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PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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“FREE THE TAPES” AND “MOTION TO MARRY” RALLY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 9TH CIRCUIT PROP. 8 HEARING – THUR, DEC. 8 1:00 PM

WHEN: Thursday, December 8, 2011, 1:00 PM

**WHERE: James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse
95 7th Street
San Francisco, CA**

San Francisco, CA • December 8, 2011 — Same-sex couples and their friends and family will hold a “Free the Tapes” and “Motion to Marry” rally on the steps of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Building at 1:00 pm on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, immediately preceding the Ninth Circuit’s hearing on whether videotapes of the Prop. 8 trial should be made public and whether the trial court’s exhaustive decision invalidating Prop. 8 should be overturned because the trial judge was gay and in a long term relationship. The hearing itself will begin at 2:30 pm and last 2 hours.

“We say ‘Free the tapes!’ What do the opponents of equality have to hide? Every American has the right to see for themselves the truth about Prop. 8 and how it hurts lesbian and gay people and their families,” said Marriage Equality USA’s Ellen Pontac and Shelly Bailes, who have been together for 37 years and are legally married in California.

Rally organizer Billy Bradford of Marriage Equality USA and GetEqual stated: “We will continue to come together as a community to speak out for fairness and equality until Prop. 8 is overturned and we have achieved full LGBT equality nationwide.”

Marriage Equality USA’s Legal Director John Lewis added: “Same-sex couples presented overwhelming evidence at trial about the unfairness of Prop. 8 to lesbian and gay Americans. With no evidence to stand on, what do those seeking to uphold the marriage ban do? – impugn the integrity of the judge. We are very hopeful that the Ninth Circuit will reject this cynical tactic.”

Founded in 2000, Marriage Equality USA is a national grassroots organization whose mission is to secure legally-recognized civil marriage equality for all, at the federal and state level, without regard to gender identity or sexual orientation. For more information go to www.marriageequality.org.