



PRESS RELEASE

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**FEDERAL COURT RULING IN FAVOR OF MICHIGAN MARRIAGE EQUALITY
IS THE NAIL IN THE COFFIN FOR DOOMED ANTI-GAY STUDY**

New York/San Francisco · 21 March 2014 — Following an exhaustive trial which included extensive expert testimony, U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Friedman found Michigan's ban on equal marriage rights violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The ruling also debunked the flawed anti-equality research of Mark Regnerus as "not worthy of serious consideration."

"This ruling from a Reagan-appointed judge continues a string of diverse judicial appointees all coming to the same conclusion, that denying same-sex couples the equal right to marry is unconstitutional," said Brian Silva, MEUSA Executive Director. "In addition, under the Court's examination, the already discredited Regnerus study was finally laid to rest as 'entirely unbelievable.'"

"Judge Friedman's ruling is a case study in civil rights in action. He weighed all the evidence carefully and reached his conclusion clearly and fairly, that the Constitution's guarantees of equal protection apply not just to some of us but to all of us -- including the children being raised by same-sex couples," said John Lewis, Marriage Equality USA Legal and Policy Director. "In particular, the judge in this case thoughtfully examined the research on LGBT families and found that the science is clear: children fare just as well whether they are being raised by same-sex or opposite-sex couples."

Quoting the U.S. Supreme Court, the court concluded powerfully with the fervent hope that the children of same-sex couples will grow up "to understand the integrity and closeness of their own family and its concord with other families in their community and in their daily lives."

At this time, there is no stay on the decision.

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*Founded in 2001, Marriage Equality USA® (MEUSA™) is a volunteer-driven national grassroots organization whose mission is "to secure legally-recognized civil marriage equality for all, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity, at the state and federal level through grassroots organizing, education, action and partnerships". We are a registered 501(c)3 and all donations are tax deductible. For more information go to www.marriageequality.org.
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