



## **Freedom Forum**

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### **The California Marriage Protection Amendment Qualifies for the Ballot!**

Western Center for Law & Policy attorneys were instrumental in facilitating the grass roots effort to qualify the California marriage amendment for the November 2008 ballot. We are very pleased that the goal of obtaining more than 1.1 million signatures should be confirmed very soon.

A pastoral awakening was sparked in San Diego in September of 2007. Working with a coalition of public policy groups and pastors, WCLP attorneys spoke to hundreds of pastors at various conferences across southern California between October 2007 and March 2008 about the crucial need to take moral leadership with their congregations regarding this fundamental issue. In addition to preparing talking points (posted at [www.wclplaw.org/resources.html](http://www.wclplaw.org/resources.html)) to assist California pastors with educating and motivating their congregations, the WCLP also committed to provide pro-bono legal defense for churches if threatened by the ACLU or the Internal Revenue Service for talking part in this historic effort.

“We the people” of California defined marriage as between one man and one woman (Proposition 22) in 2000. But since then, proponents of the radical homosexual agenda have fought back. Initially, they pushed for domestic partnerships. Then, however, San Francisco’s mayor Gavin Newsome started unilaterally issuing illegal marriage licenses to homosexual couples in 2004, resulting in a flurry of legal activity and the current case pending before the California Supreme Court. The WCLP became involved in this effort after filing an *amicus curiae* (“friend of the court”) brief (posted at [www.wclplaw.org/resources/CEROMBriefFinal.pdf](http://www.wclplaw.org/resources/CEROMBriefFinal.pdf)) in support of traditional marriage on behalf of a coalition of thousands of African American, Hispanic, Korean and Chinese churches and religious organizations with the California Supreme Court on September 24, 2007.

Much is at stake. God's image in men and women (the *imago Dei*) is being experimentally distorted in our culture. We believe that God's design for marriage must be preserved for the common good of society. Some of the leaders engaged in this battle are convinced that nothing less than the future of Western Civilization hangs in the balance.

It is critically important that the marriage amendment is passed in November 2008, especially in light of the fact that the Supreme Court could undermine the will of the people and strike down Proposition 22 as "unconstitutional" in the next few weeks. The time is now. The number of Californians that support traditional marriage shrinks every year as a result of the activist secular-humanistic propaganda machine. The WCLP is committed to the fight to preserve the biblical and traditional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman.

### **WCLP President Dean Broyles Speaks at Christian Education Conference.**

Western Center President Dean Broyles spoke at a Christian education conference on May 3, 2008. The keynote speaker for the conference was author Dr. Tim LaHaye, whose topic was "The Battle for the Mind." The title of Dean's presentation was "Legal Perspectives on Public Education." One of the key issues addressed was the WCLP's effort to overturn the egregious *In re. Rachel L.* court decision. This recent ruling undermines parental and religious liberties by effectively banning home schooling in California. The WCLP is working with other religious liberty legal organizations to prepare and file coordinated legal briefs with the court which advocate for the preservation of the right of California parents to home educate their children.

WCLP attorneys are available to speak many other legal and policy issues such as The Rights of Pastor's to Speak to Moral and Cultural Issues; Marriage and Family Rights; Individual Right of Religious Belief and Expression in the Public Sphere and Workplace; Right to Life Issues, including abortion, cloning, stem cell research & euthanasia; and, Religious Land Use.

For more information about the Western Center for Law & Policy or to support our efforts, please visit our website located at [www.wclplaw.org](http://www.wclplaw.org). Thank you.

*The Western Center for Law & Policy (WCLP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) legal defense organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of religious freedom, parental rights, and other civil liberties. The WCLP engages in constitutional litigation in state and federal courts and is also active in the areas of public policy and education.*