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PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA® AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY NEW YORK JOIN TOGETHER IN A NATIONWIDE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

New York/San Francisco · December 15, 2011 — Marriage Equality USA® (MEUSA™) and Marriage Equality New York (MENY) are excited to announce they have formally agreed to merge, bringing together two of the strongest forces in this movement. MENY will continue as a fully functioning chapter within MEUSA™. "Today is a very exciting day for the grassroots movement to achieve full civil marriage equality nationwide," said David Janis-Kitzmilller, MEUSA™ Board Chair.

"Our two organizations will combine their tremendous grassroots talent, resources and years of experience to fight for our shared mission: To secure legally recognized civil marriage equality for all, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity, at the state and federal level through grassroots organizing, education, action, advocacy and partnerships," said Cathy Marino-Thomas, MENY Board Chair.

"While we celebrate recent successes, we are more aware than ever in this election year of the ongoing work that remains to be done on a federal level and all around the country so that we can celebrate equality from sea to shining sea," said Stuart Gaffney, MEUSA™ Media Director.

Today's message to both organizations' members stated, "This agreement comes after over a decade of partnership and successes between the two organizations. Our teams have worked together on numerous projects including local actions on Valentine's Day and Tax Day, as well as Wedding Marches across bridges in San Francisco, Brooklyn, Albany, Rochester and Buffalo."

"Considering the changing landscape on this issue, as well as the work that still needs to be done, we believe this decision is a logical and positive step toward achieving our shared mission and goals," said Brian Silva, MENY Executive Director.

Our organizations look forward to joining together as we move forward to a future of marriage equality.

Marriage Equality New York (MENY) is a grassroots, all-volunteer, single-issue organization dedicated to securing the right of ALL New Yorkers to enter into legally recognized civil marriages. For more information go to <http://www.meny.us/home>.

Founded in 2001, Marriage Equality USA® (MEUSA™) 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.