

Commissioner Lisa Naito

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CASES AGAINST COUNTY DISMISSED ***All parties agree, Supreme Court should rule***

MULTNOMAH COUNTY – All claims filed in the Fourth Circuit Court against Multnomah County regarding the issuance of marriage licenses to same sex couples were dismissed today by Judge Frank L. Bearden.

“I’m very pleased that *all* parties, on *both* sides of the same sex marriage issue, have agreed to move forward and allow the Oregon Supreme Court to decide the constitutional question of equal privilege in granting marriage licenses regardless of gender,” said Commissioner Lisa Naito. “The distracting issues that a few have chosen to focus on rather than the real question -- the constitutionality of same sex marriage -- have now officially been put aside.”

“In the past three weeks I have had the honor of meeting and congratulating scores of couples who have lined up outside Multnomah County’s Marriage License Unit in order to finally and legally make a life-long commitment to one another. Their joy and appreciation for being recognized as full-class citizens has been overwhelming and reinforces my belief that I made the right decision in supporting Chair Linn’s administrative decision,” reflected Naito.

“I understand that gay marriage goes beyond a certain comfort level for many people. It may be easier for some, who might’ve been caught off-guard by the topic, to rail against peripheral issues rather than face what is for them the ‘awkward’ fact that more than 4,000 gays and lesbians have now been united in marriage.”

Oregon's Governor has announced that the State Vital Records office will *not* record marriage licenses issued to same sex couples from Multnomah County. This sets the way for couples to sue the State with the understanding by all parties that their case will move quickly to the Oregon Supreme Court for resolution.

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Multnomah County continues to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples and may be obtained at the Marriage License Unit in the Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., in Portland. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. The application fee is \$60.00 in cash or certified funds; personal checks are not accepted. You do not have to be an Oregon resident to obtain a marriage license.