



Media Statement

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Judge Lifts on Stay on Prop. 8 Decision, California Same-Sex Marriages May Resume on Aug. 18

TULSA - [The Equality Network \(TEN\)](#) - Oklahoma's statewide advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights - commented on today's decision by Judge Vaughn Walker to lift the stay on his ruling in Perry v. Schwarzenegger and allow California to resume issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples effective Aug. 18.

"By lifting the stay, Judge Walker puts into action his argument that the state has no compelling justification for barring same-sex couples from legal civil marriage," said Kathy L. Williams, TEN president. "Californians, like all Americans, deserve to be treated equally under the law."

Today's decision is only the latest step in what promises to be a long journey for this case. Prop 8 supporters are likely to appeal the stay decision to the Ninth Circuit, which could issue its own stay and stop marriage licenses from being issued. Additionally, supporters of Prop 8 have already filed their appeal of the entire case with the Ninth Circuit.

"Although we know this case is far from settled, we remain very optimistic that discriminatory and unconstitutional laws denying same-sex couples the full benefits of U.S. citizenship will soon be struck down forever," added Williams.

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[The Equality Network](#) works to achieve equality and secure legal protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Oklahomans through advocacy, coalition building, and individual empowerment in the political process