



PRESS RELEASE

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BiasHELP Applauds the Overturning of California's Same-Sex Marriage Ban

BiasHELP, Inc. is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to the prevention of bias crimes, hate-related harassment, bullying, cyber-bullying and discrimination. BiasHELP applauds Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker for his ruling that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban on Wednesday, August 4, 2010. This ruling was made in a lawsuit filed by two gay couples who claimed the voter-approved ban, Proposition 8, violated their civil rights.

Proposition 8 was passed in November of 2008, five months after the state Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in California. Supporters argued the ban was necessary to safeguard the traditional understanding of marriage and to encourage responsible childbearing.

Currently, same-sex couples can only legally wed in Massachusetts, Iowa, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Dr. Gail Barouh, BiasHELP's CEO/Managing Director, "hopes that these verdicts will set the stage for a United States Supreme Court ruling on whether bans on same-sex marriage are infringing on the civil rights of a minority group and would, therefore be, unconstitutional."

For more information on BiasHELP's programming and efforts, please visit the website at www.BiasHELP.org or call our toll free number at 877-END-BIAS (363-2427).