API Legal Outreach Celebrates U.S. Supreme Court Rulings To Uplift Dreamers And LGBTQ Communities

U.S. Supreme Court Delivers Civil Rights Victory To LGBTQ Employees

APILO Would Like To Recognize And Commemorate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender And Queer Pride Month (LGBTQ Pride) This June.

U.S. Supreme Court Hands Down Big Win To 650,000 Dreamers, Restoring DACA Program
On June 15, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that **Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity/transgender status.** In this landmark decision, six out of nine Justices recognize a standard that when an employer discriminates against a worker for being LGBTQ+, that act violates Title VII. The Court asserted that **treating individual employees adversely because of their sexual orientation or gender identity is inherently discrimination “because of sex.”**

LGBTQ+ workers experience hostile work environments, not getting a job, not getting promoted, and not having access to protection that their co-workers have. **Stable employment is imperative to one’s survival and safety, and members of the LGBTQ+ need protection in the workplace.**

Discrimination due to sexual orientation and gender identity in education, housing, and healthcare should be covered under this decision. **The Equality Act in Congress would also provide wider protection for the LGBTQ+ community.**
APILO celebrates our LGBTQ staff members, clients, and partners. We honor their commitment toward liberation, and recognize the leadership that Black and Brown transgender women have had in shaping the LGBTQ movement.

The Stonewall Uprising

During June of 1969, regular LGBTQ patrons at the Stonewall Inn staged an uprising in response to the violent and escalating police raids at the bar. Protesters called for an immediate end to police violence, accessible housing, ending poverty, and ending persecution against LGBTQ communities. The leadership of the Stonewall Uprisings was comprised of mostly working-class Black and Brown transgender people, including the legendary Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. These uprisings persisted for six days and are heavily referenced as the beginning of our modern LGBTQ movement.

The Compton Cafeteria Riot in San Francisco’s Tenderloin

Before the Stonewall Uprising, there were the Compton Cafeteria Riots right here in the Tenderloin led by AAPI trans activist Tamara Ching. In 1966, sex worker and activist Tamara Ching fought back against police harassment with other street queens. Ching’s involvement in Compton’s Cafeteria revolt and her leadership in San Francisco initiated new transgender advocacy programs within the San Francisco Police Department and the city’s Department of Public Health.
APILO CELEBRATES SUPREME COURT’s DACA DECISION

On June 18, 2020, the Supreme Court issued a decision that had the effect of restoring Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, for the time being. **APILO joins the immigrant community in celebrating this victory that provides some temporary relief to hundreds of thousands of hard working DACA recipients who are the future of our country.** While the majority of Dreamers are originally from Latin American countries, **many from the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community have also received DACA protections, including thousands from Korea, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, China, and Vietnam.**

Since it was enacted in 2012, young immigrants have applied for DACA in order to feel secure in the country they consider home. **DACA recipients have spent most of their lives in the United States, arriving on average at the age of seven. They have attended schools, worked in diverse fields such as education, health, and public service, and have contributed billions of dollars through taxes and spending.**

BUT THE FIGHT IS NOT OVER!

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court decision allows the Trump Administration to try again to end the program through a new executive action. **We must continue to put pressure on Congress to create a permanent solution and pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients.** While DACA recipients should obtain a legal consult to evaluate their specific situation, **DACA experts generally recommend that they renew as soon as possible given the continued uncertainty of the future of the program. DACA recipients can renew their status early, even if it does not expire until next year. A renewal may lessen or delay any effects from an adverse action or court decision. Those that may qualify to apply for DACA for the first time should also seek legal consultation at this time. **APILO is here to provide legal advice.**

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