



## Marriage Equality USA® Press Releases 2012

Media Director [Stuart Gaffney](#), Legal Director [John Lewis](#)

Social Media Director [Thom Watson](#)

04 January 2012 – 07 December 2012

### [MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA LOOKS TO UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT TO RULE IN FAVOR OF THE FREEDOM TO MARRY FOR LOVING COMMITTED SAME-SEX COUPLES IN LANDMARK LAWSUITS](#) - Press Release 7 December 2012

"The Supreme Court is taking up these marriage equality cases in what has already been a historic year for the freedom to marry. The Court will hear these cases knowing that we have the support of the President of the United States, numerous state and federal courts, and voters who supported the freedom to marry this November in every state where it was on the ballot."

### [JOINT STATEMENT REGARDING THE DESTRUCTION OF HURRICANE SANDY AND WINTER STORMS AND CHALLENGES FACING LGBT PEOPLE AND FAMILIES](#) - Joint Statement 9 November 2012

We know that because same-sex relationships and transgender identity often are not recognized and respected as others are, it can make accessing assistance during times like this even more difficult. Here are some key contacts and guidelines to help you and your family.

### [MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA CELEBRATES ELECTION VICTORIES IN ALL FOUR STATE CONTESTS AND ACROSS THE NATION](#) - Press Release 8 November 2012

"This is what historic change looks like: Americans have re-elected the first sitting President to come out for marriage equality. Americans have given majority support to marriage equality in national polls and at the ballot box. Americans voted down discriminatory anti-equality initiatives. Americans elected openly LGBT officials across the country from school board to the United States Senate. The history of marriage equality will now be divided into the time before and after November 6, 2012. This is the definition of a watershed moment."

### [MEUSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRIAN SILVA ON HUFFPOST LIVE RADIO, GAY MARRIAGE BALLOTS WIN](#) -7 November 2012

"We've always said that minority rights should never be put up to a vote of the majority, but what we've shown today is that if and when the opposition decides to do that again we have the tools, we have the partnerships, we have the great campaigns and staff to be able to overcome it."

### [MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA APPLAUDS ELECTION DAY VICTORIES IN MAINE AND MARYLAND](#) - Press Release 6 November 2012

"Today's vote is the historic turning point in the grassroots movement for marriage equality. National polls have consistently shown majority support for the freedom to marry, and now voters have proven it for the first time at the ballot box. Together, we are making marriage stronger and more inclusive than ever."

**[ONE-STOP-SHOPPING FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY ELECTION RESULTS](#) - Press Release 2 November 2012**

"Marriage equality is one of the most important issues in this election, and we know that LGBT families and fair-minded Americans nationwide will want to tune in to our report as results are being posted."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA LAUNCHES "PHONE FROM HOME" PROGRAM TO WIN EQUAL MARRIAGE RIGHTS ON ELECTION DAY](#) - Press Release 31 October 2012**

"The Phone from Home program enables our dedicated volunteers from coast-to-coast to make simple but powerful Get Out the Vote (GOTV) calls from their own homes to remind fair-minded voters how critical it is that they get out and vote."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA'S CAMPAIGN FOR 20 MILLION MORE IS BUILDING THE MOMENTUM TO WIN EQUAL MARRIAGE RIGHTS IN ELECTION 2012](#) - Press Release 9 October 2012**

"The [Campaign for 20 Million More](#) is a powerful example of what is best about our community and allies when we all work together towards big goals."

**[ARCHBISHOP CORDILEONE INSTALLATION PROTEST](#) - Press Release 3 October 2012**

"We will be there to protest Cordileone's installation and to stand up for the dignity of ALL San Francisco Bay Area families," said Billy Bradford of Marriage Equality USA and GetEQUAL. "We do not support his anti-equality message or the work he does to deny legal rights to our families. The harm done to our community by Salvatore Cordileone cannot go unchallenged."

