

Today is Valentine's Day 2012. Today we celebrate the love and commitment of gay and lesbian couples who are seeking the right to marry but are still being denied that fundamental right. Although last week the Ninth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals held that Prop 8 was unconstitutional because it denied a right afforded by the California Supreme Court same gender couples in California are still unable to obtain a marriage license because there is still a stay in place. In plain English this means that until the courts lift that stay these couples will still be unable to obtain a marriage license.

We are excited and happy that other states such as Washington State are taking action to recognize the right to marry for same gender couples. However, that right is still being denied in California. Nevertheless, we will now go to the marriage license counter here in L.A. County and attempt to obtain a marriage license for two couples who wish to marry. We know that the license will be refused on account of their sexual orientation. However, we think it is important for us to be here today and every year seeking that marriage license to demonstrate that we will never give up until same gender couples win full marriage equality.

My law firm, representing Robin Tyler and Diane Olsen was the only law firm to orally argue to the California Supreme Court that the 18,000 same gender couples who married after the first California Supreme Court decision

should have their marriages upheld despite the passage of Prop 8. The court agreed with us and upheld those marriages.

Now it is time for the federal courts to recognize that all adults should have the right to marry the person of their choice.

We look forward to winning this right in the court of public opinion and in the courts of law.

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