



Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

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### GLAD Files Suit to End Marriage Discrimination in Connecticut



August 25, 2004 – Seven gay and lesbian couples from across Connecticut who were recently denied marriage licenses in Madison filed suit today in New Haven Superior Court challenging the State's discriminatory denial of marriage rights to same-sex couples. The plaintiff couples, who have been in committed relationships for between 10 and 28 years, many of them raising children, contend that only marriage will provide them with the protections and

benefits they need to live securely as a family.

"This case presents a historic opportunity for Connecticut," said Mary Bonauto, GLAD's Civil Rights Director. "Marriage is both a profound personal commitment and unique legal relationship that provides enormous protections to families. As a simple matter of equality, it is time for Connecticut to end this discrimination against same-sex couples and their families."

[Read GLAD's press release](#)  
[Read more about this case...](#)

Photo credit: Mainframe Photographics Inc.

### Marriage Resources

[Marriage News](#)

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[Marriage Toolkit](#)  
(How-To Info & Resources)

[Government Procedure](#)  
("Forms, Waivers & Romney, Oh My!")

[Defending Equality](#)  
(GLAD Responds to Legal Attacks)

### Court Denies Immediate Relief to Non-Resident Gay and Lesbian Couples Seeking Marriage Licenses



August 18, 2004 – A Massachusetts trial judge today declined immediate relief to the eight out-of-state gay and lesbian couples, represented by GLAD, who filed the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality and discriminatory enforcement of the



so-called 1913 Law. The law is being used by state officials to exclude non-resident, same-sex couples from marrying in Massachusetts. GLAD plans to appeal this decision.

“While this is clearly a disappointment for the families and many others, we are not discouraged,” said GLAD attorney Michele Granda. “In fact, the decision provides us with validation of our core argument: that the law violates the spirit of the Goodridge decision, and that Massachusetts should not be in the business of discriminating against gay and lesbian families.”

GLAD's suit, *Cote-Whitacre v. Department of Public Health*, was filed in conjunction with *Johnstone et al v. Reilly*, a suit by 13 city and town clerks.

[Read GLAD's press release](#)

[Read the court's decision in the Couples' suit](#)

[Read the court's decision in the Town Clerks' suit](#)

[Read more about this case...](#)

Photo credit: Mainframe Photographics Inc.

## May 17, 2004 -- Same-Sex Couples Legally Marry in Massachusetts

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Congratulations! GLAD celebrates the realization of marriage equality in Massachusetts. We are so happy for the loving same-sex couples who may now, finally, fully protect their relationships and families under the law and take responsibility for one another's lives.

Our best wishes to all the loving couples who marry in Massachusetts, and most specially to Hillary and Julie Goodridge, Rob Compton and David Wilson, Linda Davies and Gloria Bailey, Gary Chalmers and Rich Linnell, Maureen Brodoff and Ellen Wade, Heidi Norton and Gina Smith, and Mike Horgan and Ed Balmelli, the heroes whose commitment has opened doors for all of us. Take a look at our [Wedding Album](#) of *Goodridge* plaintiff couples' weddings from Monday May 17, 2004.

Watch local celebrations via webcast: [Celebration at Cambridge City Hall](#) Sunday night, *Goodridge* plaintiff couples applying for marriage licenses at [Boston City Hall Plaza Monday morning](#), and [Press conference at Boston City Hall](#) May 17, 2004, featuring 3 of the *Goodridge* plaintiff couples, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, and GLAD attorney Mary Bonauto. (Webcasts courtesy of the Human Rights Campaign)

Photo Credit: Amber Davis

## GLAD Disappointed in SJC Ruling that Lesbian is not Required to Pay Child Support after Separation

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August 25, 2004 – GLAD today expressed disappointment in a decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in a case involving two lesbians who were in a relationship and



mutually decided to conceive and raise a child together by the insemination of one of the women. In the case *T.F. v. B.L.* (SJC No. 09104), the SJC ruled that after the couple's breakup, the non-biological partner did not have an obligation to support the child, even though the Court acknowledged that she intentionally and purposefully acted to bring the child into the world. GLAD represented the biological mother, T.F.

GLAD attorney Bennett H. Klein said, "The Court's decision is disappointing because it does not reflect the reality of children's lives today. Many couples, both gay and straight, use reproductive technologies to bring children into the world, where one parent has a biological relationship to the child and the other parent does not. These children deserve the same legal protections as any other children."

[Read GLAD's press release](#)

## California Supreme Court Ruling Invalidates Marriages of Same-Sex Couples

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August 12, 2004 – Today the California Supreme Court ruled that San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom did not have the authority to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and declared the licenses issued to nearly 4,000 same-sex couples invalid.

"This decision is heart breaking, because these couples were so happy to take on the commitment, joys, and responsibilities of marriage and thought they had done so," said Mary Bonauto, Civil Rights Project Director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). "This is not over. We live to

fight another day because in the end, the question is whether state laws denying marriage rights are unconstitutional. We believe that whenever we get to make that argument, as we did in Massachusetts, courts will rule in our favor."

