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Gay couples challenging Connecticut marriage laws

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NEW HAVEN, Conn. After a two-year wait, some gay couples have had their day in court to challenge Connecticut's ban on gay marriage.

A lawyer for eight couples argued today that Connecticut's marriage laws illegally create a separate class of people based on sexual orientation.

But an assistant attorney general contended there is no fundamental right to marry.

The couples filed suit back in 2004 with the help of the group Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. Since that time, Connecticut has approved civil unions for gay couples, which gives them the same legal rights as heterosexual married couples. But that law defines marriage as being only between a man and a woman.

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