



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

**MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA ANNOUNCES EARLY MORNING VIGIL IN ADVANCE OF  
HISTORIC JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEDERAL COURT PROCEEDINGS ON PROPOSITION 8**

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**San Francisco, California:** On the morning of the historic United States District Court proceedings challenging Proposition 8, Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA), dozens of community organizations and hundreds of Californians will be coming together for a vigil to support the Federal Constitution's Promise of Equal Protection for All.

"At stake is whether a slim majority vote can write in an exception to the equal protection clause of our state constitution and strip a historically discriminated against group of their fundamental civil rights," said Molly McKay, MEUSA Media Director. "The Sunrise Vigil for Hope and Marriage Equality will allow supporters to come together and share the spirit of courage, hope and strength that will herald in the light of day on this important next chapter of our civil rights movement. Couples and supporters are encouraged to join us and bring your marriage licenses, photos of your weddings and personal stories to share."

Community and religious leaders will be joined by musicians and other inspirational speakers at the vigil to be held on Monday, January 11, 2010 from 6:30am – 8:30am in the Plaza of the Phillip Burton Building at 450 Golden Gate Ave. in San Francisco. Coffee will be served.

The following is the list of vigil speakers with their estimate time slots:

Speakers from 6:30-7:00am	Speakers from 7:00-7:45am	Speakers from 7:45-8:30am
Rev. Roland Stringfellow, CLGS	California Senator Mark Leno	Rev. Samuel Chu, CA Faith for Equality
Veronica Klaus, Performer	Lance Black, <i>Milk</i> Screenwriter	Pamela Brown, Marriage Equality USA
John Lewis & Stuart Gaffney*, MEUSA/API Leaders	Deborah & Nancy Cote**	Frank & Joe Capley-Alfano*
Rev. Vicky Kolakowski, MCC & MEUSA	Pricilla Pae & Michelle Meow**	Anitra & Kim Bryant**
Helen Laird, PFLAG Parent	Andrea Shorter, Equality California	Couples Commitment w. Clergy
Jenny Pizer, Lambda Marriage Project Dir.	Kate Kendell, Natl Ctr for Lesbian Rights	Maya Scott-Chung, MEUSA Parents Ldr
Davina Kotulski, MEUSA Advisory Board	Sam Thoron, MEUSA Board and PFLAG	Chiah Connolly – COLAGE
Melanie DeMore, Performer	Rev. Michael Yoshi, United Methodist	Kevin Hseih, Straight Republican Ally
Rev. Jeff Bert, San Francisco MCC	Diane Larsen, Performer	Eva Paterson, Equal Justice Society
Miye Goishi, Hastings Professor of Law	KSuzanne Massey & Enid Stern	Juan Barajas, GLAAD
Bishop Mark Holmured, Lutheran	Todd Ferrell, Evangelical Network	MCC Choir
Ellen Pontac & Shelly Bailes*, MEUSA	Ron Shingler, Straight Catholic Ally	Molly McKay, Marriage Equality USA
	Rick Jacobs, Courage Campaign	

\*Couples married between June 16 – November 4, 2008.

\*\* Couples wanting to marry but unable to because of Proposition 8.

*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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