



National Gay and Lesbian Task Force hails historic Connecticut Supreme Court ruling granting the freedom to marry to same-sex couples

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- Rea Carey, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

The **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force** hails today's historic decision by the Connecticut Supreme Court granting the freedom to marry to same-sex couples. Connecticut joins Massachusetts and California as the third state to allow same-sex couples to be treated equally under the state's marriage law.

Statement by Rea Carey, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"This is a momentous victory for the people of Connecticut and all Americans who hold fairness as a fundamental value. The high court's analysis comes down to this simple yet profound principle: All of Connecticut's families deserve and need the protections, rights and responsibilities that support and sustain them, and should be treated equally under the law.

"We thank the plaintiffs for their courage and our colleagues at Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and their cooperating counsel for their outstanding advocacy on behalf of our community. We also applaud the years of work undertaken by our state partner, Love Makes a Family, which played a central role in creating a climate in Connecticut that made today's historic opinion possible."

Background

Today's historic decision by the Connecticut Supreme Court finds that the state Constitution requires extending the freedom to marry to same-sex couples. The case was filed in August 2004 by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders on behalf of eight same-sex couples and their families who had sought, and were denied, marriage licenses in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Legislature enacted civil unions for same-sex couples in 2005. With today's decision, Connecticut joins Massachusetts and California in extending full marriage equality to same-sex couples.

More about the Task Force's work in Connecticut

The Task Force Foundation gave Love Makes a Family a two-year grant totaling \$50,000 to hire its first-ever marriage equality organizer in 2004. The grant enabled Love Makes a Family to launch a marriage organizing project that trained hundreds of volunteers to talk with Connecticut voters face to face about marriage equality. From this project, Love Makes a Family built a base

of thousands of engaged marriage equality supporters statewide.

Teams of staff, leaders and volunteers from Love Makes a Family participated in Task Force Power Summit trainings, which provide critical skills for building greater grassroots political power in local communities, in 2004, 2005 and 2007.

The Task Force communications team worked in partnership with Love Makes a Family and provided support for media outreach and press conferences in 2004 and 2005.