



For Immediate Release (Dec. 8, 2011)

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SUBJECT: 80-20 Enters Battle for Asian Am. College Bound

80-20's Board passed a resolution to file an amicus curiae (Friend of the Court) legal brief at the Supreme Court to support the plaintiff in "Fisher vs. University of Texas." It resolves to ask the Supreme Court to support a merit-based college admission policy (based on current scholastic achievement and evaluated future potential) that does not discriminate against any race.

Ved Chaudhary, Board member & former Trustee of Univ. of Rutgers, said, The composition of our Supreme Court has changed such that many legal experts are expecting the court to rule in favor of eliminating race as a factor in college admission. Another challenge against the current college admission policies is not likely to rise before the Supreme Court for another decade or more. The Asian American community must seize this opportunity now.

S. B. Woo, Founding President of 80-20 and former Lt. Governor of Delaware said, "The Asian American community is in support of 80-20's action in a 10 to 1 ratio. This is a wonderful time for Asian Am. organizations to get together and forge a united front. 80-20 will be communicating with other Asian Am. orgs. whether they have filed for or against the plaintiff in this case. Asian Ams. must understand the need for political cohesiveness in order to have our voice heard."

Haibo Huang who will join the Board in 2012 stated, "Currently, the prevailing college admission policy artificially places highly qualified Asian Am. applicants to compete against each other rather than against the general pool of all applicants, instilling such a fear that many Asian Americans hide their own racial identity in application [1]. A race-neutral admission policy will prevent such discrimination and uphold the common American ideal of equal opportunity. It should be noted that Jewish students faced the same hurdle from 1900-1950 [2]. They shattered the barrier thanks to their group clout build upon cohesion and political activism. Today there are twice as many Jewish students in elite schools as Asian Ams [3] even though the Jewish Am. population is only 40% that of Asian Ams. Their experience offers a good lesson to our community."

80-20 is by far the largest Asian Am. political action committee. It has an e-mail list of 500,000 supporters. Website: <http://www.80-20Initiative.net>

[1] <http://news.yahoo.com/asians-college-strategy-dont-check-asian-174442977.html>

[2] "The Jewish Problem", discussed in Jerome Karabel's book "The Chosen" by Mariner Books (2006).

[3] <http://www.hillel.org/index>, % of Jewish students in some Ivy League school are: Columbia 30%, Yale 27%, Harvard 25%, U Penn 25% Cornell 23%, and Brown 22%.