



**PRESS ADVISORY:**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA ANNOUNCES EARLY MORNING GATHERING IN ADVANCE OF  
HISTORIC JUNE 16<sup>th</sup> CLOSING ARGUMENTS FOR FEDERAL COURT PROCEEDINGS ON  
PROPOSITION 8**

**When:** June 16, 2010, 8:00am to 10:00am

**Where:** Plaza of Phillip Burton Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco CA.

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**San Francisco, California:** On June 16, 2010 from 8am to 10am, the morning of the closing arguments in the historic United States District Court proceedings challenging Proposition 8, Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA), clergy and couples will come together to support the Federal Constitution's Promise of Equal Protection for All. Also present will be the actors from MarriageTrial.com which re-enacted the trial testimony after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision not to allow the Prop 8 trial to be televised, along with Courage Campaign volunteers who will re-enact highlights of the trial testimony as part of the community gathering.

"On the two year anniversary of marriage equality in California, we will gather once again in support of love, justice and equality on the steps of a courthouse as we listen to the closing arguments in the federal court case challenging Proposition 8," said Molly McKay, MEUSA Media Director. "Our gathering will highlight the testimony presented in this case which demonstrates the lack of any basis or evidence in support of Proposition 8 other than impermissible bias and discrimination and remain visible and tell our stories until all loving, committed couples have the right to marry the person they love."

"No other group in American society has been targeted by more ballot measures than the gay Americans," said Pamela Brown, MEUSA Policy Director. "The federal trial on Proposition 8 allowed marriage equality supporters and opponents to put their best evidence and witnesses under oath and we believe this case clearly shows that Proposition 8 stems from discrimination, leads to discrimination and should be overturned."

"We hope Judge Walker will decide it is unconstitutional for a slim majority voters to strip constitutional rights from a historically discriminated group and write an exception into the constitution," said Molly McKay, MEUSA Media Director. "Our morning gathering will allow supporters to come together and share the fellowship of courage, hope and strength and send a cheer for equality to the parties, organizations and attorneys involved in this important moment in our civil rights history. Couples and supporters are encouraged to join us and bring your marriage licenses, photos of your weddings and personal stories to share."

Community, religious leaders and other inspirational speakers at the vigil to be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 from 8:00am – 10:00am in the Plaza of the Phillip Burton Building at 450 Golden Gate Ave. in San Francisco. Coffee will be served.

To get tweets and updates from the hearing, follow us at <https://twitter.com/MEUSA>.

*Founded in 1998, 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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