



The official newsletter of Parents & Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

Fall 2009

Your Victory!

Dear Parents and Friends,
At last we can claim a legal victory for ex-gays and their supporters. The Washington, D.C. Superior Court has ruled that ex-gays are a legally protected class entitled to the same sexual orientation non-discrimination protections that gays enjoy. The D.C. Office of Human Rights rejected PFOX's complaint of sexual-orientation discrimination, holding that ex-gays are not eligible for civil rights protection. This meant that gays had more rights than former homosexuals who now identify as heterosexuals! But the judge ruled in our favor and held that sexual orientation does not require immutability.

Sexual orientation is self-declared and publicly proclaimed, and replicated scientific

studies continue to prove sexual orientation is not immutable nor hardwired.

The decision to sue the District government was not an easy one. PFOX board members prayed about whether or not to pursue legal action for ex-gay equal rights. If we did not sue, ex-gays would continue to be denied non-discrimination protection under D.C. law although gays have full protection.

After weighing all the pros and cons, we made what we believe was the right decision: It was time to take legal action.

With both ex-gay and gay family and friends, if equality was to happen we had to make it happen. We could not allow years of verbal and physical abuse to continue. The silencing of medical and scientific proof that

change is possible, closeting thousands of ex-gays, and forcing therapists and counselors into silence or risk harassment; all these had to stop.

How can PFOX provide hope and support if it is denied the same civil rights that gays enjoy? PFOX needed legal protection and that required hiring a lawyer to represent us. PFOX found an attorney to take our case – but not pro-bono.

PFOX is an all-volunteer organization that is financially cautious with the donations we receive. PFOX families and friends are our only donors.

This one-of-a-kind legal victory has cost us \$9,300 in legal fees. We need your financial gift to pay our attorney. Please read our press release below for the full impact of our legal victory.

Please send PFOX your financial gift today to help pay the legal cost to defend your right to be heard as family and friends of both ex-gays and gays. We need you now more than ever. Remember, no one does it but PFOX! And that's a fact!

Blessings,
Regina

Court Rules: Sexual Orientation Laws Include Former Homosexuals

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a precedent-setting case, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia ruled that former homosexuals are a protected class that must be recognized under sexual orientation non-discrimination laws. The Court held that, under the D.C. Human Rights Act, sexual orientation does not require immutable characteristics.

"We are gratified that the ex-gay community in Washington, D.C. now

“All sexual orientation laws and programs nationwide should now provide true diversity and equality by including former homosexuals.

Greg Quinlan, PFOX director

has the same civil rights that gays enjoy," said Regina Griggs, executive director of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX), which filed the lawsuit against the District of Columbia government for failing to protect former homosexuals in the nation's capital.

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American Library Association Asked to Condemn Banning of Ex-Gay Books

WEST BEND, WI – Despite public opposition, the West Bend Community Memorial Library continues to stock gay books for children and teens while neglecting books by ex-gay authors.

Many of the gay books promote homosexual behavior to youth and are the subject of protests by concerned parents, whose request to have the books moved to the adult section were denied.

“Our requests that the Library balance some of its homosexual material for children with material written by ex-gays or with a heterosexual slant have been ignored,” said Regina Griggs, executive director of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX).

“Apparently, the West Bend Community Memorial Library is not interested in diversity,” said Griggs. “We urge Michael Tyree, the library’s director, to be inclusive of the ex-gay community and accept our donation of ex-gay books. According to its own policy, the Library

has a ‘professional responsibility to be inclusive, not exclusive, in developing collections.’”

“For a library to provide children’s books which promote homosexuality while denying ex-gay books smacks of censorship and indoctrination of youth with a one-sided ideology,” said Griggs.

“It is also contrary to the American Library Association’s policy against book banning and censorship in any form,” said Griggs. “We call upon Deborah Caldwell-Stone, acting director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, to publicly condemn the censoring of ex-gay books in any community. Public libraries should be for everyone.”

You can also do the same. Write to: Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Acting Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association, 50 East Huron, Chicago, IL 60611, or email her at dstone@ala.org.

