

QNotes

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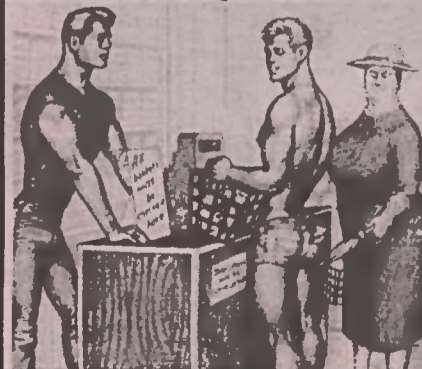
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Emily Lundell NAR, CRRA, NCAR, CMLS
704-927-8033
emilyexit@yahoo.com

ACLU marches on

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- brought by Lambda Legal)
- U.S. Supreme Court orders Kansas courts to reconsider case of boy given 17 years in jail for having gay sex (if he had had relations with a girl, his sentence could not have exceeded 15 months) (*Kansas v. Limon*)
- North Dakota Supreme Court overrules a decades-old decision stripping gay parents of custody rights after a divorce (*Damron v. Damron*)
- Massachusetts Supreme Court opens marriage law to same-sex couples (*Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. ACLU as amicus in a case brought by GLAD)
- 2004**
- Tennessee appellate court strikes down a family court order barring a gay dad from "coming out" to his own son (*Hogue v. Hogue*)
- New York agrees that same-sex couples, like heterosexual couples, should get unemployment benefits if one leaves a job to move with the other (*Newland v. Unemployment Compensation Appeals Board*)
- Mayors Gavin Newsom and Jason West permit first same-sex marriages in the country
- Legal challenges to laws restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples launched in New York, California, Oregon, Maryland, and Washington
- *Federal Marriage Amendment* goes down to defeat in U.S. Senate
- \$1.1 million settlement of lawsuit challenging school district's practice of ignoring problems of harassment of LGBT kids (*Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District*)
- Successful settlement of lawsuit challenging a Southern California school's decision to keep an eighth grade student out of PE classes because her gym teacher believed her to be lesbian (*Massey v. Banning Unified School District*. Co-counsel with National Center for Lesbian Rights)
- Federal appeals court rules that prison officials can be sued for damages for neglecting to protect an inmate because of his sexual orientation (*Johnson v. Johnson*)
- Thirteen states pass constitutional amendments barring same-sex couples from marrying
- Housing authorities in New York and California are persuaded to allow domestic partners of tenants to live in Section 8 housing
- Arkansas court overturns state's anti-gay foster care ban (*Howard v. Arkansas*)
- Montana high court rules that university system must provide gay employees with domestic partner benefits (*Snetsinger v. Montana University*)
- 2005**
- Lawsuits filed in Michigan, Utah, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida challenging measures amending state constitutions to prohibit legal recognition of same-sex couples
- U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear appeal of federal appeals court decision upholding Florida's ban on adoption by lesbians and gay men (*Lofton v. Florida*)
- West Virginia high court takes custody of a child away from his grandparents and awards it to his non-biological mother, applying the "psychological parent" doctrine to same-sex couples. The boy's biological mother had died in a tragic car accident, thereby initiating the custody battle. (*Burch v. Smarr*)
- Rural school district in Missouri capitulates when the ACLU files suit, representing a student who was disciplined for wearing a gay-positive T-shirt to school (*Myers v. Webb City High School*)
- Illinois becomes the 15th state to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination and the fifth to outlaw gender identity discrimination.
- Board of Immigration Appeals grants spousal visa to El Salvadorian husband of male-to-female transgender native, rejecting the argument that their marriage cannot be recognized by immigration authorities because of the federal *Defense of Marriage Act*. (Petition of Lovo-Lara)
- Arkansas Board of Cosmetology rules that a person with HIV cannot be banned from practicing cosmetology.
- Federal district court strikes down Nebraska constitutional amendment barring same-sex couples from any legal recognition of their relationships. (*Citizens for Equal Protection v. Governor*)
- California Legislature becomes the first legislative body in the United States to extend marriage to same-sex couples. ▀

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