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Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Connecticut judge asked to overturn same-sex marriage ban

Holly Manges Jones at 1:53 PM ET



[JURIST] A **Connecticut Superior Court** [official website] on Tuesday began hearing a lawsuit brought by eight same-sex couples who claim that the state's marriage law is unconstitutional because it treats heterosexual couples differently than same-sex couples by defining marriage as existing only between a man and a woman. The **lawsuit** [GLAD case documents] was filed in 2004 with the assistance of the **Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders** (GLAD) [advocacy website]. Connecticut Assistant Attorney General Jane Rosenberg defended the marriage law Tuesday, saying gays do not have a fundamental right to marry. Last year, the state **approved civil unions for same-sex couples** [JURIST report], giving them the same legal rights as heterosexual married couples, but the eight couples are arguing that the marriage law still causes them to be treated as a separate class of citizens.

The **Supreme Court of Connecticut** [official website] is

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currently deciding whether to allow the **Family Institute of Connecticut** [advocacy website] to intervene in the case. The anti-gay marriage group claims that the **Connecticut Attorney General's Office** [official website] has not been vigorous enough in defending the state's marriage laws. AP has **more**.

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