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In a discrimination complaint filed by PFOX against the National Education Association (NEA) for refusing to provide public accommodations to ex-gays, the D.C. Office of Human Rights (OHR) agreed with the NEA that sexual orientation protection did not extend to former homosexuals.

“By failing to protect former homosexuals, the sexual orientation laws gave more rights to homosexuals than heterosexuals who were once gay,” said Griggs. “So PFOX asked the Court to reverse OHR’s decision, which it did. The Court held that ex-gays are a protected class under sexual orientation.”

“All sexual orientation laws and programs nationwide should now provide true diversity and equality by including former homosexuals,” said Greg Quinlan, a director of PFOX. “I have experienced more personal

assaults as a former homosexual than I ever did as a gay man.”

“PFOX calls on the NEA to add ex-gays to its sexual orientation resolutions which favor gays, bisexuals, and transgenders while denying equality to former homosexuals,” said Griggs. “The NEA must also stop its bias against the NEA Ex-Gay Educators Caucus by appointing an ex-gay caucus member to the NEA Sexual Orientation Committee. This committee is staffed with members of the NEA’s gay and transgender caucus, although the ex-gay caucus has asked for inclusion.”

The NEA successfully argued before the Court that it was not guilty of sexual orientation discrimination because its gay caucus would have protested the presence of PFOX’s ex-gay exhibit at the NEA’s annual conference.

“Gay activists demand equality while denying it to others,” said Griggs.



NO ONE IS BORN GAY!

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF EX-GAYS!

NO ONE CHOOSES TO HAVE SAME-SEX ATTRACTIONS

ANYONE CAN DECIDE TO CHANGE! IT'S YOUR LIFE AND YOUR DECISION!

- ❑ www.freetobeme.com
- ❑ www.peoplecanchange.com
- ❑ www.pfox.org
- ❑ www.pathinfo.org

WWW.PFOX.ORG

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TOLERANCE FOR ALL



PFOX Chapter Leader Shares Truth on TV

KFOX El Paso contacted Dr. Becky Personette, PFOX El Paso chapter leader, and asked her to appear on KFOX to discuss the APA ruling. Becky, new to local media, must now decide whether to share her story publicly in her hometown, where her patients and all who know Becky would hear her testimony. Becky felt led by the Lord to do the interview. By sharing her life, she could be the living witness that sexual orientation can change, providing hope to others struggling in silence.

"I think I would describe my counseling as pastoral counseling, with some prayer ministry and guidance

with the counselee in seeking for the reasons of his or her homosexuality," Becky said. "In combination with that, we have our monthly PFOX meeting, which is like a support group. And for awhile we had a sexual purity support group for the strugglers."

During her interview Becky said, "It's been five years now that I've been on my journey, I don't feel denied, don't feel put off, I just know that I am the woman that God originally wanted me to be."

Becky, we thank you for standing for truth, the press and the public need to hear from those who've overcome homosexuality.



Dr. Becky Personette

The rest of the story is available online at <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/20339577/detail.html>.

Facts, Not Fiction

Last month, a 129-member Psychological Association Council of Representatives for the American Psychological Association (APA) adopted a report titled "Resolution on Appropriate Affirmative Responses to Sexual Orientation Distress and Change Efforts" written by only six gay-affirming homosexuals with 125 council members voting to approve it. With approximately 150,000 APA members, less than 1 percent voted to approve this committee's conclusion.

Many within the media reported the statements made by the task force without reporting the committee's background:

- Several APA members who practice alternatives to homosexual-affirming therapy were not allowed to be part of the committee.
- The committee ignored many peer reviewed science studies showing that homosexuality is neither innate nor hardwired and that some homosexuals can change their sexual orientation, including a 2003 published peer

reviewed study by Dr. Robert Spitzer showing that change was possible.

The statement within the report said, "Practitioners can assist clients through therapies that do not attempt to change sexual orientation, but rather involve acceptance, support and identity exploration and development without imposing a specific identity outcome," ignoring the living example of thousands of former homosexuals.

