



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS



Overturing Prop 8: Timeline

May 15, 2008: California Supreme Court issues historic ruling in *In re Marriage Cases* ruling that the state can no longer exclude same-sex couples from civil marriage; and that sexual orientation is a suspect classification and thus subject to the highest level of constitutional protection, like race, religion, disability, and sex.

June 2, 2008: The marriage ban, Proposition 8, qualifies for the ballot in November.

June 16, 2008: Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, pioneers and leaders in the LGBT movement and partners for 55 years, are the first same-sex couple to marry in San Francisco following the California Supreme Court ruling.

July 16, 2008: The California Supreme Court issues an order in *Bennett v. Bowen*, denying a petition to remove Prop. 8, the proposed marriage ban, from the November ballot.

November 4, 2008: Voters approve Prop. 8 by a narrow margin, eliminating the right of same-sex couples to marry.

November 5, 2008: The National Center for Lesbian Rights, along with the ACLU and Lambda Legal, files a writ petition before the California Supreme Court urging the Court to invalidate Prop. 8. The petition charges that Prop. 8 is invalid because the initiative process was improperly used in an attempt to alter the Constitution's core commitment to equality for everyone, and such a fundamental change to our plan of government can only be adopted through a constitutional convention or revision.

November 14, 2008: Leading African-American, Latino, and Asian American groups submit petitions arguing that Prop. 8 threatens the equal protection rights of all Californians.

November 17, 2008: California Council of Churches and leading California women's rights organizations also file a petition in the Prop. 8 legal challenge.

November 19, 2008: California Supreme Court grants review in the Prop. 8 legal challenge and decides to defer consideration of the petitions submitted by the civil rights groups, women's groups, and religious groups, which were filed after November 5. The Court invites those groups to submit *amicus* briefs in support of the other petitions.

December 19, 2008: Attorney General Brown submits brief calling for the invalidation of Prop. 8

January 21, 2009: Briefing concludes in the Prop. 8 legal challenge.

March 5, 2009: Oral argument scheduled for 9:00 a.m.; a decision will be issued within 90 days.

For more information about the Prop. 8 legal challenge, please visit www.nclrights.org/overturn8.