**[PARTY PLATFORM EFFECTS ON LGBT AMERICANS COMPARED. MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA RELEASES GUIDE TO POLITICAL PARTY PLANS FOR LGBT PEOPLE](#) - Press Release 17 September 2012**

"This information on the national political party platforms is a critical part of Marriage Equality USA's commitment to education so that all Americans can make informed decisions on Election Day. It is clear from the research that how each of us votes has a profound impact on not just our own lives, but the lives of our LGBT friends and families."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA'S CATHY MARINO-THOMAS, STATE OF BELIEF RADIO INTERVIEW](#) - 15 September 2012**

When asked if she thinks all of our opposition comes from religious language or if there are other factors involved: "I think that our oppositions' bottom line objections are two things, religion, and as you stated has no place in a country where our Constitution is based on a separation of church and state, and their view that gay men and lesbians are not fit to be parents. Now on the second issue the data just does not support their view. There are varying estimates on the number of children that LGBTQ parents are raising but the data is clear that these children are just as likely to be well-adjusted as the progeny of traditional unions. There is absolutely no data showing that children are harmed in any way by having parents of the same sex."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA ANNOUNCES THE CAMPAIGN FOR 20 MILLION MORE TO WIN EQUAL MARRIAGE RIGHTS IN ELECTION 2012](#) - Press Release 6 September 2012**

"This fall, over 20 million Americans will be affected by decisions surrounding marriage equality. We can all recall the joy and excitement felt by millions last spring when New York passed state-level marriage equality. Today, Marriage Equality USA is taking a bold step to help spread that joy across the nation by launching The Campaign for 20 Million More."

**[JOINT STATEMENT REGARDING SHOOTING AT FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER \(FRC\) FROM GLAAD, SIGNED BY MEUSA AND 49 OTHER LGBTIQ ORGANIZATIONS](#) - 15 August 2012**

"...we utterly reject and condemn such violence."

## **MEUSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRIAN SILVA ON THE THOM HARTMANN SHOW - 14**

**August 2012**

"It's really an exciting time right now. We've had huge momentum in the courts, in legislatures, at the ballot box, and in the polls. Everything is just going in our direction. We're not giving up by any means. We know there are people working strong against us, but I think signs are pointing in a positive direction toward a world of equality and equal rights for families."

## **MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA HOPEFUL FOR WEDDINGS TO RESUME IN CALIFORNIA -**

**Press Release 31 July 2012**

"It is crystal clear that the Fourteenth Amendment applies to each and every American in all aspects of our lives, including marriage equality. The U.S. Constitution guarantees equality for all, not equality for some."

## **MEUSA ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Press Release 18 July 2012**

"2012 is a historic year for marriage equality, with the issue on the ballot in four states this November and legal challenges to DOMA and Prop. 8 moving forward to the Supreme Court." "This is an incredibly exciting time for our movement, and I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeves immediately as MEUSA expands grassroots efforts across the country to win equal marriage rights nationwide."

## **THE GREAT CASTRO VALLEY MARRIAGE DEBATE - Press Release 16 July 2012 (Sample of a local MEUSA PR)**

"The struggle for marriage equality is a critical element in the broader movement for LGBT equality. Denying same-sex couples the freedom to marry undermines their dignity as human beings and excludes them from over 1,000 rights and protections under federal law."

## **3 OF FINAL 5 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SUPPORT LGBTIQ ISSUES 100% - Press Release 29 June 2012**

"Unfortunately, some of the Republican state platforms are the polar opposite of embracing equality as part of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. However, that clearly is not changing the national forward movement in support of rights for LGBTIQ people."

## **LOVEANDPRIDE UNVEILS MARRIAGE EQUALITY PENDANT - Press Release 12 June 2012**

"Visually declaring your support for marriage equality to friends, family and strangers by wearing the Marriage Equality Pendant will spur conversation, change minds and accelerate momentum towards marriage equality for everyone. It's both a fashion and a social statement, and it works."

## **MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA APPLAUDS TODAY'S 9TH CIRCUIT PROP 8 DECISION UPHOLDING THE FREEDOM TO MARRY - Press Release 05 June 2012**

"The momentum for the freedom to marry seems unstoppable!"

