



California opens the floodgates — court strikes down law that restricts marriage to a man and a woman

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Jeffrey Weiss

The AP **has the facts** on the California court ruling about marriage:

SAN FRANCISCO - In a monumental victory for the gay rights movement, the California Supreme Court overturned a voter-approved ban on gay marriage Thursday in a ruling that would allow same-sex couples in the nation's biggest state to tie the knot.

Which means my e-box is starting to fill with reaction.

After the jump I'll post reax from the Family Research Council, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Advocates for Faith and Freedom, Unitarian Universalist Association, the American Humanist Association and Integrity. These are what I have so far. And guess what? The positions are exactly what you think they'd be.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force hails historic California Supreme Court decision supporting the freedom to marry

"This is an extraordinary victory for Californians and all Americans who hold fairness and opportunity as fundamental American values. Today, once again, California is leading the way in affirming the inherent dignity of all people. Today, in our hearts, we are all Californians."

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

WASHINGTON, May 15 -- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force hails today's historic decision by the California Supreme Court that the California Constitution requires ending the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage. The Task Force filed an amicus brief with the high court supporting full marriage rights for same-sex couples.

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

"This is an extraordinary victory for Californians and all Americans who hold fairness and opportunity as fundamental American values. Thank you California for standing up for safety, respect and dignity for our families. In 1948, California became the first state to strike down anti-miscegenation laws and in 1999 it was the first to establish statewide domestic partnerships. Today, once again, California is leading the way in affirming the inherent dignity of all people. Today, in our hearts, we are all Californians.

"The high court's decision comes down to this simple yet profound principle: All Californians should be treated equally under the law.

"We thank the plaintiffs for their tremendous courage and our colleagues at the National Center for Lesbian Rights and their cooperating counsel for outstanding legal advocacy

on behalf of our community. We also applaud the years of work undertaken by our state partner, Equality California, and all of the organizations involved in the Let California Ring coalition, which played a pivotal role in creating a climate in California that made today's historic decision possible."