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MARRIAGE EQUALITY AND THE U.S. SUPREME COURT.

GLORIA ALLRED AND THE WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS
LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND FILE FRIEND OF
THE COURT BRIEF WITH U.S. SUPREME COURT IN SUPPORT
OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The Women's Equal Rights Legal Defense and Education Fund (WERLDEF) has filed a Friend of the Court brief "Amicus Brief" with the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Hollingsworth v. Perry. The brief was signed by Attorney Gloria Allred who was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1979.

In 2004 Ms. Allred became the first attorney in California to announce that if her clients, Robin Tyler and Diane Olson, were denied a marriage license on account of their sexual orientation or gender, she would file a lawsuit challenging that denial as unconstitutional. The marriage license was denied and Ms. Allred and her clients then litigated the case for six years, twice to the California Supreme Court.

The California Supreme Court did decide the first time that it heard the case that the Family Code ban on same gender marriage was unconstitutional. As a result, Robin and Diane became the first couple in Los Angeles County to marry.

Shortly thereafter, however, Prop 8 was passed in California. Ms. Allred and her clients then filed a writ challenging Prop 8. Ms. Allred's law firm Allred, Maroko & Goldberg, was the only law firm which orally argued to the California Supreme Court that Prop 8 was unconstitutional, but that if it were upheld, the marriages of the 14,000 couples (who had been permitted to marry after the first California Supreme Court decision) should remain valid.

Although the California Supreme Court did uphold Prop 8, it agreed, in this decision, with that argument and it upheld the marriage of Ms. Tyler and Ms. Olson and the 14,000 other marriages that took place after the first California Supreme Court decision.

WERLDEF was founded in 1978. It is dedicated to educating women about their legal rights and assisting them in vindicating their rights by providing access to the courts by filing amicus curiae briefs on issues that have an impact on equal rights for women.

The Amicus Brief which was filed on February 28, 2013, can be found on Ms. Allred's website. Ms. Allred, Ms. Tyler and Ms. Olson will all be present in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Supreme Court on March 26, 2013 when the case of Hollingsworth v. Perry is argued.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
March 5, 2013