



MEDIA ADVISORY

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**TOWN HALL LA TO DEBATE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF PROP 8 AND SAME SEX MARRIAGE
Los Angeles, CA – Wednesday, January 7, 2009** – TOWN HALL Los Angeles convenes a debate on Proposition 8 with key players Gloria Allred, Founding Partner, Allred, Maroko & Goldberg and Andy Pugno, General Counsel, ProtectMarriage.com/Yes on Prop 8 . Join the debate at the [National Center for the Preservation of Democracy on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:30 PM.](#)

In May 2008, the California Supreme Court affirmed that gays and lesbians have the constitutional right to marry the person of their choice. In November, Californians passed Proposition 8 thereby excluding gays and lesbians from the right to marry a person of the same gender.

Debater, Gloria Allred on behalf of her clients Robin Tyler and Diane Olson, filed a lawsuit which resulted in the California Supreme Court decision in May 2008. Regarding their case, Allred stated, "All they have asked for is equal rights under the law and equal respect and dignity for their families and their committed relationships." She also filed a challenge to Prop 8 with the Court on November 5, 2008. The Supreme Court accepted the case.

Representing the proponent side of Prop 8 is Andy Pugno. "The coalition that has worked so hard for the past year to enact Proposition 8 will vigorously defend the People's decision against this unfortunate challenge by groups who, having lost in the court of public opinion, now turn to courts of law to pursue their agenda," said Pugno.

Moderating the debate is Judy Muller, Associate Professor of Journalism at USC's Annenberg School for Communication and ABC News Correspondent.

One of the Top 10 Forums in the nation, TOWN HALL Los Angeles has been a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization since 1937. Our mission is to provide a forum for ideas - a place for conversation and community - a meeting of the minds. We advocate for no side, represent no particular ideology and stand solidly in support of free speech, civility and a belief that knowledge is a priceless commodity. To join TOWN HALL Los Angeles visit www.townhall-la.org.

All accredited members of the media are invited to cover this event.

**Please credit TOWN HALL Los Angeles in your coverage.

When: Wednesday, January 14, 2009
7:30 PM Debate with Q&A

Where: National Center for the Preservation of Democracy
111 North Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tickets \$20, call 213.628.8141 or <http://www.townhall-la.org/programs/register/1236>.

Note to reporters and editors: The organization uses the full name TOWN HALL Los Angeles. Please do not make generic as in 'town hall.' Media RSVP to Deborah Weinberg at TOWN HALL Los Angeles 213.312.9307 or dweinberg@townhall-la.org.

UPCOMING TOWN HALL Los Angeles Events

Tuesday, January 13

Emilio Azcarraga

Chief Executive Officer

Grupo Televisa

"Continuing the Latin Media Legacy"

12:00 PM Luncheon – Millennium Biltmore Hotel;

12:30 PM Program with Q&A

Tuesday, February 10

Fred Smith

Founder, Chairman, President & CEO

FedEx

12:00 PM Luncheon – Omni Los Angeles Hotel

12:30 PM Program with Q&A

Monday, March 9

Justice Antonin Scalia

Associate Justice

United States Supreme Court

In conversation with Mark E. Haddad, Partner

Sidley Austin LLP

6:00 PM Reception – Jonathan Club Town;

7:00 PM Program with Q&A