



NEWS RELEASE

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Supreme Court to Hear Oral Arguments in Marriage Cases on March 4, 2008

San Francisco—The California Supreme Court today announced that it will hear oral arguments on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, in six cases that address the constitutionality of the state's marriage statutes. (*In re Marriage Cases*, S147999.)

In these cases, the challengers contend that the current California marriage statutes are unconstitutional in limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples and denying same-sex couples access to the designation of marriage.

The three-hour oral argument session will be held in the Supreme Court's Courtroom, Earl Warren Center, Fourth Floor, 350 McAllister Street, San Francisco, as part of the court's regular monthly calendar session from March 4-6, 2008. The complete March 2008 oral argument calendar is available at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/#cal>.

The marriage cases are six coordinated mandate and declaratory relief actions in which an initial decision was issued by the Superior Court of San Francisco County, and in which a consolidated appeal was decided by the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three. After the Court of Appeal decision, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the matter. Briefing in the Supreme Court was completed in November 2007.

The names of the petitioners and respondents in the marriage cases – and the time allotted for each during oral arguments – are set forth in the attached order issued today by the Supreme Court.

To increase public access to the court session, the Supreme Court has designated the California Channel, a public affairs cable network, to provide a live TV broadcast of the session and to serve as the “pool” channel. For a list of cable companies that carry the network, see <http://www.calchannel.com/carriage.htm>.

Oral arguments also will be broadcast in an overflow viewing auditorium in the Milton Marks Conference Center, Hiram J. Smith State Office Building, Lower Level, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

In addition, the Supreme Court announced that, when electronic copies have been obtained, briefs that have been filed in the marriage cases will be made available on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/>.

Under the applicable court rules, the Supreme Court generally issues a decision, through a written opinion, within 90 days of oral argument. For more information on the cases, including the attorneys of record, please see the Supreme Court's online Case Information System at http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/mainCaseScreen.cfm?dist=0&doc_id=447693&doc_no=S147999.

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S147999

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA

In re MARRIAGE CASES.

The court will allocate three hours to oral argument in this proceeding.

For purposes of oral argument, the City and County of San Francisco and the other parties challenging the constitutionality of California’s current marriage statutes will be deemed petitioners, and the State of California and the other parties supporting the constitutionality of the marriage statutes will be deemed respondents.

Counsel for City and County of San Francisco will be allocated a total of 35 minutes for oral argument.

Counsel for petitioner Rymer et al. will be allocated a total of 35 minutes for oral argument.

Counsel for petitioner Tyler et al. will be allocated a total of 10 minutes for oral argument.

Counsel for petitioner Clinton et al. will be allocated a total of 10 minutes for oral argument.

Counsel for the State of California will be allocated 45 minutes for oral argument.

Counsel for the Governor et al. will be allocated 15 minutes for oral argument.

Counsel for Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund will be allocated 15 minutes for oral argument.

Counsel for Campaign for California Families will be allocated 15 minutes for oral argument.

A request by a party or an amicus curiae to use a portion or all of another party’s time must be made pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 8.524.

Chief Justice