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US state legalises gay marriage

Connecticut's Supreme Court has overturned a ban on same-sex marriages, making it the third US state to legalise such unions.

The court ruled that the law limiting marriage to heterosexual couples was unconstitutional as it discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation.

Gay marriage was legalised in California earlier this year and in Massachusetts in 2003.

Connecticut already permits same-sex civil unions.

The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that a ban on gay marriage infringed on a "fundamental right" of same-sex couples.

The ruling followed four years of legal wrangling in the state court system.

The plaintiffs in the case said they were delighted with the ruling

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not believe their [the judges'] voice reflects the majority of the people of Connecticut," she said.

The governor said she believed any attempt to contest the decision, either legislatively or by amending the state constitution, would fail.

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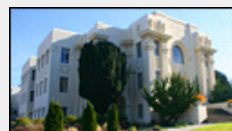
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