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RWU Law Alumnus Handles a Landmark Marriage Equality Case

Posted by David Logan on 05/10/2012 at 12:57 PM



I am pleased to acknowledge Marek Bute '05 is serving as local counsel with Lambda Legal and co-counsel O'Melveny & Meyers on the landmark Nevada Marriage Equality case *Sevcik v. Sandoval*. Lambda Legal filed a same-sex marriage equality claim in federal court, challenging the validity of the Nevada constitutional amendment limiting marriage to different-sex couples, while bestowing essentially all rights and responsibilities of a "spouse" upon same-sex couples in "domestic partnerships." Lambda Legal filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada on behalf of eight same-sex Nevada couples arguing that Nevada's constitutional ban on marriage equality violates the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Marek's remarks:

"Marriage equality is denied to lesbian and gay couples in the State of Nevada, despite every effort to bestow the same rights and responsibilities associated with marriage upon same-sex couples through "domestic partnership" statutes. Different-sex couples are given two options – marriage or domestic partnership – while same-sex couples are limited to the latter choice. This case gives us an opportunity to challenge the validity of such discrimination under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment of United States Constitution.

We want nothing more than equality for these families – the recognition and acknowledgement by the State of Nevada that these relationships and family units are as valid and valued as those of different-sex couples. We want these couples to be able to identify themselves as "married," and not be relegated to the lesser, clinical designation of "domestic partners," and for their children to know that their parents are "married" in the eyes of the state just like any other."

Marek is an associate attorney at [Snell & Wilmer](#), Las Vegas, Nevada. Best of luck, Marek!

To read more about the case, please visit the following websites [MetroWeekly](#) and the [Huffington Post](#)

