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# PRESS ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release**

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Media Director Stuart Gaffney · 415-378-3259 · [stuartjohn@marriageequality.org](mailto:stuartjohn@marriageequality.org)  
Legal Analyst John Lewis · 415-377-7924 · [stuartjohn@marriageequality.org](mailto:stuartjohn@marriageequality.org)

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## **SAME-SEX COUPLES, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CLERGY TO GATHER ON DAY NINTH CIRCUIT PROP 8 RULING IS RELEASED**

**San Francisco • January 17, 2012** — Anti-marriage equality proponents have had their day in court, again. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has heard both sides of the issue and is due to announce their decision on the challenge to Proposition 8 any day now. Communities through-out California are prepared to gather to either celebrate or rededicate their resolve to achieve full marriage equality.

In San Francisco CA same-sex couples, friends, family and clergy will gather at the steps of the Ninth Circuit Federal Courthouse at 9:30 AM on the day the Ninth Circuit ruling on Proposition 8 is released. Following the announcement of the ruling those gathered will walk to the steps of San Francisco City Hall, where clergy will bless the unions of couples unable to marry because of Prop 8.

At 5:00 PM on that day, a community rally with speakers and music will be held at Market and 17th (across from Castro & Market) in San Francisco. Similar events will be held in communities across California, including Fresno, Los Angeles, and Sacramento.

"We are very hopeful that the Ninth Circuit will rule in favor of fairness and equality, once and for all putting an end to Prop. 8's exclusion of loving, committed couples from marriage," said John Lewis, Marriage Equality USA's Legal Analyst.

"We are a loving couple who have committed our lives to each other for the past nine years, and we will be at the courthouse on the morning of the ruling to receive the decision," said Thom Watson, who shares his life and a home in Daly City with his partner Jeff Tabaco. "We are a family and we want to be married. We are on pins and needles waiting to see if the Ninth Circuit will enable us to fulfill the American dream of marrying the one you love," added Tabaco.

"Love is a blessing, and we plan to celebrate the Ninth Circuit ruling by blessing same-sex couples at San Francisco City Hall to recognize that it is love and commitment that make a marriage," said Rev. Roland Stringfellow, Director of Ministerial Outreach for the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies.

A diverse coalition of community organizations has come together to plan the following events statewide -- this coalition includes but is not limited to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Marriage Equality USA, GetEQUAL, CA Faith for Equality, the Coalition of Welcoming Congregations, Poz Activists Network, Our Family Coalition and the Gay Straight Alliance:

### **Contra Costa County, CA**

**What:** Community gathering at the Rainbow Community Center

**Where:** Rainbow Community Center  
3024 Willow Pass Road, Suite 200  
Concord, CA 94519

**When:** 6:00–7:00 PM on Day of Decision

**Contact:** Leslie Stewart (925) 765-6064

### **Fresno, CA**

**What:** Community Rally

**Where:** Corner of N. Blackstone Avenue and E. Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93726

**When:** 5:00-7:00 PM on Day of Decision

**Contact:** Jaymi Morgan (559) 704-7683

### **Los Angeles, CA**

**What:** Community Rally, then a march down Santa Monica Blvd.

**Where:** West Hollywood Park on N. Robertson Blvd. (next to the Abbey Bar)  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

**When:** 6:00 PM on Day of Decision

**Contact:** Tristan Blaine (805) 657-4150

### **Sacramento, CA**

**What:** Informal gathering at The Cornerstone inside Headhunters in midtown Sacramento to await the posting of the decision to the 9th Circuit's website.

**Where:** The Cornerstone inside Headhunters  
1930 K Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**When:** 9:30 AM on Day of Decision

**Contact:** Ken Pierce (916) 718-3464

### **San Francisco, CA**

#### ***SF Morning***

**What:** Gather on the steps of the Ninth Circuit Federal Courthouse, San Francisco to receive the ruling (anticipated at 10:00 AM). Afterwards, we will proceed to San Francisco City Hall, where clergy will be available to bless couples who are not able to marry because of Prop. 8.

**Where:** Ninth Circuit Federal Courthouse

95 7th Street (at Mission)  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**When:** 9:30 AM on Day of Decision

**Contact:** Billy Bradford (415) 716-6315

### **SF Evening**

**What:** Community Rally with music and speakers. We will either celebrate or protest the decision, and either way, re-dedicate our resolve to achieve full equality nationwide.

**Where:** Market Street & 17<sup>th</sup> Street (across from Castro & Market)  
San Francisco, CA 94114

**When:** 5:00 PM on Day of Decision

**Contacts:** Rev. Kelly Rivera Hart (415) 260-5704 and Billy Bradford (415) 716-6315

*Founded in 2001, 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](http://www.marriageequality.org).*

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