



California Weds First Same-Sex Couple
 Ceremony Sets Off Cultural Wave
The Washington Times
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He wanted to keep it simple. Really.

"What's the big deal at the end of the day to allow people to be treated fairly?" asked San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom the day before he married a pair of octogenarian lesbians at a minute past 5 o'clock on Monday, the precise moment when California's law legalizing same-sex marriages went into effect.

There were plenty of witnesses to see Del Martin, 87, and Phyllis Lyon, 84, say, "I do." But it was not simple.

The event was both national cultural moment and pure spectacle, covered live on television - and trailing political, moral and legal issues as lengthy as the train on a wedding gown.

Currently, 41 states have laws or amendments banning same-sex marriage, though seven states and the District provide some spousal rights for same-sex couples.

New York Gov. David Paterson announced that his state would honor the California marriages - prompting Bishop William Murphy, who leads the sixth largest Roman Catholic diocese in the nation, to accuse him of "subverting the democratic process."

The outcry went beyond New York.

"Most Americans believe that gays and lesbians have a right to live as they choose, but they don't believe they have a right to redefine marriage for our entire society. Americans want our laws to send a positive message to children about marriage, family and their future," said Matt Daniels, president of the Virginia-based Alliance for Marriage.

A CBS News survey of 1,038 adults conducted earlier this month found that 30 percent said same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry, 28 percent favored civil unions, and 36 percent said there should be no legal recognition of the relationship.

"Marriage is the most universal social institution, transcending all racial, religious and political boundary lines. As the largest 'minority' community in California, we have voted with our feet in rejecting the false claims that destruction of marriage represents the advancement of civil rights," said the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez Jr., president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference.

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We're proud of AFM's coalition leaders who are confronting the social disaster being pushed on America by a single judge in California.

NEW YORK

In New York State, Bishop William Murphy, an AFM Advisory Board member who leads one of the largest Catholic Dioceses in the nation, challenged the decision of the Governor of New York State to strike down marriage in his home state based on the decision of the California courts. Bishop Murphy properly challenged Governor Paterson for openly "thwarting the democratic process".

CALIFORNIA

Meanwhile, Sam Rodriguez, the most prominent Hispanic Evangelical of our generation, spoke on behalf of our movement in dozens of media interviews nationally.



"We need to reinforce the institution of marriage in our communities rather than tinker with it and redefine it."

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, Jr.
 AFM Advisory Board Member
 President, National Hispanic
 Christian Leadership Conference