## **2/3 OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SUPPORT ALL TOP LGBTIQ ISSUES - Press Release 01 June 2012**

"We deserve a President who represents *all* Americans, which is why it is so gratifying to see this historic high point in support for equality for LGBTIQ Americans."

## **MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA APPLAUDS UNANIMOUS COURT RULING AGAINST DOMA - Press Release 31 May 2012**

"The First Circuit Court of Appeals looked closely for any interest that could possibly justify this exclusion, and it found none. DOMA cannot stand."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA CELEBRATES NATIONAL GALA](#) - Press Release 22 May 2012**

The 2012 Marriage Equality USA National Gala was held Monday, May 21 at the 404 NYC event space in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. This year's theme "We Are the American Family," celebrated the diversity within LGBT families and supported Marriage Equality USA's continued work to preserve, expand, and protect equality in our community.

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA WELCOMES NAACP RESOLUTION](#) - Press Release 19 May 2012**

"The NAACP has been a long-time ally in the fight for marriage equality. Today's vote cements the bond of our common struggle to insure that all Americans are treated equally. We thank our friends at the NAACP for their action today."

**[MOST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES NOW SUPPORT ALL LGBTIQ ISSUES](#) - Press Release 10 May 2012**

"Our public service on this subject ensures that journalists, voters, and candidates all know exactly where everyone stands on each issue, day by day."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA THANKS PRESIDENT FOR CLEAR STAND ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY](#) - Press Release 09 May 2012 [List of contacts for quotes](#)**

"Marriage is about love and commitment, and the President looked at this decision with his heart -- not as a political calculation -- and decided to stand on the side of love."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA DECRIES NORTH CAROLINA ANTI-EQUALITY VOTE](#) - Press Release 05 May 2012**

"This divisive initiative is blatantly unconstitutional." "This exclusionary initiative harms real people."

**[PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SUPPORT LGBTIQ ISSUES 69%](#) - Press Release 02 May 2012**

"Equality under the law is not a special interest and should be an area of bi-partisan agreement."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA DEMONSTRATES AGAINST UNEQUAL TAX TREATMENT FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES](#) - Press Release 16 April 2012**

"We will stand up every year for equal taxation without discrimination, until we have full federal equality for all Americans."

**[PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SUPPORT FOR LGBTIQ ISSUES REACHES 60%](#) - Press Release 10 April 2012**

"Every time the data changes we publish an update, so that journalists, voters, and candidates all know exactly where everyone stands on each issue, and it's certainly having an effect."

**[MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA APPLAUDS THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE FOR REFUSING TO OVERTURN MARRIAGE EQUALITY](#) - Press Release 21 March 2012**

"Our leaders always face a decision regarding which side of history they want to stand on whenever civil rights are debated. New Hampshire legislators made a clear decision today to stand on the right side of history."

**[NEW FIELD POLL SHOWS 59% OF CALIFORNIANS SUPPORT FREEDOM TO MARRY - Poll Shows Californians Now Favor Marriage Equality by 25% Margin](#) - Press Release 29 February 2012**

"Today's Field Poll shows that a clear majority of Californians now believe that it's time for Prop. 8 to go and for all Californians once again to be able to marry the person they love."

**MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA APPLAUDS TODAY'S SENATE VOTE FOR THE FREEDOM TO MARRY IN MARYLAND** - Press Release 23 February 2012

"We are seeing unstoppable momentum for equal marriage rights from every avenue. Yesterday, yet another federal court struck down the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, saying the law 'treats gay men and lesbians differently on the basis of their sexual orientation' without any legal basis... The imposition of subjective moral beliefs of a majority on a minority cannot provide a justification."

**MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA CELEBRATES TODAY'S HISTORIC VOTE IN NEW JERSEY, URGES GOV. CHRISTIE TO SIGN THE MARRIAGE EQUALITY BILL** - Press Release 16 february 2012

"We urge Gov. Christie to sign the bill. The freedom to marry for loving, committed couples should not be put up for a popular vote in New Jersey. As Gov. Gregoire said in her letter to Gov. Christie, 'Sometimes the majority doesn't always protect the minority.'"