This APA committee seems to be more concerned with homosexual activism while ignoring reality.

In 1998 the United States Congress voted to censor the APA for an article written by members dealing with child sexual abuse. Written by Bruce Rind, Ph.D., Philip Tromovitch, Ph.D., and Robert Bauserman, Ph.D., the article analyzed existing studies of childhood sexual abuse, concluding not all instances of sex between adults and children caused psychological harm to the children.

This is not the first time activism and politics have played a hand in

decisions made by the APA. (See <http://www.traditionalvalues.org/urban/eleven-print.html>.)

At the 2008 APA conference, a symposium sponsored by APA's Division 44 (The Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues) sought to "normalize" those who engage in Bondage Discipline and Sadomasochism behaviors. This has yet to be adopted by the APA, but then who knows when and were this too may be normalized.

These are but a few of the reasons the APA needs to get out of politics and follow science. They need to stop imposing their personal decisions on others, endangering the lives of children and others, and denying help to those seeking to overcome unwanted Same Sex Attraction.

The time has come for therapists to comply with the APA Code of Ethics which says, "The APA Code of ethics calls for therapist to respect the client's right to self determination."

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Upcoming Conferences

A Love Won Out seminar will be Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Metro Church of God in Birmingham, Ala. It is for family and friends whose lives have been impacted by homosexuality and those

seeking to overcome unwanted same sex attractions. For more information, check online at www.lovewonout.org.

For all the latest in upcoming conferences, check out our website at www.pfox.org

Current address

Please note our address: PFOX, PO Box 510, Reedville VA 22539. You can also reach us by telephone at 804-453-4737. Thank you.

The Bible – not a 2,000-year-old relic!

Often politicians and anti-gay forces misuse Scripture to justify that the Bible is out of touch. Often they use passages about cleanliness and forbidden foods. The intent is to justify throwing out parts of the Old Testament. While reading Matthew, I found it can provide numerous statements from Jesus about how we should be living today. I find common sense, simple truth and logic that will never be outdated.

Matthew 15:17-20 says, “Don’t you understand? Anything that goes into a person’s mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body. But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these are the things that make a person ritually unclean. For from his heart come evil ideas which lead him to kill, commit adultery, and do other immoral things; to rob, lie, and slander others. These are the things that make a person unclean. But to eat without washing your hands as they say you should—this doesn’t make a person unclean.”

*Please help us pay for our legal victory
Donate online at <http://pfox.org/donate.html>*

Celebrate With Us



October:

- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Cookie Month
- National Diabetes Month

October 5: Do Something Nice Day

October 7: World Smile Day

October 9: Fire Prevention Day

October 11-17: Fire Prevention Week

October 11: Take Your Teddy Bear to Work Day

October 24: Make a Difference Day

November:

- Child Safety Protection Month

November 11: Veterans Day

November 13: World Kindness Day

November 16: Have a Party With Your Bear Day

November 26: Thanksgiving Day

November 30: Stay at Home Because You're Well Day

Family and Friends Prayer List

Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher, Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin, Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole, David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James, Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen, Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara,

Damon, Sam, Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery, Melanie, Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad, Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly, Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael, Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke, Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul,

Tobby, Sandy, Brian, Larry, Alan, Christian Tom, Delores, Mark, Tara, Angela, Jessica, Dawn, Alicia, Jason, Frank, Paul, Edward, Maria, Mario, Michelle, Connor, Angela, Carl Jr., Marcus, Brandon, Gaylon,

Edmond, Kesha, Shannon, Paige, Melissa, Donny, William, Wendall, Leno, Mandy, Andy, E., Erik, Lauren, Chris, Todd, Jayson, Carl III, Steve, Zachary, Kelly, Toby, Cody, Dylan, Wayne, Tom, Jeff, Walt, Cayce, Tim,

David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc, Heather, Gary, Bill, John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy, Karen, Brian, Shellie, Pattie, Emily, Carrie, Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin, Phil, Bryce,

Ethan, Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn, Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine, Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike, Lisa, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha, Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric, Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Joe and Idario.