## GLAD Urges Employers to Keep Domestic Partner Benefits: Marriage Does Not Mean Instant Equality

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Employers all across Massachusetts offer domestic partnership benefits to unmarried same-sex couples. Those policies were instituted in the spirit of fairness in order to provide "equal pay for equal work." Even though the state may no longer deny marriage to same-sex couples in Massachusetts, domestic partnership benefits remain important. There is no reason to terminate domestic partnership policies immediately and a number of good reasons exist to maintain them for the foreseeable future. Without careful thought, employers could inadvertently harm

their employees' families and children.

August 22, 2004 – The Boston Globe reported on a recent poll of human resources professionals, showing that, of those whose organizations offered benefits to unmarried partners, 91 percent said they will continue to do so. Read the [Globe story](#).

[Read More](#) about domestic partnership benefits in the age of marriage.

## Volunteer for the Legal Information Hotline

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Do you have one afternoon free a week? Work with GLAD on the front lines helping people who have experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and/or HIV status. Provide legal information to the public about their civil rights and the victories GLAD has won. Sign-up for the October Legal Information Hotline training today!! No prior legal experience is needed!!



[Get more information...](#)

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## Maine: Domestic Partnership Registry Takes Effect



July 30, 2004 - On April 28, 2004, Governor Baldacci signed "An Act to Promote the Financial Security of Maine's Families and Children," creating a domestic partnership registry in Maine. The new law became effective on July 30, 2004, and provides domestic partners with certain limited legal protections in the event of a partner's death or incapacity. [Read more...](#)

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## Connecticut Extends Hate Crimes Law to Protect Transgender People



May 25, 2004 - GLAD today hailed the passage of a law in Connecticut that amends the State's existing hate crimes statute to cover people who are targeted for violence because they are transgender or disabled.

GLAD worked with the Connecticut Hate Crimes Network towards passage of the bill. According to GLAD attorney Jennifer Levi, who authored the original bill that led to the legislation signed by Governor Rowland last week, "This law sends an unequivocal message to police, prosecutors, courts and the general public, that targeting individuals for violence solely because they are transgender or disabled is intolerable." [Read more...](#)

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## GLAD Wins 9/11 Fund Compensation for Lesbian Surviving Partner



May 6, 2004 - The federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund recently issued an award compensating GLAD client Nancy Walsh, the surviving lesbian partner of Carol Flyzik, for losses she incurred as a result of the September 11th tragedy. While questions had been raised after its adoption as to whether the Fund would include surviving same-sex partners within its scope, this recent decision has resolved that open issue. [Read more...](#)

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## Portland Domestic Partnership Ordinance Upheld



May 4, 2004 - When two anti-gay organizations filed suit against the City of Portland, seeking to prevent the City from providing domestic partnership benefits to committed, unmarried families living and working in the City, GLAD responded. GLAD represented the City in court and won a ruling upholding its domestic partnership ordinance.

"The City of Portland cannot change the fact that the State of Maine continues to deny marriage rights to committed gay and

 Maine continues to deny marriage rights to committed gay and lesbian families," said GLAD attorney Michele Granda. "But the City can rightfully provide a safety net of municipal benefits - including health insurance, family leave, and family discounts to its own employees, and encourage other employers to do the same." [Read more...](#)

## Vermont: Discrimination Against Transgender Employees Ruled Illegal

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April 23, 2004 – After a precedent-setting ruling by the Vermont Attorney General that Vermont law prohibits discrimination against transgender people in employment, public accommodations, housing, and other areas, the Town of Hardwick settled a discrimination claim brought by transgender former police officer Anthony Barreto-Neto.

GLAD attorney Jennifer Levi said, "This is a ground-breaking decision for transgender people who have historically been excluded from many civil rights protections and continue to experience pervasive discrimination." [Read more...](#)

## GLAD is Now Hiring!

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GLAD currently is hiring to fill several open positions on our staff. Come join a dynamic civil rights organization as we continue our work toward Equal Justice Under Law. Read more about these positions below.

[Litigation Assistant](#)

[Director of Special Events](#)

[Communications Associate](#)

## Contribute to GLAD's Groundbreaking Legal Work...

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GLAD is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that receives the majority of its funding from individuals like you.

If you believe that GLBT and HIV civil rights are worth fighting for, please join us by making a contribution to GLAD.

Thank you for [supporting our work...](#)

**NEW!** Here is a chance to make your gift go further! In recognition of the critical importance of GLAD's work, the Gill Foundation and Open Society Institute have pledged to match all new or increased contributions to GLAD.

Every dollar you give now will bring in a second dollar to fund GLAD's work. [Read more about this exciting opportunity!](#)

Donations to GLAD are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

***Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression.***

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