit against Yale University in 2020, support to Asian Americans' fights for equal education rights in Maryland, New York, Washington, California, Massachusetts and other states. AACE is the proven leader in fighting for Asian-American children's equal educational rights.

# Sponsors

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