



## Attorney has passion for defending religious liberties 'I'm fighting for our children and grandchildren,' says Dean Broyles

By JUDY ERICKSON

The Western Center for Law and Policy, longtime Escondido-based champion of First Amendment rights, has become The National Center for Law and Policy. Following Founder and Director Dean Broyles' high-profile defense of Prop. 8, the liberal Los Angeles-based Western Center on Law and Poverty sued for the name change to distance itself.

Broyles complied out of court to keep resources focused on defending family rights and religious liberty amidst political and cultural upheaval. So, he continues to defend human life and family and parental rights through constitutional law, specifically the First Amendment's guarantee of religious liberty.

"I was specifically called by the Lord to go to law school to be trained to defend religious freedom," Broyles said. "I was in youth ministry, and the Lord in so many words said, 'Thou shalt go to law school,' and I said, 'Are you kidding, Lord?' But I felt I had to immediately obey."

Broyles heard the call in 1992 as youth director at Santa Ynez Valley Presbyterian Church near Solvang. He moved his young family 2,000 miles east to study under Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law & Justice at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.

Besides, Broyles said he owes it to this generation to preserve freedom. He is driven to hand down a good, free country to his children. "I'm fighting for all our children and grandchildren, if the Lord tarries," Broyles said. "I feel I'd have to apologize in shame before the next generation if I did nothing."

Broyles is distressed that our culture and society increasingly is not only anti-Christian but anti-morality. "The pressures we're fighting against are very well entrenched," said Broyles, who prefers to be on the cutting edge rather than safely behind the lines. "Much of the church is not engaged. We definitely are in a pitched battle."

Broyles sees the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) agenda as a clear and present danger, even the greatest threat to religious liberty, from the definition of marriage to how we educate our children, affecting freedoms of speech and press.

For example, the state through SB 48 mandates our children be indoctrinated in GLBT, paid by our tax dollars. Despite budget woes, public school textbooks must be rewritten to extol the virtues of homosexuals. A referendum to reverse the

law fell short in October.

Broyles usually waits for clients to seek defense because government has harmed them by violating the Constitution. However, once SB 48 is implemented, Broyles will seek clients whose constitutional rights it violates. "It's such an evil law, we want to strike as soon as possible," he said. The GLBT agenda seeks to criminalize thought, speech and religious freedom, and indoctrinate the next generation to reject biblical worldviews. They believe when a pastor preaches from Romans 1, his First Amendment free speech and religious freedom are trumped by alleged sexual liberties, not stated in the Constitution. A pastor in Sweden was arrested and thrown in jail for doing just that. In defending Prop. 8, Broyles alerted pastors that the opposition sought to shut down their ministries or force them to compromise or go underground.

"The work I'm doing is too dirty for most Christians to deal with," Broyles said. "These are intense philosophical wars, with lots of spiritual warfare attached to it."

In a *Los Angeles Times* online debate, Broyles quoted gay activist Chai Feldblum, an Obama appointee to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, as saying: "When religious liberty and sexual liberty conflict, I'm having a hard time coming up with any case in which religious liberty should win."

Sexual liberty cannot be protected by the Constitution, but is derived from implied rights to privacy and abortion, said Broyles. "But anybody who disagrees with sexual liberty is bigoted, homophobic, and someone to call names and be marginalized."

In 2010, *The Daily Journal* invited Broyles to write an op-ed critique of Judge Walker's striking down of Prop. 8, which he considers among the most serious assaults against the future of freedom in the U.S.

However, Broyles said Prop. 8 also showed that when Christians and moral conservatives take a stand we can accomplish great things. "I think there's hope, but not if the church is asleep," he said. "The culture is influencing the church far more than the church is influencing the culture. So we have a very weak, divided and compromised church."

Broyles sees the upcoming election in light of the next president's Supreme Court appointees because of their profound impact on religious freedom depending on whether they follow the U.S. Constitution.

Locally, Broyles urges Christians to lobby

for adoption of a policy submitted to protect citizens' rights to pray before Escondido City Council meetings. In June, threatening letters from the ACLU and the Freedom from Religion Foundation alleged "sectarian prayers in Jesus' name" violate the First Amendment. Broyles proposes rotating prayers between people of different faiths.

The center also is defending the case against CalTrans for removing crosses on public land near Julian.

Broyles is publishing a booklet, "Emerging Legal Threats to Home Bible Studies," after his biggest case defending a Bonita pastor in 2009 attracted huge international attention. The center has distributed Broyles' *Pastors, Pulpits and Politics: The Case For Clear, Biblical, Moral Teaching*, with a foreword by Jim Garlow, to more than 6,000 religious leaders.

Some say Broyles gave up a lucrative legal career to fight such battles, but he aspires to do so full time and rejoices that the Lord gave him a platform to speak the truth in love. "I'm not afraid to engage about important things that the church is ignoring to our detriment. ... The American church today is the proverbial frog in the kettle. We fancy that we are relaxing in a hot tub when in reality we are being boiled to death. It's about to kill us."

Broyles likes to remind Americans that the Constitution restricts the power and authority of government, not of private individuals. It grants freedom of speech, press, worship and religion, and the Establishment Clause merely states the government cannot enforce a state church. He pointed to our founders' fleeing of religious persecution for the religious freedom that made America very special in the history of the world.

Broyles, a 44-year-old Glendale native, lived from ages 6 to 14 in Germany where his dad started a Young Life, and Military Community Youth Ministries for military dependents worldwide.

While attending Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Broyles met his wife, Shona, who is a school teacher. They and their three adopted children, now 11, 9 and 7, attend Maranatha Chapel.

To receive the center's monthly e-newsletter, visit its new website at [www.nclplaw.org](http://www.nclplaw.org) or call (760) 747-4529.

