



Advocacy Update

Sent July 11, 2012

WRJ Joins Court Brief in Favor of Gay Marriage

Last week, WRJ, along with the URJ and the CCAR, signed onto an amicus brief coordinated by the Anti-Defamation League in a challenge to the deeply-offensive “Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)” in the Ninth Circuit case, *Golinski v. OPM*.

In this case we are supporting Karen Golinski, who was denied spousal health benefits for her wife, to whom she was legally married. Ironically, her employer is the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The Chief Judge ruled that to deny the legally married couple the same benefits that heterosexual employees receive for their lawful spouses violated the Ninth Circuit’s employment policies, which prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The District Court agreed, declaring the Defense of Marriage Act to be unconstitutional as applied to Karen Golinski. Now that decision is being appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A few months ago, the First Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously held that DOMA is unconstitutional in another case where WRJ joined in a legal challenge. We hope the Ninth Circuit will follow suit in the current case.

Step by step, case by case, WRJ will continue to seek equal rights and justice for all!

News from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Urge Congress to Protect Health Care Reform

The Supreme Court has spoken, yet members of the House are seeking to repeal the landmark Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. If these members succeed, millions will be deprived of the health care they need and deserve. To make an impact, urge your Representative to oppose any and all repeal efforts and to ensure that health care is affordable and accessible to all.

Reform Movement Welcomes Presbyterian Church's Rejection of Divestment

The Presbyterian Church (USA) rejected motions to divest from companies doing business with Israel. PC (USA) is the largest Presbyterian denomination in the USA, representing more than 10,000 congregations. "We share the church's interest in advancing the cause of peace between Israel and her neighbors. Divestment, along with boycotts and sanctions, are not the way to achieve that goal in the context of the Israeli – Palestinian relationship." Rabbi David Saperstein's comments.

News from the Israel Religious Action Center

Action Alert: Stop Hotel Discrimination in Israel

Anat Hoffman of the Israel Religious Action Center recently sent an alert informing us that the Orthodox Rabbinate in Israel is creating a new rating system for hotels that are deemed more ‘kosher’ than others. Their system would rate hotels' on criteria that go far beyond how the food is prepared. For example, hotels can lose stars in the Rabbinate's rating-system for employing a non-Jew in the kitchen, not having a gender segregated swimming pool, or allowing people to speak on cell phones in public places during Shabbat. Anat urges us to let the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, Yona Metzger, know that we will not tolerate this kind of intolerance and Orthodox interference. By clicking here you can write the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi using the IRAC’s prewritten template or write your own custom message.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home