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Press Release

California Psychological Association Praises Court Decision Overturning Prop 8

Sacramento, CA, February 7, 2012: **The California Psychological Association hailed today's Ninth Circuit Court ruling that Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative that eliminated the right of same-sex couples to marry, is unconstitutional.**

In 2008 the California Psychological Association joined the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the National Association of Social Workers and its California chapter in filing an Amicus Brief with the California Supreme Court on the subject of same sex marriage. The Amicus Brief provided extensive psychological research on key points relevant to the issue, and this brief was the only brief cited (out of the 45 Amicus Briefs the Court received) in the Court's opinion issued on May 15, 2008 that struck down California's ban on same sex marriage.

CPA later opposed Proposition 8, and praised today's ruling as further recognition of the research demonstrating that same-sex couples are similar to heterosexual couples in essential ways and that they are as likely as opposite-sex couples to raise mentally healthy, well-adjusted children. Jo Linder-Crow, PhD, Executive Director, said that the Court's ruling "sends a strong and significant message about the harm that can result from discrimination and stigma associated with sexual identity."

The California Psychological Association, an affiliate of the American Psychological Association, represents more than 4000 member psychologists in California and is the nation's largest state psychological association.