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California Supreme Court Accepts Same-Sex Marriage Cases for Review

San Francisco—The Supreme Court of California today accepted for review six same-sex marriage cases that address the constitutionality of California's marriage statute (Family Code, sections 300, 308.5).

The justices accepted the cases by a unanimous vote at the high court's weekly petition conference. More than 200 other matters were considered for review at that conference. (*In re Marriage Cases*, S147999).

In addition to Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the justices who agreed to decide the case are Justices Joyce L. Kennard, Marvin R. Baxter, Kathryn Mickle Werdegar, Ming W. Chin, Carlos R. Moreno, and Carol A. Corrigan.

The same-sex marriage cases are six coordinated declaratory relief and mandate actions that were previously decided by written opinion by the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three.

The next step in the Supreme Court's case process is for the attorneys for each party to file briefs on the legal issues in the cases. Rule 29.1(a) of the California Rules of Court provides:

1. Within 30 days after the Supreme Court grants the petition for review and files its order of review, the petitioner must serve and file in that court either an opening brief on the merits or the brief it filed in the Court of Appeal.
2. Within 30 days after the petitioner files its brief or the time to do so expires, the opposing party must serve and file either an answer brief on the merits or the reply brief it filed in the Court of Appeal.
3. The petitioner may file a reply brief on the merits or the reply brief

(over)

it filed in the Court of Appeal. A reply brief must be served and filed within 20 days after the opposing party files its brief.

After the briefs are filed and reviewed by the justices, a number of other steps must be completed before oral argument is scheduled. No date has been set yet for oral argument. After oral argument is held, a written opinion will be issued within 90 days.

More information on the high court's case processing is available in *The Internal Operating Policies and Procedures of the Supreme Court of California* at this link:
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/documents/sc082504.doc> .

Information on case dockets and attorneys of record is available online on the Supreme Court's Case Information System:
http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/mainCaseScreen.cfm?dist=0&doc_id=447693&doc_no=S147999 .

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Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Div. 3 - Nos.
A110449/A110450/A110451/A110463/A110651/A110652
S147999

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA

En Banc

In re MARRIAGE CASES.

The requests to appear as counsel pro hac vice, filed November 14, 2006 and December 4, 2006, are granted.

The request for judicial notice, filed November 13, 2006, is granted.

All six petitions for review, filed November 13 and 14, 2006, are GRANTED.

George

Chief Justice

Kennard

Associate Justice

Baxter

Associate Justice

Werdegar

Associate Justice

Chin

Associate Justice

Moreno

Associate Justice

Corrigan

Associate Justice