**42% OF AMERICANS LIVING IN STATES WITH LEGAL RECOGNITION FOR SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS THANKS TO SIGNING OF HISTORIC LAW IN WASHINGTON STATE**© - Press Release 13 February 2012

With the enactment of full marriage equality in Washington state today, over 42% of Americans now live in the 21 states that offer some form of legal recognition at the state level for same-sex relationships. [U.S. Map illustrating 21 states that offer partial equality as well as 30 states with various bans on marriage](#)©.

"Like New York State before it, Washington demonstrates that leadership with vision from the Governor and bipartisan support in the legislature is the winning combination to advancing civil rights."

**LET OUR PEOPLE WED: Same-sex Couples to Request Marriage Licenses On Valentine's Day As Part of Annual Freedom to Marry Week**© - Press Release 10 February 2012

*Despite Ninth Circuit ruling, Prop. 8 continues to hurt lesbian and gay couples and their families*  
"Today, we go to marriage license counters across the country to tell our stories and to show that we live in every community and that we want to honor and protect our families just like everyone else."

**Updated Schedule of Community Events in Response to Prop 8 Ninth Circuit Ruling**© - Events taking place on Tuesday, February 7, 2012.

**PROP 8 IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL! MEUSA™ CELEBRATES TODAY'S NINTH CIRCUIT RULING**© - Press Release 07 February 2012

"Proposition 8 divided California into marriage haves and have nots. Today, the court has reaffirmed what we already know in our hearts – our United States Constitution prohibits taking away the fundamental right to marry from one particular group. Everyone deserves the freedom to marry the one you love." [Click here to read a summary of today's ruling.](#)

**COMMUNITY TO GATHER TO RECEIVE PROP. 8 RULING**© - Press Release 06 February 2012

The California Community will gather for events across the state to respond to tomorrow's decision. ""We are very hopeful that the Ninth Circuit will rule in favor of fairness and equality, once and for all putting an end to Prop. 8's exclusion of loving, committed couples from marriage."

**MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA® DISAPPOINTED BY ORDER DENYING PUBLIC ACCESS TO VIDEOTAPES, BUT LOOKS FORWARD TO NINTH CIRCUIT DECISION ON MERITS OF PROP. 8© - Press Release 02 February 2012**

"... even though today's court order prevents the public from seeing video of the compelling testimony presented at trial, the strength of that evidence gives us great hope that the Ninth Circuit will uphold the trial court's ruling that denying same-sex couples the freedom to marry violates the Constitution. It's really all about fairness."

**MEUSA™ APPLAUDS MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN WASHINGTON© - Press Release 23 January 2012**

"2012 is already shaping up to be another great year for loving, committed couples from coast to coast."

"The trend nationwide couldn't be clearer, and we look forward to state after state deciding to treat all marriages equally."

**SAME-SEX COUPLES, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CLERGY TO GATHER ON DAY NINTH CIRCUIT PROP 8 RULING IS RELEASED© - Press Release 17 January 2012**

Anti-marriage equality proponents have had their day in court, again. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has heard both sides of the issue and is due to announce their decision on the challenge to Proposition 8 any day now. Communities through-out California are prepared to gather to either celebrate or rededicate their resolve to achieve full marriage equality.

**Marriage Equality USA® Calls on Canada to Affirm the Legal Marriages of All Same-Sex Couples© - Press Release 12 January 2012**

"Canada needs to correct its course immediately and make the strongest statement possible that all marriages will be respected equally."

**Marriage Equality USA® Applauds WA Governor's Support for Marriage Equality© - Press Release 4 January 2012**

"We are optimistic the Evergreen State will now be joining the Empire State in establishing the freedom to marry for all. New Year's Day rang in civil unions in Hawaii and Delaware. Today's announcement continues to build momentum for all loving, committed couples to be treated equally under the law."