



Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders



## Marriage Equality



[Marriage Toolkit](#)  
(How-To Info & Resources)



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### GLAD's Marriage-Related Cases

#### **Kerrigan & Mock v. Connecticut Dept. of Public Health**



*Kerrigan & Mock et al v. Connecticut Department of Public Health* seeks to end Connecticut's exclusion of

lesbian and gay couples from marriage rights.

The plaintiff couples, who have been in committed relationships for between 10 and 28 years, many of them raising children, contend that only marriage will provide them with the protections and benefits they need to live securely as a family. Five of the seven couples have young children; some have faced health issues and worry about being denied access to one other in times of crisis. While all the couples are concerned about receiving the full range of protections that only flow through marriage, many also believe that only marriage will convey the depth and commitment of their relationships to their families and the

### Marriage Publications



[How to Get Married in Massachusetts](#)



[Marriage Tips & Traps](#)



[Warning for Same-Sex Binational Couples](#)

- Also available [En Español](#).
- Download a version in [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), [French](#), [Haitian Kreyol](#) and [Chinese](#). [PDF]



[Overview of Protections, Benefits & Obligations of Marriage Under Massachusetts and Federal Law](#)



[Is DOMA Doomed?](#)  
(critical analysis of DOMA laws)



[Comparison Chart: Marriage v. Civil Unions v. No Marital Status](#)

world at large.

GLAD is representing the plaintiffs in cooperation with Maureen Murphy of Murphy, Murphy, Nugent in New Haven, Kenneth J. Bartschi of Horton, Shields & Knox in Hartford, and the [Connecticut Civil Liberties Union](#). The defendants are the Department of Public Health (DPH), which supervises the registration of all marriages, and Dorothy C. Bean, the town registrar of vital statistics in Madison, who denied plaintiffs marriage licenses.

[Meet the plaintiff couples...](#)

[Read the plaintiffs' complaint...](#)

[Questions & Answers about the case](#)

[Press release, August 25, 2004](#)

[Protections, Benefits & Responsibilities of Marriage under Connecticut and Federal Law](#)

[This case as seen in the national and world context](#)

Additional Resources:  
[Connecticut Civil Liberties Union](#)  
[Love Makes a Family Connecticut](#)

*To schedule an interview with the plaintiffs or the attorneys involved in this case, phone GLAD at (617) 426-1350.*

## Cote-Whitacre v. Dep't of Public Health



In *Goodridge et al v. Department of Public Health*, the state's highest court ruled that denying marriage to gay and lesbian couples violates the equality and liberty guarantees of the state Constitution. Because the government is continuing to deny certain eligible same-sex couples the right to marry, GLAD has gone back to court.

*Cote-Whitacre et al v. Department of Public Health* seeks to end yet another version of marriage discrimination

 [Marriage is a Worker's Issue](#)

 [How to Get Married In Canada](#)

 [El Matrimonio - Recursos en Español](#)

### Activist Resources

#### Marriage Viewpoints

- [Why Marriage Matters](#)
- [Civil Marriage v. Civil Unions](#)
- [Civil Marriage & Freedom of Religion En Español](#)
- [Protections, Benefits & Responsibilities](#)
- [A History Of Change](#)
- [Around The World](#)
- [Anti-Gay, Anti-Marriage Legislation En Español](#)

#### Take Action!

Opponents of LGBT civil rights are intent on rolling back the clock.

[Raise your voice in support of equal marriage](#)

[Marriage advocacy groups](#)

[Write a letter to the editor of your local paper](#)

[Help GLAD fund the fight for marriage equality](#)

GLAD partners with grassroots advocacy organizations that make it easy for you to contact public officials and make your voice heard:

- [MassEquality.org](#)
- [Freedom to Marry Coalition - MA](#)

[Get involved with the marriage movement around](#)

against same-sex couples by the Executive branch of the Massachusetts government: the denial of marriage to gay and lesbian non-residents.

GLAD's *Cote-Whitacre* suit was filed in conjunction with *Johnstone et al v. Reilly*, a suit by 13 city and town clerks challenging Massachusetts' denial of marriage licenses to non-residents. These cases have been consolidated.

[Meet the plaintiff couples...](#)

[Questions & Answers about the case...](#)

[GLAD's Press Releases...](#)

[Cote-Whitacre Case Documents...](#)

[Johnstone Case Documents...](#)

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## Goodridge: Equal Marriage in Massachusetts



On November 18, 2003 the MA Supreme Judicial Court ruled in GLAD's historic case, *Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health*, that same-sex couples have the right to marry in Massachusetts.

[The Court's Decision](#)

[Background Information about the Case](#)

[Meet the plaintiff couples...](#)

[Meet the attorneys behind the marriage case...](#)

[Case Documents](#)

[Litigation History](#)

[New England](#)

**Studies/Research/Polls**

[Decision Research Equal Marriage Poll](#)

[Boston Globe and Boston Herald Equal Marriage Poll](#)

[Editorials in Favor of Marriage Rights for Same-Sex couples](#)

[CBO Letter On The Cost of Legalizing Same Sex Marriage](#)

[The Business Cost Impact of Marriage for Same Sex Couples](#)

[GAO Report on the Defense of Marriage Act](#)

**Information by Topic**

[Anti-LGBT Discrimination](#)

[Relationships](#)

[Marriage](#)

[Parents & Kids](#)

[Hate Crimes & Violence](#)

[Students & Schools](#)

[The Justice System & Immigration](#)

[HIV/AIDS](#)

[SJC Advisory Opinion to the Senate](#)

### **Media Information**

*To schedule an interview with the plaintiffs or the attorneys involved in this case, phone GLAD at (617) 426-1350.*

[Press releases about Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health](#)

**Support GLAD's marriage victory...[click here!](#)**

'Freedom to Marry Rings' image upper right © H. Mitchell.

***Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression.***

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