

## **CALIFORNIA SUPREMES EMBRACE DANGEROUS SOCIAL EXPERIMENT: SAME SEX MARRIGE**

San Francisco, CA--The California Supreme Court issued a 4-3 ruling this morning declaring the California Defense of Marriage Act (commonly known as Proposition 22) unconstitutional, paving the way for same-sex marriage in California. The Court held that the California Constitution provides same-sex individuals with a new civil right of "personal autonomy and liberty" to marry the person of their choice, regardless of that person's gender. Unless the Court grants a stay, same-sex marriages will very likely begin to occur in California in as little as 30 days.

The Western Center for Law & Policy submitted an *amicus* brief in support of traditional marriage with the Court on behalf of a collection of Hispanic, African-American, Korean, Chinese, and other ethnic churches and religious organizations located in California. "Today's decision was an egregious abuse of judicial authority," declared Dean Broyles, President of the Western Center for Law and Policy. "The Court arrogantly substituted its own will for the clearly expressed will of the people."

"Just eight years ago, Californians established that marriage in California should be defined as between a man and a woman with the passage of Proposition 22 by more than 61% of the voters," Mr. Broyles continued. "This Court, by judicial fiat, has ignored the will of the people of California and created a right to same-sex marriage that flies in the face of our unbroken history of recognizing only traditional marriage between a man and a woman."

Despite this outrageous ruling by the California Supreme Court, same-sex marriage in California is not inevitable. A broad coalition of California churches, policy organizations, and legal groups have worked tirelessly over the last several months to gather the 1.1 million signatures required to qualify a Constitutional amendment protecting marriage for the November 2008 ballot. The initiative, known as the California Marriage Protection Act, will amend the California Constitution to clearly state that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

Attorneys for the Western Center for Law & Policy were instrumental in facilitating the grass roots effort to qualify the California marriage amendment for the November 2008 ballot, and will continue to actively work with churches and other organizations to ensure that the initiative is successful in November.

For more information about this case or information about what you can do to help protect marriage in California, please contact the Western Center for Law and Policy via our web site at [www.wclplaw.org](http://www.wclplaw.org) or at 760-747-4529.