

MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday, October 10, 2008

Contact:

Cathy Renna, Renna Communications, 917-757-6123, cathy@rennacomunications.com

Simon Aronoff, Renna Communications, 202-510-6705, simon@rennacomunications.com

Family Equality Council Thrilled by Historic Connecticut Marriage Ruling

Statement from Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler; Media Interviews Available

Boston, MA — Today the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled in *Kerrigan v. Commissioner of Public Health* that denying same-sex couples marriage is a violation of equal protection of the laws. The Court emphasized the positive impact marriage has on families, acknowledging the benefits of marriage in legally protecting children and providing them a sense of stability and security in the home: "Excluding same-sex couples from civil marriage will not make children of opposite-sex marriages more secure," the Court said, "but it does prevent children of same-sex couples from enjoying the immeasurable advantages that flow from the assurance of a stable family structure in which the children will be reared, educated, and socialized." The Family Equality Council applauds this pro-family ruling.

Statement of Jennifer Chrisler, Executive Director, Family Equality Council:

"Connecticut has long been a leader on LGBT equality, especially as relates to LGBT parents and their children. Today's decision takes a tremendous and necessary step forward in fully protecting *all* Connecticut families. The Connecticut Supreme Court recognized what we all know to be true—civil unions are not equal to marriage and equality is the only way to treat all families fairly," said Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of Family Equality Council. "In these unstable times, we cannot afford to grant some families more access to rights and benefits than others. Unfortunately, three states will vote on constitutional amendments to ban gay and lesbian couples from marrying this November. Arkansas will vote to allow child welfare professionals to decide what is in the best interest of children or ban *all* unmarried couples from fostering and adopting children without ever considering their qualifications as parents or the needs of children. As we enter the last few weeks of this historic election, Connecticut's decision is a welcome reminder that the spirit of justice and equality this country was founded on is alive and well."

EDITORS: To book an interview with Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Equality Council, please call or email the media contacts listed above.

About the Family Equality Council

Family Equality Council works to ensure equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families by building community, changing hearts and minds, and advancing social justice for all families. We recognize and believe that the laws, provisions and ordinances that hurt LGBT-headed families also hurt so many others—single parents, blended families, families of color, and more. To that end, Family Equality Council is standing strong to defeat anti-family legislation and promote pro-family legislation. For more information, please visit www.familyequality.org.

###