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Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz Responds to the Oregon Court of Appeals Decision on Same Sex Marriage Case

Commissioner Cruz Welcomes the Court's Decision on Registration of Marriages

Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz called today's decision by the Oregon Court of Appeals "Another important court victory in the advancement of civil rights: the Oregon Court of Appeals has upheld Judge Bearden's order that the State must register the 3,000 legal marriages of same sex couples. The State of Oregon can no longer deny these couples access to the privileges, rights and responsibilities that are granted to straight couples."

On April 20, Circuit Court Judge Frank Bearden ordered the State of Oregon to register the lawful marriage licenses issued in Multnomah County. The State requested that the portion of the order requiring registration be stayed and today was told by the Court of Appeals that they must comply with Judge Bearden's order.

Cruz stated "The State should end the uncertainty it has caused for the 6,000 people who married in Multnomah County. There have now been three Court decisions ordering the State to provide the full legal recognition these couples deserve."

In April, Judge Bearden directed the legislature to produce legislation that will balance the rights of same sex couples with opposite sex couples. If they are unable to produce such legislation, *Multnomah County will be **required** to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples to avoid further violating Article I, section 20.*

Cruz pledged to continue to fight for full marriage rights for gays and lesbians and to defeat a Constitutional Amendment banning same sex marriages.