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[Gay.com Home](#) > News

Same-sex couples sue to wed in Connecticut

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The Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) announced Wednesday they have filed suit in New Haven Superior Court against the state of Connecticut on behalf of seven same-sex couples seeking marriage rights.

Lawyers at the New England-based GLAD are responsible for the marriage victories in Vermont and in Massachusetts. Connecticut is the scene of their third same-sex marriage suit.

As is the case with most well-prepared marriage suits, the plaintiffs are hand-picked poster couples for the right to marry. Together for between 10 and 28 years, the couples set the stage for the suit by attempting to marry in Madison without success.

In a statement, GLAD's Mary Bonauto said the case "presents a historic opportunity for Connecticut. ... As a simple matter of equality, it is time for Connecticut to end this discrimination against same-sex couples and their families."

All of the LGBT community's main legal groups are now in action somewhere in the country, challenging state marriage laws that discriminate against same-sex couples. Lambda Legal has an ongoing lawsuit against the state of New Jersey, which is pending before a state appellate court. Lambda is also suing the states of New York, Washington and California.

The American Civil Liberties Union, meanwhile, is suing separately in New York and Washington, and is part of the lawsuit against California. The ACLU is also challenging marriage discrimination in Oregon.

Finally, the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights is part of the coordinated case in California, and has also taken action against the state of Florida.

In terms of timing, the three West Coast lawsuits appear to be on the fastest tracks, with the Oregon case en route now to a direct review by the state Supreme Court, with Washington and California not far behind.

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